



Happy 2019!

Our *100 Days of Impact Initiative* is coming to a close. Thank you to everyone so far who contributed to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. We are pleased to report that we have raised to date, \$382,754 within an aggressive four-month timeframe.



Marni Vyn

Thanks to generous matching gifts from the Padnos Foundation and the Berkowitz Foundation, all new gifts and any increase to last year's gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar. These matching grants will generate up to an additional \$35,000 toward our annual campaign.

Of course, if you have not yet made your contribution, it's never too late to give to a cause you care about. Please contact Cathy in the Federation office to make your donation or donate online at [jewishgrandrapids.org](http://jewishgrandrapids.org).

Looking back to 2018, we welcome home 11 women who visited Israel – our Jewish home – on a co-sponsored trip with the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) and JFGR. I was honored to be the JWRP City Leader, representing JFGR and assisting in leading our group. It was a life-changing experience, and you'll find testimonials from these inspired women in the pages of this *Shofar* newsletter and in upcoming editions.

As we look ahead to 2019, JFGR's Mission to Israel is traveling this month with 16 participants. I can't wait to hear about their experiences when they return.

We are also excited to invite the entire community to a gala celebration in honor of the Jewish Cultural Council's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please mark your calendars for a Big Band Klezmer Bash on February 2, 2019. Details are on page 7.

The New Year provides a time of reflection, and as I think back on the past year, I am incredibly thankful for all of the community support through your financial donations and volunteer time, and also for our incredible staff – Marisa, Cathy, Ann, Marisa K., Dafna, and Jessica – and my fellow Board members. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of Jews here in West Michigan and around the world.

Happy 2019, and thank you for your continued support of JFGR!

Marni Vyn  
Board Chairperson

**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.

Like Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids  
on Facebook!

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**Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**  
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## WHY JEWISH FEDERATION of GRAND RAPIDS? TESTIMONIALS FOR 100 DAYS OF IMPACT

Twelve years ago I learned with certainty that both my grandmothers were Jewish and my maternal grandmother was born in a Jewish community in Canada in the late 1890s. Losing this connection just two generations later is sadly a choice some ancestors make when trying to find jobs and be under the radar. Even if I had known fully about my grandmothers, I was born in northern Michigan where there are no visible Jewish communities and moving

### MATCHING GIFTS

Any new gift or increase is matched dollar for dollar by a challenge grant. The Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation has made a matching grant commitment for new gifts and increases in contributions. The Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation has also made a matching grant commitment for new gifts and increases in contributions from donors age 49 and under. Payments can be made by cash, check, credit card or stock. Pay in full or set up installments. You can even pay online at [www.JewishGrandRapids.org](http://www.JewishGrandRapids.org). The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

\$382,754 gifts  
from  
267 donors



**100  
DAYS OF  
IMPACT**

- Social Services**
- Israel**
- United Jewish School**
- Film Festival**
- Cultural Council**
- PJ Library**
- Camp Scholarships**
- Mission Trips**

STAFF: Executive Director: Marisa Reed, ext. 207, marisa@jfgr.org | Director of Social Service Resources: Ann Berman, ext. 206, ann@jfgr.org | Director of Donor Relations: Cathy Winick, ext. 204, cathy@jfgr.org | Director of Programming: Marisa Krishef, ext 205, markay@jfgr.org



### ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids  
2727 Michigan NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
(616) 942-5553 info@jfgr.org  
www.jfgr.org

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



I HEREBY PLEDGE TO THE FEDERATION

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN THE SUM OF: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Live Generously.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### DONOR'S SIGNATURE

Method of Payment:  Check  Stock (Please Identify)

Please Charge my:  MasterCard  Visa

Discover  American Express

Card Number

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Security (CVS) code: \_\_\_\_\_

JFGR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

**WHY JEWISH FEDERATION of GRAND RAPIDS? TESTIMONIALS FOR 100 DAYS OF IMPACT continued**

over 200 miles to Newaygo County didn't offer any connections to Jewish life either. Trying to understand more about what it means to be Jewish, I met Cathy Winick at an event hosted by the JFGR. She was so welcoming, helpful and found ways to allow me to participate with different federation events since I live nearly an hour north. Through serving, I have been able to experience the greater Jewish community while learning more about the Jewish Federation in general. I am impressed with the varied events and services provided to assist and educate the Jewish community. I will be embarking on my first trip to Israel in January with the Federation. Thanks so much to the JFGR staff for providing these experiences and allowing me to reconnect.

Susan Wolfsen



A small ad ran in the April 2005 issue of *The Shofar* seeking a staff associate twelve hours a week at the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. I applied. Rosalie Stein interviewed me. I got the job.

I was born Jewish. I grew up in Croton, north of Grand Rapids, where I wouldn't be surprised if we were the only Jewish family in Newaygo County. I picked up most of what I learned about Judaism from the World Book Encyclopedia, an occasional bar or bat mitzvah of a cousin in Grand Rapids, and one time at a Passover Seder that Abe and Rebecca Remes hosted. I followed the common misbelief that Hanukkah, however you spell it, was our most important holiday.

Fast forward many years to my new job at the Jewish Federation. This is when my real Jewish education began. I learned about our holiest holidays and what they meant and why our office was closed then. I learned that pork was not the only treif food (I learned what treif even meant). I began to learn about the differences of the various sects of Judaism when I extended my hand in introduction to Rabbi Weingarten, to have explained to me why a handshake would not take place.

The more I learned through Federation, the more I wanted to learn. I became a member of a congregation for the first time in my life. Because my father was Jewish, not my mother, to become a member of the conservative synagogue, Ahavas Israel, I had to study and meet before a beit din and be immersed in a mikvah. All very foreign to me before.

I used to feel *not Jewish enough*; I no longer feel that way. People will call the Federation office and talk about being *kinda Jewish*. I know what they mean by that. If our Jewish Federation can, and does, make someone feel more Jewish, more connected, more engaged in the Jewish community, we have done a mitzvah, I believe.

In my primary role at the Federation I came to understand the power of tzedakah. I see how many people making even a chai contribution can help make a difference in our local Jewish community and around the world.

Federation became my path. Federation means the world to me. And now, through my work with our Federation I have the opportunity to be a part of the group of Jewish community leaders making the trip to Israel in January. Thank you Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. My father would be so proud.

Cathy Winick  
Director, Donor Relations

**Retirees Lunch Bunch will gather at Anna's House**

2409 E Beltline Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Thursday, January 24, 2019

11:30am

Cost: \$10



RSVP by calling 616-942-5553 or email [ann@jfgr.org](mailto:ann@jfgr.org). Rides available upon request with your reservation.

Mark your calendar!

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS.

## JFGR YAD (20's and 30's) AFTER EVENT WITH RABBI DAN

After the presentation, meet over at Gravity Taphouse and Grille and continue shmoozing with Rabbi Dan! First round of drinks and apps are on us! Email [markay@jfg.org](mailto:markay@jfg.org) or call 616-942-5553, ext. 205 to say you'll be there!

## My JFGR/JWRP Trip: Reconnecting to Judaism and Myself

By Erica Wikander



In November, I was blessed with the opportunity to travel to Israel with 10 incredible women. I knew little about the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP), but I knew women went on this trip, also known as "MOMentum," and came back reinvigorated. Only knowing my travel-mates on a "friendly" level (I was not traveling with my "close" friends), I was excited, but I also could not imagine being one of those women in the You-Tube videos dancing and hugging women who I just met. I was anxious—about leaving my family for 10 days, about traveling so far from my family and about spending 10 days with 10 women that I didn't know that well. The trip changed me. The trip introduced me to 10 of the most amazing women, who I now consider my "close" friends.

The trip reintroduced me to Israel (I hadn't been since I studied abroad almost 20 years ago). I felt a deeper appreciation for the Old City, for the commitment of the Israeli soldiers, and for the passion and zeal that the Israeli citizens have towards their country (something that I think is missing in America right now). The trip connected me to Judaism in a new way. It was more than education about religion and holidays. JWRP enlightens mothers about the importance of their role in their family, and more importantly, in their community. I realize that my family's Jewish traditions, and our connection to our Jewish community, depend on me and my newest "close" friends. If the 11 of us can build a Jewish foundation within our families, and if we can connect our families to each other, we will make our Jewish community stronger. I am so appreciative for our local federation. Without them, this trip would not have been possible. JWRP brings women together through local organizations; for us, that was the Federation.

Lastly, my JWRP trip has made me eager to return to Israel with my family. The only real way to share my enthusiasm about Israel—and my new connection to Judaism—is to give my family the same experience. I cannot wait to see the Old City, Masada and the Dead Sea through their eyes. It will not be the same as traveling with my amazing JWRP women, but it will be invigorating nonetheless.





# Gesundheit Moments in Judaism

*With Rabbi Dan Horwitz*

*Thursday, January 10, 2018*

*6:30pm*

*Temple Emanuel  
1715 East Fulton*

*Admission: \$15*

*For more information call (616)942-5553  
or email [markay@jfgr.org](mailto:markay@jfgr.org)*



Rabbi Dan Horwitz is the Founding Director of The Well, an inclusive Jewish community-building outreach initiative geared to the needs of young adults and those who haven't connected with traditional institutions in the Detroit area.

Rabbi Dan has taught all over the world and is a sought-after educator who believes that Judaism should above all add meaning to our lives and be a source of joy!

He will speak to us in his engaging and witty style while he imparts how ancient Jewish wisdom is relevant (and fun)!

*Light refreshments will be served.*

## What JWRP Trip to Israel did for me.

By Michelle Benjamin



Michelle Benjamin travelled to Israel as part of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids (JFGR) group on the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP) November trip. She shares her experience in the following essay:

The JWRP MOMentum trip was designed for mothers of school age children to connect us to Israel, to Jewish values, and to each other. Personally, this trip was a cornerstone experience for me connecting *what was* to *what will be*. I love being Jewish, but couldn't list any reasons why beyond the enjoyment of playing Jewish music on my clarinet, embracing the holidays with loved ones, and finding comfort in listening to Hebrew. I went to Israel with two questions in mind. (1) How does an Israeli musician phrase traditional music to express the passion of our people? And (2)

What does being a Jewish woman mean to me? Throughout the ten days, I contemplated the latter question while listening to all of the wonderful JWRP speakers and fascinating tour guides at our daily classes and landmark tours. As for the music question, the accordion player answered that one for me within the first 24-hours of our journey.

At the Pioneer Museum in the Jezreel Valley of our Partnership Region, the eleven Grand Rapids women and our Partnership guides were greeted by an Israeli woman singing and playing her accordion. Within a few minutes, we were all dancing, clapping, and singing along. The energy of one song built onto the next. Tears flowed out of me as the answer to my question became clear. The Klezmerim played the melodies with a dramatic style of accents and dynamics that truly expressed her deep soul connection to Judaism, as well as the sadness of the earlier shooting at the Gaza Strip. "I cry tears because all I want is peace," she shared with us. My musical quest continued at the Independence Hall in Tel Aviv. After a moving rendition of how Israel became a state on May 14, 1948, a recorded orchestral accompaniment began. Friends and strangers alike sang, swaying with arms around each other, to the Hebrew words of 'Hatikva'.

The phrasing of Jewish music is performed with a forward momentum that echoes the continued strength of the Jewish people while also encouraging us to embrace the simple joys of connection. The same sentence can also be applied to our prayers. Music, like prayers, connects us to our generations past, generations to come, the Jews around us, as well as the Jews across the continents. This all seems so relevant, but it took my time in Israel to fully comprehend it! Our first JWRP class was about the prayer, L'chi Lach. The Rebbetzin said, "You have a purpose. Find your journey. Have the courage to do the next best thing and you shall be a blessing." The sessions continued with faithfulness and trust. Although you may be angry, still show up for the relationship, whether it be in a religious or in a personal nature.

The crowning moment for me was on a sunny Shabbat day. The panoramic view of Jerusalem from a third floor roof made me feel free as a bird to savor the stillness of this ancient Jewish observance. Young couples were sharing lunch in a courtyard with conversation and laughter. I imagined all the families and friends sharing a similar lunch in their homes. As each Shabbat lunch ended, I heard the same prayer echoing through the stone alleyways with voices singing, a violin playing, and even a jazz piano rendition. In the delight of my rooftop experience, I felt a spiritual holiness. No matter how my life unfolds each day, our Jewish prayers will keep me centered and grounded. Since my Israel trip, I have included two prayers with my family. We say the Sh'ma at night and the Modeh Ani in the morning. The prayers remind me that I am a Jewish woman aware of my meaningful life. For that, I am grateful.

The mission of JWRP is "to empower women to change the world through Jewish values that transform ourselves, our families, and our communities". The eleven of us Grand Rapids women are now bonded in friendship. Meeting once a month for the next year as part of JWRP will further deepen our friendship with a growing intention for our work to branch out into the Jewish community. Thank you, JFGR, for supplying us with this amazing and transformational experience. It is my hope that in the future another group of women will take this trip to continue the MOMentum.

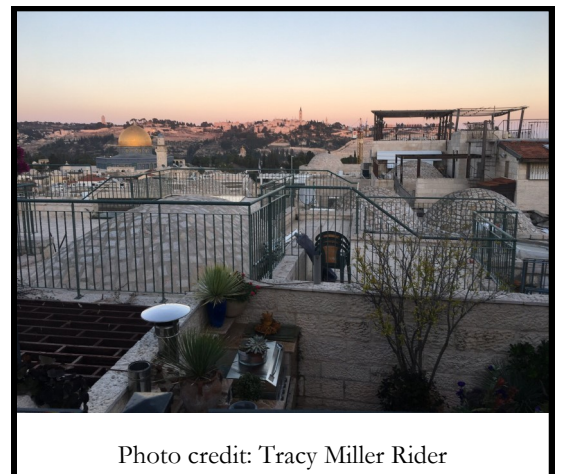


Photo credit: Tracy Miller Rider

**SAVE THE DATE**



**FEB  
2  
2019**

**50th  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**



**LIVE AT CASCADE HILLS  
COUNTRY CLUB**

3725 Cascade Rd SE

**KLEZMER  
CONCERT**

**DANCING! FUN MUSIC!**

**DELICIOUS FOOD!**

**\$25 TICKET | 7:30 PM**

For more information or to RSVP  
Call (616) 942-5553

or email [markay@jfgr.org](mailto:markay@jfgr.org)

[www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)

This event is co-sponsored by the  
Donna G Boorstein Memorial fund  
and The Ravitz Foundation





Beit Sefer B'yahad / United Jewish School  
1715 East Fulton Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Hasia Monselise School Director 616-459-5976 [UJShasiamonselise@gmail.com](mailto:UJShasiamonselise@gmail.com)

Melissa Weinhaus Assistant Director 616-459-5976 [ujsmelissaweinhaus@gmail.com](mailto:ujsmelissaweinhaus@gmail.com)

[www.unitedjewishschool.org](http://www.unitedjewishschool.org)

### UJS Board:

The school board is comprised of representatives from Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel.

- Allyson Strauss co chair
- Alison Bernstein co-chair
- Rhonda Pappas
- Rick Rinzler
- Paula Miller
- Elisabeth Rosewall
- Heidi Levy

School closings: Please tune in to WZZM 13 and WOOD TV 8 for UJS closings. It will be listed as United Jewish School. You may also check their websites.

### School Calendar

December 23 - January 6	No School - Winter Break
January 13	Sunday school resumes
January 20	Tu B'shvat celebration
January 26	Havdalah Saturday at 6:30pm

### Winter Break



### Plant Your Roots in Israel with trees for Tu B'shevat

*On Tu'B'shevat we celebrate the New Year for trees. We eat wonderful fruits that grow in Israel and we pray for a fruitful year. Please join students all over the world by planting a tree in Israel through Jewish National Fund. Tzedakah monies at UJS for the month of January and February will be sent to Israel to plant trees. Go to [www.jnf.org](http://www.jnf.org) for more info.*



### Mitzvah Mall

Kol Hakvod to the UJS parents and guests for raising nearly \$1000 for the wonderful organizations chosen by our students.

Thank you!



We would like to thank everyone who helped to make the school Hanukkah party event a big success. A special thanks to Avi Forstein and Marc Rossio for leading the festivities and making it an extra special day!

## CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT IT IS ALREADY TIME TO THINK ABOUT SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS!

Do you know a child who plans to attend a Jewish summer camp? They may qualify for a camp scholarship through the David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund. Applications are available online at [www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org) or upon request, and are due by March 15, 2019 Please contact the Jewish Federation at 616-942-5553.

-Ann Berman

Director of Social Service Resources

*Note: All applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Committee and held in the strictest confidence.*



Camp Gan Israel was founded in 1956 by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory.

Today the Camp Gan Israel network serves the Jewish World with chapters in more than forty countries.



## Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi

Rabbi Sabath serves the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion as Assistant Professor of Jewish Thought and Ethics and is the National Director of Recruitment and Admissions. For several years, Rabbi Sabath wrote a monthly column in the *Jerusalem Post* and writes regularly for *The Times of Israel*, *The Huffington Post* and other publications.

### 2019 Scholar in Residence Weekend

**Friday, February 22**

**Temple Emanuel**

Erev Shabbat Service 6:00 PM

Autonomy and Authority –

What Still Claims Us? 6:30 PM

A hearty Oneg Shabbat will follow the lecture.

**Saturday, February 23**

**Congregation Ahavas Israel**

Shabbat Service 9:30 AM

Kiddush Lunch 12:30 PM

(reservations required 616-949-2840 or [office@ahavasisraelgr.org](mailto:office@ahavasisraelgr.org))

Why Does God Matter Now?

12:45 PM

**Sunday, February 24**

**Temple Emanuel**

Bagels and Coffee 10:00 AM

The Meaning of this Hour: On

Jewish Ethics in Times of

Distress 10:30 AM



## Tamarack Camps מתנות במרק

# BEST. SUMMER. EVER!

Tamarack Camps, Michigan's premier summer camp, is uniquely designed for children and teens entering 2<sup>nd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades. Our program combines wonderful activities with outdoor adventure, Jewish culture, excellent facilities and of course, lots of fun!

\* Scholarships available for all Michigan campers in need \*

"My summer at Camp Maas was unbelievable. I made so many friends and enjoyed all the crazy-fun activities at camp!"

- Asher, Second Year Camper



Contact Franki Bagdade for more information:  
248.952.9028 or [bagdade@tamarackcamps.com](mailto:bagdade@tamarackcamps.com)  
[www.tamarackcamps.com](http://www.tamarackcamps.com)



### Hadassah Book Club

We will be taking a winter break. See you all in the Spring!

Date: April 17th

Time: 4:00pm

Place: Diane Broomberg, 2865 Lake Drive SE, 616-949-6084

Book: *The Art of Fielding*  
By Chad Harbach

Happy Reading in the winter months to come! As always your loyal Bookends  
Sue Remes & Flory Silverstein



### BETZALEL ART GROUP



Thursdays, 2:30pm - 4:00pm

at Ahavas Israel, 2727 Michigan NE.

For further information contact Pat Weller: 616-453-2954 or [patandfred@tds.net](mailto:patandfred@tds.net)

### INTERFAITH AND INTERWOVEN

Tuesday mornings 10:00am at Temple Emanuel.



Please join women of all ages (and handcraft abilities) from all faith and non-faith traditions to build friendships while our hands are engaged in creating items for ourselves, our families and/or charitable organizations. Bring knitting/crocheting supplies that you have to use for yourself or to share. We are currently accepting donations of knitting and crocheting supplies and washable yarn. For more information please contact Deet at [deetnewman@gmail.com](mailto:deetnewman@gmail.com).

# Congregational

January 2019

## Chabad House

### CKids Club ~ Tu Bshvat Fruit Pops

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8TH | 4:30-6:00PM

Learn all about Tu Bshvat, celebrating the birthday of the trees. Get creative with your fruits & Veggies. For Jewish boys & girls, Ages 5-11 | at Chabad House.

### CTeen Grand Rapids

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13<sup>th</sup> • 1:00-3:00PM

CTeen Day - Tu Bshvat Fruit Fest

### The place for ALL Jewish high school teens!

Part of the Fastest Growing Teen Network in the World!

### CTeen Junior ~ Grades 6th-8th

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13<sup>th</sup> • 4:00-6:00PM

Destination: Alaska | Brrrr!! Chill out with some delicious snow cones made by you. Warm the hearts of GR's homeless and poor; make cookies for them to munch on. For more information or to RSVP for CTeen, CTeen Junior & Kids Club, please contact Rivka at 616.206.9654

### JLI ~ "Crime and Consequence"

Please join us for a remarkable six-week course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute. To register today, visit myJLI.com. **Six Wednesday Evenings 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. | Begins Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** At the Chabad House 2615 Michigan St. NE Fee: \$99 (textbook included) | \$180 Sponsor. For more Info or to register, please contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.2770 or [Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com](mailto:Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com)

### CTeen International NYC Shabbaton

FEBRUARY 22<sup>RD</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup>

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! The International CTeen Shabbaton is an annual weekend retreat for Jewish teens from around the world. For the past ten years, thousands of teens have forged new friendships while experiencing a meaningful Shabbat, all in one of the most exciting cities in the world- New York City. To find out more about this amazing trip or to sign up, call or message Rivka at 616.206.9654

### Women's Torah & Tea

Join us for an insightful and thought-provoking discussion on the weekly Torah portion. Drawing from the wisdom of the classic biblical commentators and chassidic teachers, the study group focuses on the relevance of the Torah's teaching to our modern day lives.

Monday Nights at 8pm. | for more info, please call Nechamy at 616-828-2340.

### Gan Israel Day Camp - Save the Dates!!

Camp Gan Israel is designed to make your child's summer vacation fun, stimulating and entertaining!

The Camp Gan Israel experience is a unique combination of Jewish pride and fun!

DATES: **JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> 2019 | 9:00AM - 3:30PM**

**Kiddy Camp:** Ages 3-5 | **Main Division:** Ages 6-10 | **Pre - Teen Division:** Ages 11-12 For more info, please contact Rivka at (616)206.9654 or email us at [campganisraelgr@gmail.com](mailto:campganisraelgr@gmail.com)

## Temple Emanuel

### Your Opinion Matters & Brunch will be moderated by Sandy Freed on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

The topic for the debate this month is: If you could meet and talk with one biblical character, who would that be and what would the conversation be about? Since Jim Siegel will be on vacation, RSVP to the Temple Office 616-459-5976 or [cat@grtemple.org](mailto:cat@grtemple.org) so we can get a count for serving breakfast. Thanks!

## Ahavas Israel

### Ahavas Israel Book group

The next meeting of the Ahavas Israel reading group will be Thursday, February 21. Our next book selection is **People of the Book** by **Geraldine Brooks**. In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images. When Hanna, a caustic loner with a passion for her work, discovers a series of tiny artifacts in its ancient binding—an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair—she begins to unlock the book's mysteries. The reader is ushered into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past, tracing the book's journey from its salvation back to its creation.

In Bosnia during World War II, a Muslim risks his life to protect it from the Nazis. In the hedonistic salons of fin-de-siècle Vienna, the book becomes a pawn in the struggle against the city's rising anti-Semitism. In inquisition-era Venice, a Catholic priest saves it from burning. In Barcelona in 1492, the scribe who wrote the text sees his family destroyed by the agonies of enforced exile. And in Seville in 1480, the reason for the Haggadah's extraordinary illuminations is finally disclosed. Hanna's investigation unexpectedly plunges her into the intrigues of fine art forgers and ultra-nationalist fanatics. Her experiences will test her belief in herself and the man she has come to love.

Inspired by a true story, *People of the Book* is at once a novel of sweeping historical grandeur and intimate emotional intensity, an ambitious, electrifying work by an acclaimed and beloved author. For more information, please contact Leah Sauer @ [leahsauer@live.com](mailto:leahsauer@live.com). or 616-805-3778.

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 sleepaway camps and experiences.

**Chuck 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.

## *Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community*

**JFGR General Endowment/L’Dor Vador Fund**

In memory of Alan Pardo, father of Marisa Reed  
From Jamie Yadgaroff, Jill Mulder, Nick Heinz, Charlie Cowan

In memory of Alan Pardo, father of Marisa Reed  
From Rick Stevens

In memory of Marisa Reed’s father  
From Karen and Mitchell Padnos

In memory of Marisa Reed’s father  
From Marni, Scott, Arend, and Aidan Vyn

In memory of Dick Kaufman  
From Kris and Doug Siegel  
From the staff at JFGR

**Louis & Louise Weiner Fund**

In memory of Margit Sarne  
From Mimi Sarne

In memory of Eileen Enoch  
From Marisa, Adam, Sophie, Harry, Maya and Noah Reed

**David & Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund**

From Carl Quenneville



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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

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**Next Issue's Information Deadline:  
January 15, 2019**



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## ***What's Happening January 2019***

<b>1</b>	JFGR office closed
<b>8</b>	CKids Club 4:30 - 6:00pm at Chabad
<b>10</b>	<b>Cultural Council Rabbi Dan Horwitz 6:30pm at Temple Emanuel</b>
<b>13</b>	United Jewish School Resumes Your Opinion Matters 10:00am at Temple CTeen Grand Rapids 1:00-3:00PM at Chabad CTeen Juniors 4:00-6:00pm at Chabad
<b>20</b>	United Jewish School Tu B'shvat celebration
<b>24</b>	<b>Retirees Lunch Bunch at Anna's House 11:30am</b>

**Cultural Council  
50th Year  
Anniversary  
Celebration  
Feb. 2nd  
7:30pm  
See page 7  
for more information**

