



HINENI - "HERE I AM"

In considering our theme for this year's Campaign, it is interesting to ponder the context in which this expression can be used. The basic translation can be symbolic in its application to us as individuals with regard to our attentiveness to others, and our community, on a daily basis. Next, we can also apply this translation to the organizations within which we serve and their ever present availability to those that they serve.



Chad Zagel

When digging deeper into biblical references to this expression, we find it used in many fascinating instances. When called upon to serve, both Abraham and Moses responded with 'Hineni!', even before fully understanding what they were about to be called upon to do next. All they knew is that they were totally willing to be Ever Present and Ready to Take any Action asked of them.

In a world with too much COVID and too little resources, we do not know all that will be called upon us in the weeks, months, and years ahead. When it happens, I encourage you to respond with 'Hineni!' Be the answer that so many others need. Support things in our community now that you want to be there for generations to come.

At the the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Board Members and Staff are constantly working vigilantly to be Ever Present and Ready for Action. As the number of calls increases, and the needs get larger, the Federation can do more with your help in reaching our \$500,000 Campaign Goal. It is now the time of year in which we call upon you to do the same, be present and ready for action.

As you and your family review your giving plan for the remainder of the year, I invite you to think Hineni! and then take action. There are two specific things you can do immediately so that we can all say Hineni together with one strong voice.

1. E-mail or Call the Federation office now to confirm your attendance at our Campaign Kick Off of Sunday, September 13th. We will all be taking a trip back to the lates 50's as we create a drive in movie experience in the Ahavas Israel parking lot.

2. E-mail or Call the Federation Office now to confirm your increased pledge for this year's Campaign.

To further encourage your immediate action, I am thankful to announce that we once again have the support of The Hy and Great Berkowitz Foundation with their matching grant of up \$5,000 for any amount Given by those 50 years old and younger.

We are also thrilled to announce an additional match opportunity available to all community members. Mort and Peg Finklestein have graciously agreed to match up to \$5,000 as well.

Say it with me 'Hineni!'

Sincerely,

Chad Zagel

Campaign Chair & JFGR Board member

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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D'Var Torah

By Rabbi Al Lewis

Shalom, I was a participant in a recent Zoom meeting and Rabbi Al Lewis delivered a relevant and meaningful D'Var Torah. I asked him if he would be comfortable sharing it with our greater Jewish community and he agreed. I hope that you take away as much wisdom and value in his words as I did. With deep appreciation to Rabbi Lewis. Nicole Katzman, Executive Director.

"I appreciate this opportunity to share my thoughts and feelings with you as we prepare for the High Holy Days. And, as I write, I am deeply feeling the loss of our friend and mentor, Len Robinson; he was a blessing to our Jewish and extended community.

For well over fifty years I have spent much of July and August thinking about what I would speak about on Yontiff. This year two thoughts have been recurrent. (1) The initial story of Abraham (Abram) and God's call to him; and (2) the sounds and feelings elicited by the words COVID and KAVOD.

In Genesis, Chapter 12, we read:

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people... I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make Your name great, and you will be a blessing..."

Nowhere, however, does the text tell us how Abram-or we-are to be a blessing!"

In the Book of Leviticus we are told to love our neighbors as ourselves; but that is the only clear "how to" until we enter the period of the Prophets 800-1000 years later; i.e., "Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." For me, then, the daily question has become: "How may I be a blessing?" "How may I be a blessing as a caregiver to

my wife? "How to be a blessing in the midst of a pandemic?" "How to be a blessing in very unstable national and international times?"

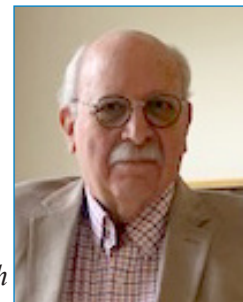
I have learned from others and through error, that if I do not take care of myself, I cannot be as 'consciously caring' of Shirley and my family as I truly wish to be.

Over time I have been able to make distinctions between selfishness and self-awareness. Like many other males, partners and fathers I have had to learn, - "To be a blessing means to step back from the immediacy of me and ask-how can I reach out to another?"

You and I are a Blessing when we decide to call another who is home alone; when we send a caring e-mail; a simple card with a joyful flower cover. You and I are a Blessing when we choose to listen to another's life struggle without thinking- "Oh, do I have a story to tell you about my life!"

My second thought is about the COVID-KAVOD sounds. Covid and Kavod are as dissimilar as white and black; and yet they are related if we open our minds and hearts.

It is easy to talk about the restrictions on our lives and, particularly for those who live alone, they are great. Yet, we are honored and blessed (Kavod) to have a roof over our heads, food on our tables, medical assistance when needed and a community that exists to benefit us as we benefit others. We are distanced from many we love, and we do have ways (phone, cell phone, computer, letters) to communicate with them. We can participate in the world through television and radio. We are not alone. We are not on the streets. We are loved and cared for and able to bless one another...and in this way, be blessed. May you and I be blessings and blessed in the New Year.



Rabbi Al Lewis

Our Rabbi Emeritus, Albert Micah Lewis, was ordained at HUC-JIR in 1969. Rabbi Lewis earned his Doctorate in Hebrew Literature in 1978 and has been awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by HUC-JIR (1994) and a Doctorate of Literary Letters by Aquinas College. He is a nationally recognized writer and speaker. Dr. Lewis continues to teach and counsel the families of Congregation Emanuel. His most recent book is One: An Invitation to Those Who Seek and won an international prize last year.



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Looking forward to seeing you!



An Interesting Call

by Harriet Sturim

My name is Harriet Sturim, I've lived in Grand Rapids since 1977, and I'd like to share a fascinating story. To preface, I've always considered myself a skeptic. I tend to hold my excitement whenever I get emails offering me billion dollar inheritances or free trips to the Bahamas. So when I got a call a couple years back from a strange man claiming to be a long lost relative, I was suspicious to say the least.

The man had acquired my information through my brother in New Jersey, and instead of a sales pitch, I wound up sitting for a lengthy, yet fascinating history lecture. My mother came to the United States from Germany just before the start of the second world war. She made the journey by boat, alone. My grandparents were originally supposed to accompany her, however

this proved impossible as they were refused exit from the country on account of my grandfather having been born in Hungary. My understanding was they, along with the rest of the family, perished in the holocaust.

To my surprise the man recounted this story in its entirety, although I learned that my version of events was not entirely accurate. My mother, as it turns out, was not the only one to have escaped Germany. My maternal great uncle, long assumed to have died in the shoah, also managed to leave, although he would never cross the atlantic. Instead, he was headed for the then British Mandate of Palestine, where he would eventually settle and start a family of his own.

The man on the phone was my cousin, who in the course of investigating his own family tree had stumbled upon a long lost American branch. We spoke for hours, and he promised to send me copies of the documents he found which led him to me.



Harriet Sturim

In 2018 he, along with his family, met my brother and I in New York. It was a reunion long overdue, and we instantly were a family again. That same year we reunited a second time in Israel, and since then we have all kept in close contact, and are looking forward to our next meeting.

I had never before imagined that after all these years, I would get closure, and learn what had really become of my family back in Europe. What's more, I never expected to find them thriving, alive and well in Israel. I have a hard time putting words to the meaning of this discovery to me, and the emotion that it evokes.

I'd like to end with a word of advice. The next time there is an unknown caller on the line, consider picking up. You never know what might be waiting for you on the other end.

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Fall Holiday Read-Alouds



Kris Siegel

Following are some of my favorite fall holiday books to share as a family. These are appropriate for a wide range of ages. Enjoy!

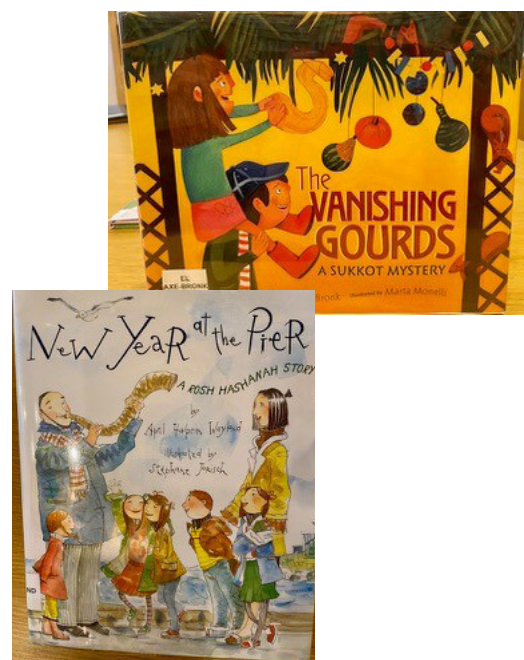
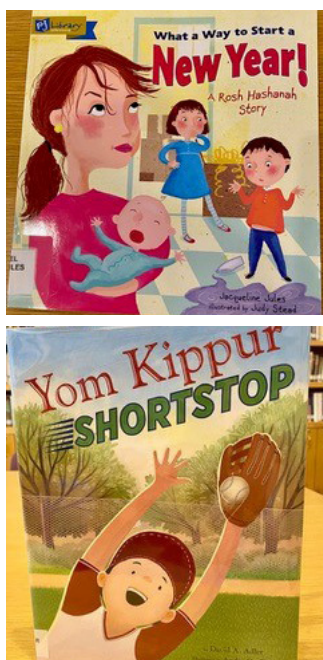
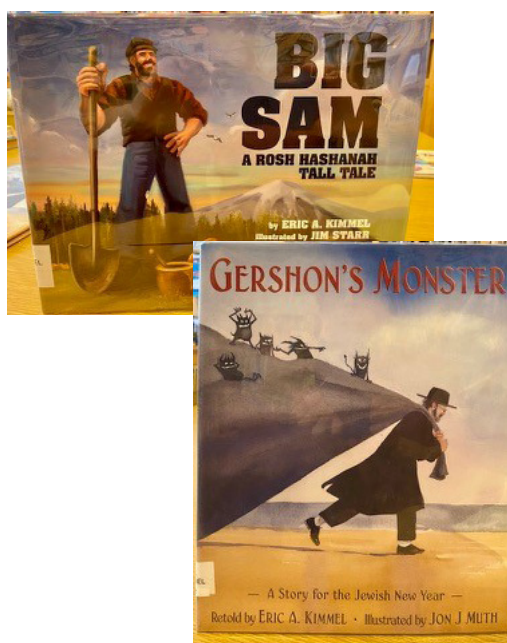
- ***What a Way to Start a New Year! A Rosh Hashanah Story***, by Jacqueline Jules. Just before Rosh Hashanah, Dina and Harry's family moved to a new city. They're sad because this year is so different, and they miss their friends back home. Mom hasn't had time to make brisket or honey cake, so leftover pizza is on the menu for the holiday. Can you believe it? Then they go to services and....you'll have to read the rest to find out what happens!
- ***New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story***, by April Halprin Wayland. Izzy's favorite Rosh Hashanah tradition is tashlich. Everyone in his family makes "I'm sorry" lists to prepare for the holiday. This story has a beautiful explanation of tashlich, the power of apologizing, forgiving, and starting fresh.
- ***Big Sam: A Rosh Hashanah Tall Tale***, by Eric Kimmel. This is a tale of preparing for Rosh Hashanah in a GIGANTIC way! Did you know Big Sam dug a hole to mix an enormous challah, and it's still there today? We call it the Grand Canyon! The imaginative story and illustrations make this a must-read!
- ***Gershon's Monster: A Story for the Jewish New Year***, by Eric Kimmel. This is a retelling of one of the earliest Hasidic legends, telling the story of how

your misdeeds cannot be swept under the rug (or into the cellar). The illustrations are so fantastic! This is one for brave kids who enjoy a good monster story!

- ***Yom Kippur Shortstop***, by David Adler. Jacob's Little League championship is on Yom Kippur. Will he go to synagogue or go to the game? It's a big dilemma! My favorite part of this book is the "Note for Families" after the story ends, describing some famous Jewish baseball players who chose not to play on Yom Kippur, as well as questions for discussion.
- ***The Vanishing Gourds: A Sukkot Mystery***, by Susan Axe-Bronk. Sara and her brother Avi picked out beautiful gourds to decorate their family's sukkah. Then the gourds started disappearing mysteriously. Who is the thief? The colorful illustrations make this story so fun to look at and the mystery keeps everyone's attention!

Happy holidays, and happy reading!

Kris Siegel is the Librarian at Temple Emanuel. Even at her very advanced age, she loves reading beautiful picture books.





JFGR Program Updates

by Marisa Krishef, Program Director



Marisa Krishef

With the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we are anticipating that in person programming will not be able to resume in time for Rosh Hashanah. Despite these extenuating circumstances, we will continue to do everything we can in order to strengthen our community bonds, and celebrate

the coming New Year together.

With this in mind, we will be holding two virtual programs for Rosh Hashanah in the coming month. There will be a PJ Library virtual storytime on September 23rd from 4:00 to 4:30pm. In addition to reading a story, we will also be completing a Rosh Hashanah themed activity, and reciting a blessing over the apples and honey.

On September 24th, from 7:00 to 7:30pm, we invite our YAD young adults to join us to recite blessings

over apples and honey, and toast the New Year. More information will be coming soon in the Friday Shabbat email blast and on our JFGR facebook page.

We wish everyone L'Shana Tova, a happy and healthy New Year.



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



Financial Focus

Make Investments Work as Hard as You Do

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



Chad Zagel
JFGR Board Member

Labor Day is almost here. Of course, this year, the holiday may have a different impact, given the employment-related stress and disruptions stemming from the coronavirus. Yet, it's good to recognize the value of work and its importance in achieving your life's goals. But if you're going to retire comfortably and reach your other financial objectives, you also need to invest – and

your investments need to work as hard as you do.

To help make this happen, you need to know why you're investing in the first place. You likely have a variety of financial goals, including short-term ones – a long vacation, a new car – and long-term ones, such as a comfortable retirement and the desire to leave a legacy for your family. But you can't invest in the same way for these goals. For example, when you're planning an overseas vacation for next year, you want a certain amount of money to be available at a certain time, so you'll want an investment that offers a high degree of preservation of principal. However, when you're saving for a retirement that may be decades away, you need to consider investments that offer growth potential. In any case, you can help your investments work efficiently for you by matching them with specific goals.

You also want to keep your investments “on the job.” In the immediate aftermath of large market downturns, such as we saw earlier this year, many people simply stopped investing altogether. But taking a “time out”

can be costly. For one thing, when you stop adding to your investment portfolio, you reduce its growth potential. Furthermore, if you're on the investment sidelines, you might miss out on the next market rally – and the biggest gains often happen in the early stages of these rallies.

Not everyone simply abandons the investment world following a downturn, though – some people just put more money into cash and cash equivalent accounts. And while it's a good idea to have enough cash on hand for emergencies (about three to six months' worth of living expenses), you may not want to have cash as the major component of your portfolio. Cash simply doesn't “work” hard enough in the sense of providing you with long-term growth opportunities.

So, whether the markets are moving up, down or sideways, it's important to keep investing and keep a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments in your portfolio, with the exact amount depending on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. These investments will fluctuate in value, but the longer you hold them, the more the impact of short-term drops may be reduced, especially if you maintain a diversified portfolio, although diversification, by itself, can't ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

Finally, here's one other step you can take to help keep your investments working hard: Check up on them periodically. Review your portfolio at least once a year to determine if it's still helping you make progress toward your goals. If it seems like you're falling behind, you may need to adjust your investment mix.

You've probably discovered that hard work pays off for you in just about every endeavor – so why should it be any different with investing? Keeping your investments working diligently can help boost your chances of achieving your important financial goals.

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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Taxi Driver

by Rob Franciosi



Rob Franciosi

News reports on Carl Reiner's death last month were filled with references to his work on *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and with such great Jewish comedians as Neil Simon, Mel Brooks, and Sid Caesar. I especially recalled his classic routines with Brooks as the 2000-year-old man. But clips from *The Dick Van Dyke Show* sent me down another memory hole. Without using my phone to cheat, I needed a few minutes to remember who had played Mel, Rob Petrie's (Van Dyke) annoying boss. I could see his face as if he were a relative. Bald and with glasses, Richard Deacon in fact loomed large in my family's oral history.

On one memorable afternoon my grandfather had thrown him out of his cab in the middle of a Manhattan traffic jam. "Don't you know who I am," the tv star had shouted before exiting, a line we would echo gleefully whenever he appeared on *The Dick Van Dyke Show*.



For all of his working life Louis Pess drove a cab among the city's busiest streets. And in an age before gps-dependent Uber and Lyft drivers, he knew every block in Manhattan, from the Upper East Side, where Eleanor Roosevelt was a regular fare, to the byzantine streets of the financial district, where on outings he sometimes drove us through Mill Lane, the shortest street in the city. I particularly recall a Sunday journey when we stopped to see the huge hole that would hold the foundation of the World Trade Center.

I have always thought that driving a hack, as my grandfather called it, was an unusual job for an eldest Jewish son, but a little research yielded surprising information: in 1920 some 20,000 of the 35,000 cabbies in New York were Jewish, and they maintained a strong presence in the business until the 1970s. Because the requirements for getting a hack license were minimal, the job was especially attractive to first-generation sons who desired a freedom beyond the shop or factory. Some even managed to buy their own cabs and move firmly into the

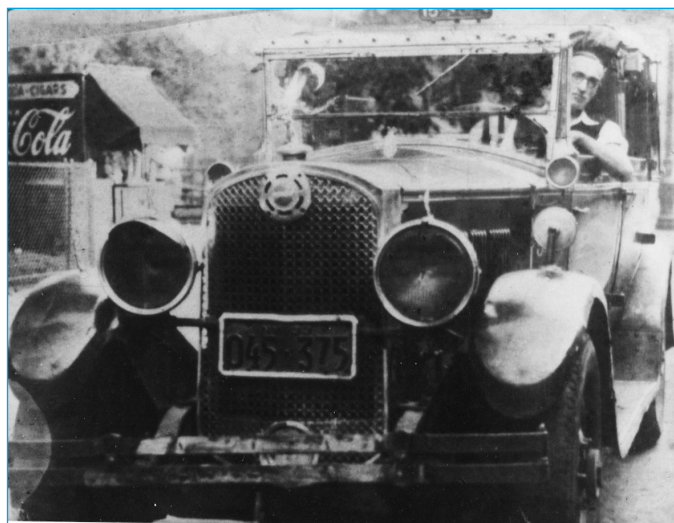
middle class. Or like my grandfather, spent more time in the garage honing razor-sharp gin rummy skills than cruising the city for fares.

The economics of the cab industry, though, changed long before the rise of Uber. When the Depression hit there was a dramatic increase in the number of men who wanted to drive cabs and America's first great Jewish playwright, Clifford Odets, used their plight to great effect in *Waiting for Lefty*. New York mayor Fiorello La Guardia eventually cleaned up the taxi business by instituting the "medallion" system that continues to this day. Drivers in 1937 could bid on a \$10 permit (the medallion) for the right to one of those limited taxis. By 2013 the value of a medallion in New York was set at \$1.3 million—only to collapse ten-fold in the last seven years.

I never heard that my grandfather tried to buy a medallion. He was a cabdriver at heart, not an entrepreneur, and that always seemed to suit him.

Just last March my niece gave birth to a boy who would have been his great-great grandson. We sent along a miniature cabbie's hat. Perhaps someday he'll hear the story of how his cabdriver great-great grandfather defeated the television Goliath.

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





Mazel Tov, Mr. Fleischer

by Nicole Katzman

Mazel Tov to Cary Fleischer, who recently published the book, *I Once Was A Lawyer Or Shall I Say, He Once Was Me*. In February of this year, Cary was attending current events classes in Florida at his local JCC. When life came to a halt as the virus hit, Cary substituted these classes in his own life by writing a story every morning on his Facebook page. The stories were about



cases he had handled around the country during his career as a lawyer.

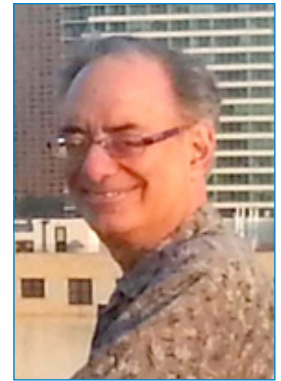
These stories were of all genres, some funny, some sad and some instructive.

Over the course of two months Cary had gained a following of over 200 people. By this point, the stories were regularly sparking discussions which seemed to give some respite from the virus. Many began

imploping Cary to compile these stories into a book.

Cary listened to these requests, and the result was *I Once Was A Lawyer Or Shall I Say, He Once Was Me*. The book contains not only all of these immensely interesting stories, but also recounts Cary's journey coping with the growth of the virus as the community read and shared their daily reactions

The book is for sale at Schuler Books, and all proceeds are donated. Cary encourages everyone to grab a copy to now experience the journey for themselves. In the acknowledgments, Cary credits each of the many members of the local Jewish community, including many Jewish individuals from Grand Rapids, who participated in the daily reading and discussion of his stories, for making this book possible.



Cary Fleischer

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My MOMentum Trip to Israel November 2019

by Helayne Sherman, MD PhD

My husband and I have three children who are now in their mid-twenties. Those of you who know me may be wondering how I was able to join a group of moms raising children under 18 and embark on this journey. It's because we are starting over again, raising our grandson. He is now 4 years old and has been living with us since he was 10 months of age. He is the joy of our life and we feel so fortunate that we are able to do this.



When I received the informational email about the upcoming Momentum trip I jokingly responded "What about grandmother's raising children?" The response was a surprising Yes! you are eligible for the trip. But I didn't apply right away because I wasn't sure this was for me. Traveling with a group of women I hardly knew, sharing a hotel room with one of them and leaving my husband and grandson. But Rick encouraged me to apply and told me I might never have another opportunity like this to travel to Israel. So I applied and I am so thankful that I did. Then off I went on my very first trip to Israel.

I was able to visit historical sites and landmarks that I had read about and studied in my years of religious school as a child...Masada, the Dead Sea, Yad Vashem, the Western Wall and the King David Hotel. These were all such moving experiences. It is difficult for me to put into words the powerful feelings I experienced while praying at the Western Wall, walking through the powerful images at Yad Vashem, and standing atop Masada.

For years I have followed the medical advancements

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2020 HANUKKAH Stamp



There will be a new Hanukkah stamp this year.

The USPS describes the stamp as follows:

“the stamp art’s colorful illustration shows the nine-branched Hanukkah menorah on the last evening of the holiday. All eight candles have been lit, and the child is reaching up to replace the shamash, the helper candle used to light the other candles in the menorah.” Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with original art by Jing Jing Tsong.”

The date of issue has not been announced.

at Hadassah Hospital and I have been a long-time supporter. A few years ago I received a letter telling me that my name was inscribed on a pillar in a garden at Hadassah Hospital. I remember thinking that I would never have the opportunity to see it. So I was very excited to learn that we would be visiting Hadassah Hospital. I was able to view the magnificent Chagall windows (one of my favorites at the Chicago Art Institute) and share a photo with my pillar.

I spent 10 days with an amazing group of women that I really did not know prior to the trip. Now I have a wonderful circle of friends that I look forward to seeing and spending time with.

After my father’s tragic death, I lost my enthusiasm for celebrating the holidays with my family. Traveling to Israel, celebrating Shabbat and meeting so many Jews from around the world including the former Soviet Union, rekindled my love of Judaism and celebrating the Jewish holidays. I want to share my enthusiasm with Vitaly. We now light Shabbat candles together, say prayers together and dance to Debbie Friedman’s songs, just like I used to do with my children.

I would like to thank Marni Vyn and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for supporting the Momentum program and making it possible for me to participate. I am most grateful for this opportunity.

Helayne Sherman, MD, PhD

Community Calendar

is up and running!

Our community calendar is online and ready for you!

Please remember to post all of your virtual and in-person events in our community calendar. That way the entire Western Michigan Jewish Community will know what your organization has planned and when it’s happening. This should help prevent overlapping programming. And don’t forget to consult the calendar when planning a program.

For more information on the calendar contact Arad Okanin at arad@jfgr.org or call 616-942-5553.



Taking the Blue Jar Home

by Judith Newman

My mother was born Taibe Katz in December of 1913 on the south side of Chicago at her cousin's Bar-Mitzvah, but that is another story. Also around 1913 Ball Jars began to produce blue 'Perfect Mason' embossed glass canning jars in Muncie, Indiana.

Ma's family moved up into West Michigan when she was a young girl, eventually settling in Berrien County on Paw Paw Lake, where she and her younger siblings grew up. The family was poor and Ma often told me that she and her sibs would pick fruit off of neighbors trees and her mother would preserve it so that they would have food in the winter.

I still have several of those blue canning jars, I store nuts, grains and dried beans in them. Ma, a modern woman, became Dorothy Newman, she was an intelligent and educated woman, but cruelly, she outlived her memory.

When my youngest son, Jacob, her youngest grandchild, moved to Ann Arbor she was 95 and he was one of

her caregivers for 5 years. He was amazing! They called him the Bubbie-whisperer. He would call me in Green Bay and ask, "Have you called your mother lately?", but I digress. I took him a blue jar to show her and each time he did she would tell him the story, and she would remember her mama...until she didn't.



*Taibe and Sammy Katz
Paw Paw, Lake, Michigan circa 1925*

A few days ago I stood in the kitchen of Len Robinson's 'attic garret' as he called it, where we have been living the last year and a half. I was carefully wrapping a blue glass jar for our move to Berrien County. My husband walked in and asked me, "What are you doing with that?" "I'm taking it home." I said.



*Jacob Moga and Dorothy Newman
Ann Arbor, Michigan 2012*



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Fond Memories

by Linda Albert



Linda Albert

As a transplant to Grand Rapids, and not a native, I am extremely honored to have been recommended by Peg Finkelstein and invited by Nicole Katzman to write this article, though I approach the task, feeling somewhat daunted. There are so many people born and raised in Grand Rapids who have

wonderful and deserving stories to tell. Thank you, Peg and Nicole!

My life in Grand Rapids started officially on a morning in November of 1957. My wedding to J. Brock (Jim) Albert, son of Harold and Marjorie Albert, and older brother of Marilyn Albert (Titche) had taken place on November 10 at the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, my home town. We had returned early from our honeymoon in Miami to our newly rented apartment at the Woodmere Gardens, because the sun set behind the Saxony Hotel too early in the afternoon leaving the pool in shade, it was the “height of the off season” for entertainment, and Jim wanted to get back to work.

Because we returned early, we had only a sleep sofa in the living room for a bed, and a sheet on the window. Nobody knew we were back, But the doorbell woke us from sleep. There at the door stood Yetta Smaller and Miriam Kastner – a surprising welcome to my new community!

It was very easy growing up Jewish in Detroit. My family belonged to Temple Israel, where I was confirmed. Most of my neighbors and classmates were Jewish. I had always planned to finish college before marrying, so falling in love midstream required a major change in plans. I somehow managed to get myself transferred to Calvin College from the U of M, where all my credits would be accepted, as long as I attended chapel and took bible classes, along with the requirements for my degree. I began in February and graduated a year and a half and summer later, (the first known Jewish graduate in their history.) My education was broadened by this opportunity and I was a great hit at dinner parties to boot. Later, I took wonderful writing classes at Aquinas and also taught various kinds of classes in their Emeritus program.

While waiting to start at Calvin, a family friend called to invite me to a sisterhood meeting. I still didn't have a car, and was shy, but she insisted I call Sandy Whitman for a ride. Sandy, a stranger, turned out also to have been active in theater, as I had been. In their wisdom, the leaders of Hadassah organized an evening group, so we, with young families, would be able get to the meetings. This brought the Synagogue and Temple together in a way that hadn't existed in the past. Before long, I had a wonderful group of friends, many of them also writers and actors, which allowed us to pursue our talents, write shows, and entertain the community at the same time. We were active members at Temple Emanuel, where Jim was confirmed and later President, I held various offices, and raised our four children there.

Much of our lives revolved around these organizations. Unlike a bigger city like Detroit, your friends could be older, younger, richer, poorer, Jewish and non-Jewish. If you had a pulse and were willing, you were needed. There was little competition and an amazing amount of support. It was a gift to watch our city grow and often to be a useful part of that growth. I honed my talents, improved my cooking, moved into a career, and recently wrote a book, thanks to the approval, camaraderie, and experience I gained in those years. The sense of community was, and I think, still is, unique. Throughout my marriage, until his death, I thanked Jim Albert for marrying me and bringing me to Grand Rapids. Though now living in Florida, a big part of my heart still remains there.

Linda Albert is a writer and communication and personal life coach with a master certification in Neuro-Linguistics. She is also a certified Archetypal Pattern Analyst and Jungian dream translator. Author of Charting the Lost Continent: Poetry and Other Discoveries, she has taught at Aquinas college and in Florida for the Women's Resources Center, the C.G. Jung Society, and The Longboat Key Education Center. www.lindaalbert.net



The 7th player to answer correctly will win a FREE bottle of Kosher wine delivered straight to your doorstep!

Starting again in September!

Every **Sunday & Wednesday at 7:00PM SHARP** you will receive TRIVIA question via text message!

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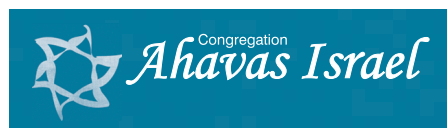
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Are you a Jewish teen in grades 6-12 and live in West Michigan and would like to join?! **Text "CTEENGR" to 616-207-1218** to be let in on the fun!



Unveiling

An unveiling and dedication of a monument in memory of Moe Kleiman will take place at the Greenwood cemetery on Sunday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Order your Lulav and Etrog

Blessing and shaking the Lulav and Etrog are the Jewish way to thank God for the blessings of the earth and its bountiful harvest. It is a mitzvah to own a lulav and etrog, and shake it each day of Sukkot (except for Shabbat) in all six directions around us to remind us that God's presence encompasses our entire lives. This mitzvah is an integral part of the celebration of Sukkot, which begins this year on Friday night, October 2.

Because of higher shipping costs this year due to COVID-19 challenges, our supplier has had to raise prices by \$4.

Basic set \$34.00

Standard set \$40.00

Muvhar (choice) \$49.00

Order through the Synagogue office. Payment must accompany order, and be received by noon on Friday, September 18. -- **No exceptions.**

Selihot Night Live: Saturday, September 12th, 8:30pm ET - 12:30am PT

Our Conservative Movement comes together to learn, sing, and connect as a community. Over 60 rabbis and cantors will present, and a variety of Selihot services will be offered throughout the evening. We will usher in the High Holiday season focusing on Teshuvah (Repentance: If I Am Only For Myself, Who Is For Me?), Tefilah (Prayer: And If I Am Only For Myself, What Am I?), and Tzedakah (Righteous Acts: And If Not Now, When?), along with the plea of Shema Koleinu (Hear our Voice, Accept our Prayer).

This event is sponsored by our Conservative Movement High Holiday Task Force, a partnership between the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Rabbinical Assembly, Cantors Assembly, the North American Association of Synagogue Executives, and the Jewish Educators Assembly. Free and open to all. Registration required. Full schedules and zoom links provided to all who register.

Sunday, September 13, 10:15 a.m. - Sukkah Building
Please come help us build our synagogue sukkah. In case of severe weather, we'll postpone until September 27.



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.

August 27 & Sept 3: Truth

For more information please contact

Elisheva English - atolstoywoman@hotmail.com

Kreenah Dunsmore - karenyonkers@yahoo.com

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89754824728?pwd=SXkyQkFJWmgxRXRrWnZWMDBuVWhhUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 5482 4728

Password: 210166



Friday Shabbat Services:

Join us to welcome in Shabbat together Fridays at 6:00 PM. Join the meeting at 5:30 for a virtual social hour, 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. This week Torah will be read.

To follow along in the prayer book during services Read the Mishkan T'Filah for Shabbat online.

Join the Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/795261435?pwd=NW9VSDRJTG9DaGVxS2RURFJqcTJUQT09>

Meeting ID: 795 261 435 Password: Challah18

Shabbat Morning Torah Study Saturdays at 9:30 AM

Join us for a weekly discussion of the Parsha and its related commentary. All are welcome! We will be studying selections from Rabbi Steven Bob's book, Jonah and the Meaning of our Lives.

Join the Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82110111186?pwd=cS9lS1ZxNkMrSjgwOUNPUFFOUjFDUT09>

Meeting ID: 821 1011 1186 Password: Parashah

Social Justice Book Club Mondays at 7:00 PM

During this current climate of protests around racial disparities and cries for social justice, I invite you all to join me in reading and discussing *White Fragility*, by Dr. Robin DiAngelo. It is an excellent and very informative guide to raise awareness, help provide us with tools to hear others more fully, and to have more open and productive conversations around race. Due to the volume of information, I am considering devoting a week to two or three chapters in an attempt to allow enough time to really unpack, examine, and share our ideas.

Looking forward to learning and growing together, Sherri Robinson, sherribrobinson@gmail.com

Join the Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83809730782?pwd=d0NXdDA5KzIzQWhtd2dqSGdYdm12QT09>

Meeting ID: 838 0973 0782 Password: 481541

A Month to Reflect

Elul begins on Friday, August 21. This is a month to reflect on our lives and to prepare for the upcoming High Holy Day season. Join the Rabbi on selected days throughout the month of Elul at 9:00 AM for a 1/2 hour check in and a chance to ponder a reading to help in

preparation for the sacred days ahead.

Friday, August 21
Saturday, August 22
Sunday, August 23
Tuesday, August 25
Friday, August 28
Saturday, August 29
Tuesday, September 1
Friday, September 4
Sunday, September 6
Tuesday, September 8
Friday, September 11
Saturday, September 12
Tuesday, September 15
Friday, September 18

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87618343147?pwd=YTRmT1UvSElkTXppblF6R1UxbGs0dz09>

Meeting ID: 876 1834 3147 Passcode: Elul5780

Food Bank Update

The next Food Bank distribution will be Wednesday, September 16th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Volunteers will be on hand to help load groceries and other essentials into cars at the front doors of the Temple. Thanks to all who have dropped off food and donated money over the past month. We are so grateful for your support! If you have any questions, please contact mcubed4300@gmail.com, or bbach2137@gmail.com. Our food pantry is open to all who are in need.

Registration is open for United Jewish School classes for the 2020-2021 school year.

Sign up for either our in-person classes beginning on Sunday, August 30 or our virtual classes beginning on Sunday, September 13. Sign up at unitedjewishschool.org.

Virtual High Holiday Services

We welcome all our friends and neighbors to attend virtual High Holiday Services with Temple Emanuel. In the coming days schedules and links will be available to everyone who would like to join us to worship during this season.

Contact the Temple office at info@grtemple.org with questions or for technical assistance.



Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

JFGR General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund

In memory of Len Robinson

Barbara Wepman

Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund

In memory of Buddy Joseph

Marni and Scott Vyn

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

Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund

Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 _____

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Notes: _____

Send card to address _____

Send your donation and this form to:

Send card to City/St/Zip _____

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