



The Shofar

Shalom,

Shana Tova. Let me begin by wishing you all a healthy and satisfying new year. Rosh HaShanah is the celebration of God's creation of the world, a festival marking a new beginning and the circular nature of life. We see the familiar change in season, a leaf falling to the ground, the slight chill in the air, parents with kids in tow frantically searching for school supplies, and we are reminded of this High Holiday ushering in the new year. The Jewish community can serve a role in making this yearly transformation so much better. I can say without reservation that this community has done a fantastic job making my own family and I feel welcome, at home, and part of something larger. This summer was a hectic one, to say the least. A mere eight weeks ago, my three youngest kids were hard at work studying for final exams. The dogs were happily oblivious on their daily walks. Our daily routine was comforting.



A few weeks later everything was completely changed. An interview, a new job, house hunting, house offers, followed by inspections, packing up boxes, entertaining the children, staying in hotels, pleading with the children for help, looking at new schools, and doing our best to deal with general chaos. And then there was the stress of the family being separated for a month. My two oldest sons spent the summer in Ann Arbor taking classes. My third son, and my daughter, worked to make new friends here in Grand Rapids. My husband worked back in Rhode Island to finish packing, clear out our old house, and tie up all the loose ends that come along with moving. He drove a Uhaul to Grand Rapids, a distance of about a thousand miles, four times, on one occasion with a nervous golden retriever on his lap. The experience of relocating a family of six almost half-way across the country was stressful, exciting, and fraught with fear and apprehension.

Soon after arriving in Grand Rapids, so many people went out of their way to make my family and I feel like a part of the community. Everyone we have encountered has been so supportive; our transformation was made to seem easy. As I write this, I am

Executives Director letter continues on page 5

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!

Inside this issue:

Federation News	1-6
Cultural Council	7-8
Community	9
Senior News	4
United Jewish School	9
Congregational	9-10
Endowment	11

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CAMPAIGN 2019 KICKS OFF

Campaign 2019 officially begins on September 19 with a kick-off event you are invited to, featuring speaker Debbie Stein from the Jewish Federations of North America. It is our goal to raise **\$500,000** by the time the 100-Day Campaign ends December 31. This is an increase of approximately 18%, chai, over last year's campaign. Under the direction of our Co-Chairs, along with the efforts of our cadre of volunteer solicitors, this is achievable.

We are excited to announce our Co-Chairs of Campaign 2019: Lanny Thodey and Bill Boorstein. You may know them. Lanny, a Lion of Judah, along with her sister, Shirley Hurwitz, oversees the Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation that is a major contributor in our community. Bill, a long-time Temple Emanuel member and leader, set up an endowment fund years ago in honor of his late wife, Donna, supporting Jewish arts, culture and history in West Michigan. Both Lanny and Bill are native Grand Rapidsians, Creston High School graduates, and University of Michigan alumni.

Over the next few months we will be answering the question, *Why the Federation?* highlighting what we do in the community, and around the world, and letting you know how you can help. Soon we'll begin sharing a series of videos from people in our community who let you know what Federation means to them.

When you receive that phone call, mail, or email, asking you to give, we thank you in advance for answering the request.



STAFF: Executive Director: Nicole Katzman, ext. 207, nicole@jfgr.org | Director of Social Service Resources: Ann Berman, ext. 206, ann@jfgr.org | Director of Programming: Marisa Krishef, ext. 205, markay@jfgr.org | Director of Donor Relations: Cathy Winick, ext. 204, cathy@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: \$ _____

DONOR'S SIGNATURE

Method of Payment: Check Stock (Please Identify)
Please Charge my: MasterCard Visa
 Discover American Express

Live Generously.

Name _____

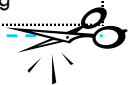
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Exp. Date: _____ Card Number _____
Security (CVS) code: _____





Campaign 2019 Kick Off Event



Why the Federation?

Thursday, September 19th at 7:30 p.m.
Temple Emanuel, 1715 East Fulton

The Jewish Federations of North America's long-time leader, Debbie Stein, will answer this question and more, letting you know the impact Jewish Federations make in their local communities, throughout the United States, and around the world.

Ms. Stein sheds light on what your involvement - donation of time, money - and commitment makes.

This is a free event. Light refreshments will be served.

To RSVP or for information: Info@JFGR.org or (616) 942-5553.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GRAND RAPIDS

L'dor Vador Endowment Update Growing the Community's Endowment Funds



The L'dor Vador Endowment Committee met and reviewed the investment policy statement and results for the first half of 2019. The committee discussed the economy and markets and elected to make no changes to the investment policy.

The L'dor Vador endowment funds totaled \$5,481,739.38 as of June 30, 2019, which is up from \$4,782,983.66 at the end of 2018. Of note, the funds' balance has been increased by contributions and reduced by annual distributions requested by many of the funds beneficiaries.

The funds annualized weighted average return was 11.2% for the first six months of 2019. L'dor Vador endowment assets generated over \$250,000 of available funds to local Jewish organizations for their discretionary use to fund their charitable missions.

Please consider contributing to, or setting up, a L'Dor Vador Endowment Fund to help ensure the future of our Jewish community. To donate, contact the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Congregation Ahavas Israel or Temple Emanuel. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Nicole at the Federation office at 616-942-5553 or nicole@ifgr.org.



Join the Jewish Community at a concert with Violinist Itzhak Perlman and the Grand Rapids Symphony on Thursday evening, November 7, 2019!

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids has a block of tickets reserved at a discounted price of \$50.40 per ticket!

Tickets must be purchased through Federation before September 18, 2019!

Please contact Marisa K. at 616-942-5553, ext. 205 or at Markay@ifgr.org to purchase tickets or for more information.



Apples and Honey Luncheon Takes to the Road. Thursday, September 26, 2019

We will wine and dine up north in
Omena, Mi.

Lunch at *Knot Just a Bar* then wine tasting
at *Leelanau Cellars*.

We will take a bus from Ahavas Israel parking lot,
leaving promptly at 9am,
returning between 6:00 and 7:00pm.

RSVP are a MUST by Wednesday, September 18.

616-942-5553

Cost: \$20 includes lunch

Executives Director letter continues from page 1

thinking about the upcoming sound of the shofar, the delicious taste of honey dripping from an apple, and the warm, aromatic round challah that I will soon devour. Most importantly, I am looking forward to spending time in shul, and celebrating the new year surrounded by so many new friends, our new community. The comforting familiarity of Rosh HaShana, the gathering of our community for the new year, is what has grounded me personally in my transformation here. It is the new beginning of Rosh Hashanah that signifies to me that everything will be okay.

L'Shanah tovah tikatevu v'techatemu,

May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year,

Nicole Katzman
Executive Director



THANK YOU Volunteers!

Our annual JFGR Community Picnic on August 25, 2019 was a great success! We had over 329 people in attendance! The food truck served 230 people! We had 45 volunteers, 9 vendors, and 10 information tables in our Jewish Info Fair!

We would like to thank the following volunteers for all of their hard for the Picnic. This was such a successful event because of YOU! If we unintentionally omit anyone, please forgive us!

David Alfonso, Mario Atias, Talia Atias, Abby Berman, Moira Colvin, Davida Dennen, Toby Dolinka, Avi Forstein, Melissa Hillman, Sylvia Herman, Phyllis Horowitz, Jacob Katzman, Lindsey Katzman, Nathan Katzman, Steven Katzman, David Krishef, Harry Krishef, Sol Krishef, Tracy Miller-Rider, Stav Okanin, Karen Padnos, Marsha Plafkin, Lori and Mike Race and Family, Michal Ravid, Marisa Reed, Sophie Reed, Elisabeth Rosewall, Emily Rosewall, Susan Schadick, Rachel Strauss, Claude Titche, Robin Turetsky, Arend Vyn, Marni Vyn, Susan Wolfsen, Karen Yonkers, Annie Young, Judy Zuppke, and Mort Zuckerman.

We would also like to thank the amazing staff at Congregation Ahavas Israel for all of their help. JaQuae Denard, Custodian, and Deb Johnston, Office Manager.

Thanks again to all,

Marisa Krishef and JFGR Staff

Check out the video on our website:

jewishgrandrapids.org

Photo credit: Annie Young





Cultural Council is assembling another inspiring year of programming and Membership has its privileges! Join Today!

Our mission statement: The Jewish Cultural Council of Grand Rapids aims to foster greater awareness of Jewish culture in West Michigan by providing a vast range of quality programs with Jewish content. These programs highlight the arts, learning current events, Jewish traditions and ideas and their impact on universal values. The programs are intended to appeal to Jews and non-Jews alike.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Membership Benefits and Privileges

- _____ Underwriter, \$500 or more: Free admission to all programs for five adults and admission to all private receptions and special events for two adults.
- _____ Patron, \$250 -\$499: Free admission to all programs for four adults and admission to all private receptions and special events for two adults.
- _____ Sponsor, \$125-\$249: Free admission to all programs for three adults and admission to all private receptions and special events for two adults.
- _____ Family membership, \$100: Free admission to all programs for two adults.
- _____ Individual, \$60: Free admission to all programs for one adult.

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ or call the office to make a credit card payment over the phone.

Payable to **The Jewish Cultural Council**

Please mail this form with your check to:
The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
Cultural Council - Spectrum Series
2727 Michigan St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

***Admission to individual events are generally \$15 and up for adults, \$5 for college students and children up to 18 are free.**

**Admission prices may vary for some events*



2019-2020 Spectrum Series

Presents

Dr. Alon Tal

A leading Israeli environmental activist and academic, Dr. Tal will speak on Enduring Technological Optimism: Israeli Water Resources at the Crossroads.

During the past decades Israel's water resources have undergone a revolution. No longer dependent on the Kineret Lake and the national water carrier, desalination and waste water recycling have changed the way the public and Israel's farmers view this scarce resource. Israel's water management strategy is considered a model to many dryland nations around the world and states like California are thinking of its many approaches. Dr. Tal will also look at Michigan water crisis.

When: September 22, 2019 at 1:30pm

**Where: Congregation Ahavas Israel
2727 Michigan Street NE**

Cost: \$15

For more information

Email : Markay@jfgr.org

Or call 616-942-5553



Jewish Federation®
OF GRAND RAPIDS

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.



Beit Sefer B'yahad / United Jewish School
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Calendar

September 8 Opening Day
September 29 No School
Erev Rosh Hashanah

Opening Day September 8, 2019

We look forward to welcoming our new teachers, madrichim, and families!
This year we will have many exciting new programs...details to come!



Opening Day Schedule

9:45 am - Meet the teachers, kibbitz with friends, have a nosh
10:00 am - Class begins (no early morning Hebrew today)
11:45 am - Assembly and magician

Hadassah Book Club

Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Time: 4:00pm

Place: Bev Niedelson

4757 Rockvalley NE

RSVP: 616-901-0572

Book: *Little Fires Everywhere*
by Celeste Ng

Happy Reading!

As always your loyal Bookends,
Sue Remes & Flory Silverstein



Ahavas Israel Corners of the Field Garden

September will be a busy month in the garden. We welcome volunteers to help with the harvest. No experience is necessary. We will give you a task, tools, and know-how.

Bring drinking water, gloves and your companionship. Produce goes to the food banks at Temple Emanuel and Baxter Center.

We meet on Sunday mornings at 8:30 for an hour or so. For more information email ally-soncoletrauss@gmail.com or mcubed4300@gmail.com.

See you in the garden!



Temple Emanuel

Your Opinion Matters & Brunch

Your Opinion Matters Sunday Sept. 22 at 10:00am.

Topic: Who are our Heroes? Who Should They Be? What does Judaism say about people we should emulate?

We'll begin our discussion with the following article by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' on Devarim 5779 that was published August 5, 2019. You can pick up a copy at the Temple Office, or read it online at: <http://thejewishlink.com/rabbi-lord-jonathan-sacks-the-teacher-as-hero-devarim-5779/>

Or listen to the Podcast:

<https://player.fm/series/office-of-rabbi-sacks/the-teacher-as-hero-devarim-5779>

RSVP to Jim Siegel at jims@siegeljewelers.com so that he knows how many he will be feeding.

Ahavas Israel**Pre-High Holiday picnic**

Sunday, September 15, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, - Annual Pre-High Holiday Picnic: Please join us at Riverside Park (2001 Monroe Ave NE) and bring your favorite dairy or vegan dish to pass. Drinks, plates, napkins, and cutlery will be provided. Go north of Ann St. on Monroe, to the second park entrance with the "Island Shelter" sign. You can park right in front of the picnic shelter, near the pedestrian bridge, lagoon, and playground.

Ahavas Israel Book Group

Our next book discussion will be Thursday, September 16, 7:00 pm to discuss *The Orchard* by Yochi Brandes. Yochi Brandes, one of Israel's leading authors, takes on the literary challenge of novelizing key turning points in Jewish history. *The Orchard* seeks to understand the revolution that transformed Biblical Judaism into Rabbinic Judaism after the destruction of the Second Temple. Please contact Sandy Freed for more information at 616-540-2030, sandyfreed2@gmail.com.

Also put Thursday, February 13, 2020 (book to be determined) on your calendars.

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 Sunday night, October 13.

Basic set \$30.00 Standard set \$36.00
Muvhar (choice) \$45.00

Order through the Synagogue office. Payment must accompany order, and be received by noon on Friday, September 27. -- No exceptions.

High Holiday Schedule, 5780 (2019)**Saturday, September 21 - Selihot**

Please join us for Selihot-themed film at 9:00pm, followed by a 1/2 Selihot service at about 11:30 pm. Dejected and remorseful after an on-air rant leads to tragic consequences, a DJ strikes up a friendship with Parry, a former professor who became unhinged and then homeless after witnessing his wife's violent death. The DJ seeks redemption by helping Parry in his quest to recover an item that he believes is the Holy Grail and to win the heart of the woman he loves.

Cteen Grand Rapids - CTEEN KICKOFF EVENT!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th 2019 | 7pm

Come get involved & meet new Jewish friends at the awesome Kickoff party!! At The Chabad House | For Jewish High School Teens. RSVP to Rivka @ 616-206-9654

JTEXT- JEWISH TRIVIA GAME FOR JEWISH TEENS GRADES 6-12! STARTING SEPTEMBER 5TH, WIN BIG! Every Monday and Thursday at 7pm.

Be the 7th to answer correctly and win a \$20 AMAZON GIFT CARD straight to your phone! No strings attached!

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

Shofar Factory & High Holiday Hands on Experience!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd 2019 | 12:00-1:00pm

Come have a BLAST at the Shofer Factory! Make your very own Shofar to take home! | \$6 per person. For more information please contact Sarah @ 616-375-9404.

Jewish Womens Circle

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH | 7:30pm

Come join the Jewish Women's Circle for our first event of the year! *ROSH HASHANAH ART* - To RSVP and for more information contact Nechamy at 616 828 2340 nechamy8@gmail.com.

Rosh Hashanah Dinner

Chabad House of Western Michigan warmly invites you to join us for *A Rosh Hashana Dinner*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th 2019. Evening Services 7:15pm followed by Dinner at 8:15pm

Enjoy the tastes and traditions with family and friends. Our delicious four-course dinner is spiced with great food, song and meaningful holiday insights. **Kindly RSVP by September 22nd** | 616-957-0770

Gan Yiladim Preschool - Kindergarten

Registration is open for the fall of 2019! Our children learn the "specialness" of being Jewish. Through stories and discussions, the precious legacy of their uniqueness as Jews is transmitted. Gan Yiladim School takes the best of both worlds – secular and Judaic – and blends them into a program that is at once rich, fulfilling, and stimulating environment. For children ages 2-6. For more information about our program, please feel free to contact us at 616-957-0770.

Endowment

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

Federation General Endowment L'Dor Vador Fund

In memory of Andrew Dennen
From Bill Ristau

In memory of Andrew Dennen
From All of Andy's Friends at MISA

In memory of Andrew Dennen
From Kovitz Investment Group on behalf of Bruce Weininger

In memory of Andrew Dennen
From The Benjamin Green Family

In memory of Andrew Dennen
From Haworth, Inc.

In memory of Morris Kleiman
From Janis Bobrin

Julian and Judith Joseph Fund

In memory of Morris Kleiman
From Susette Tauber

Woman of Valor Fund

In memory of Dafna Kaufman's mother, Judit Wosner
From Mitchell and Karen Padnos

In memory of Lotte Loeb (Susette Tauber's sister)
From Julian and Judith Joseph

Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund

In memory of Moe Kleiman
From Joe and Lynda (Waltz) Warshawsky

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
2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1240

Send article text to: Ann@jfgr.org
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www.jewishgrandrapids.org
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**Next Issue's Information Deadline:
September 15, 2019**



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What's Happening Jewish Grand Rapids *September 2019* Calendar of Events

8	Opening Day for United Jewish School 9:45am at Temple Emanuel	22	Cultural Council Presents Dr. Alon Tal 1:30pm at Congregation Ahavas Israel
15	Ahavas Israel Pre-Holiday Picnic 5:00-7:00pm at Riverside Park CTeen Kick off Event 7:00pm at Chabad House		Your Opinion Matters & Brunch 10am at Temple Emanuel Shofar Factory Experience 12:00pm at Chabad house
16	Ahavas Israel Book Group 7:00pm	26	Apples and Honey Retirees Lunch Bunch 9:00am Road Trip
18	Hadassah Book Club 4:00pm		
19	Campaign 2019 Kick Off Event/ Why the Federation?	29	Chabad House Community Rosh Hashanah Dinner and services 7:15pm
21	Ahavas Israel Selihot Film 9:00pm at Ahavas Israel	30	JFGR Offices are closed for Rosh Hashanah