



Executive Director's Letter

December 2014

Dear Friends,

I'd like to thank all of you who came out to our campaign brunch in mid-November. It was a great turnout despite our first brush with snow this season. We had a lot of fun with the 'Great Bagel Debate' contest, as well as the opportunity to discuss the important role of Federation in our Jewish community. We owe special thanks to President Emeritus Arend Lubbers of Grand Valley State University, who offered some inspiring words to our solicitors during the latter half of the brunch.



Well, speaking of fun, I'd like to tell you about some upcoming events. The first program is our annual *Pre-Hanukah Fun at the Bowling Alley* party to be held Sunday, December 14, 11:30am at Fairlanes in Grandville (see page 4 inside for more details). Already a staple of our community programming, this event is again co-sponsored by Federation, United Jewish School and Chabad House. Our thanks also go out to the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation, the principal underwriter of this event.

This bowling party is a great opportunity for our whole community – young, old and those in-between – to get together. Ever popular with the UJS students, the bowling alley is sure to be filled with the laughter of children and more than a few of their parents. As our plans are simply bowling and schmoozing along with, of course, some good Jewish food, I urge you to mark you calendars and join the fun. This program is great for everyone, even if you are not a bowler.

A month later the Cultural Council of your Federation opens its *2015 Spectrum Series* with an appeal to young adults and anyone who enjoys, well, a good glass of wine, Thursday, January 22, 6:00pm at the Richard App Gallery on Cherry Street. We will welcome to Grand Rapids author and lecturer Micah Halpern (see page 5 inside). Mr. Halpern is an interesting man. He is both an expert on political and security issues

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Our Mission

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

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

**Like Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
on Facebook!**

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Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
 2727 Michigan NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49506
 616.942.5553
 616.942.5780 fax
 info@jfgr.org
 www.jfgr.org

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 Rabbi Michael Schadick
 Len Robinson, President

 Chabad House
 Of Western Michigan
 Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

Continued from page 1

relating to the United States and Israel, as well as a wine historian. Perhaps the two go together?

Micah Halpern will be talking with us about *Kosher Wines*. If you are unaware of this, kosher wines are now very cool. While not noticeable in our local retailers, the next time you are in a large city, I suggest you stop in a liquor store and ask about their kosher wine selection. Do that after you attend this next fun event so you're sure to be an expert on kosher wines as well. Of course, wine tasting and cheese are also part of the program.

Finally, while you're marking your calendars, check out the other upcoming programs from our Cultural Council (see page 6 inside). The three offerings include music, comedy and a story about being Jewish in Pakistan, respectively. I'd like to thank the Cultural Council committee and our programming director, Sari Cohen, for their work, as well as the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation and other sponsors of the *Spectrum Series*, in bringing once again to Grand Rapids a wide variety of culture designed to be, yes, enjoyed by all of us.

Happy Hanukah to you and your family! Enjoy the Festival of Lights!

With warmest regards,
 Mike
 mike@jfgr.org

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

A volunteer solicitor may be calling to ask for your pledge to our Annual Campaign. If you would like to make your gift or pledge without receiving a phone call, please mail in the card below. Or, you may donate now at www.JewishGrandRapids.org. You may also make your pledge via phone: 616.942.5553, or email: info@jfgr.org.

STAFF: | Executive Director: Mike Present, 616.942.5553 ext. 207, mike@jfgr.org
 | Social Service Director: Ann Berman, ext. 206, ann@jfgr.org | Programming Director: Sari Cohen, ext. 205, sari@jfgr.org
 | Financial Admin: Jennifer Stanton, ext. 203, jennifer@jfgr.org | Campaign Coordinator: Cathy Winick, ext. 204, cathy@jfgr.org



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
 2727 Michigan NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49506
 (616) 942-5553

www.jfgr.org

Live Generously.

Name _____

Address _____

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 Charge my: MasterCard Visa
 Discover American Express

Please consider a 10% increase
 You may use the enclosed envelope.

Card Number
 Exp. Date: _____



Lunch Bunch.. Shiraz Grille 2739 Breton Rd.
Thursday, December 11, 2014, 11:30am. Cost \$8
RSVP to Ann for lunch and a if a ride is needed. 616-942-5553 x206



SAVE THESE DATES
For Future Lunch Bunches ...
Thursday, January 15 and Tuesday, February 17



Adopt a Family for Hanukah!!

Dear Community,

On behalf of Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, I am asking once again for financial donations toward our Adopt-A-Family at Hanukah program. The goal is to raise \$2000 in cash donations, earmarked for our Adopt-a-Family Hanukah program. This will enable us to help those families who are struggling financially to purchase foods, candles and gifts for their families without the “*embarrassment of going door to door*”.

So please consider helping Federation reach this goal by December 9, 2014 by mailing your pledge to JFGR at 2727 Michigan NE, earmarked “Adopt-a -Family”.

Please email or call Ann if you have any questions or referrals regarding the program: Ann@jfgr.org
616-942-5553.

Let's All Celebrate,

Ann Berman

Director of Social Service Resources



Looking for the perfect holiday gift?

Consider making a tax-deductible donation to a Jewish community endowment fund in honor of a:

- Hanukah
- Graduation
- B'nai mitzvah
- Wedding
- Anniversary
- Birth
- Birthday
- Other recognition or special event



For as little as \$10 you can personally acknowledge these events, and a card is mailed to the recipient!

Please see Page 11 for details, or phone or email cathy@jfgr.org.

Sunday, December 14

Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm

United Jewish School, Chabad House and
the Jewish Federation invite the entire community

PRE-HANUKAH FUN AT THE BOWLING ALLEY



Fairlanes
Family Entertainment Center

3335 Fairlanes Ave. SW, Grandville, MI 49418 616-534-2695

Meet friends, have lunch, enjoy the game
in a family atmosphere

UJS Students:

Buses will pick up at Temple Emanuel and take students to Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center. Parents must pick-up from Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center by 1:30pm

This event is free for all children
up to 18 years old.

UJS staff: Free of charge

Adults: \$6.00 for kosher lunch

\$4.00 bowling and

shoe rental

For RSVP and additional information call the Federation office 616-942-5553 or sari@jfgr.org or pam@templemanuelgr.org

This event is generously sponsored by
the Rosenszweig-Coopersmith Foundation

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids



First Cultural Council Event of the Year
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015

6:00pm

RICHARD APP GALLERY

910 Cherry Street SE

KOSHER WINES!

THE WINE REVOLUTION

Micah Halpern, Kosher wine expert



Not long ago the expression "good kosher wine" was an oxymoron. No more. Today there are some exceptional kosher wines. California, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, France, Italy, Spain, even the Republic of Georgia, and especially Israel are producing exciting, quality wine. Kosher wines are becoming a craze. Kosher wines are making their way to wine lists in fine restaurants throughout the USA.

Micah D. Halpern lectures frequently, both in the United States and Israel, on issues relating to terror, foreign affairs, Israel and the Middle East, as well as wine history and popular culture. He is the author of the recently released, best selling book *Thugs*. Micah is the only exclusively kosher wine reviewer in the Western world. A native of Annapolis, he currently divides his time between Jerusalem and New York City.

Cost: \$15 for adults / \$5 for college students - see Cultural Council membership form (page 6)

Wine and cheese included.

WINTER BREAK FAMILY FUN DAY



This has become a favorite!
Our annual event at Naked Plates

NEW LOCATION: 2921 Breton Rd SE, Grand Rapids
 (on Breton just south of 28th street)

Tuesday, December 30, 2014

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Items to paint will be available for purchase.

Prices of \$5 and up.

Complimentary refreshments.

All ages welcome.

For more information:

cathy@jfgr.org or phone: 616-942-5553



Jewish Cultural Council

2015 Spectrum Series

Thursday, January 22, 2015

KOSHER WINES! THE WINE REVOLUTION

MICAH HALPERN, Kosher Wine Expert

Saturday, February 28, 2015

MUSIC TALKS

Cellist ELADK KABILIO, and Pianist BEN LAUDE

Sunday, May 17, 2015

STAND-UP COMEDY

Rabbi BOB ALPER

Sunday, June 7, 2015

GROWING UP JEWISH IN PAKISTAN

HAZEL KAHAN

Save the dates, more information to follow.

This series is sponsored by The Rosenzweig – Coopersmith Foundation and private donors.

Become a Cultural Council Member

Spectrum Series 2015 – Membership Form

First Name _____

Please send me season tickets for Spectrum 2015

Last Name _____

I/We would like to be an Underwriter: \$500+ (up to 5 tickets per event)

Address _____

I/We would like to be a Patron: \$250 - \$499 (4 tickets per event)

City/State/Zip _____

I/We would like to be a Sponsor: \$125 - \$249 (3 tickets per event)

Phone (____) _____

I/We would like a Family membership: \$100 (2 tickets per event)

Enclosed is my Check for \$ _____

I would like a Single membership: \$50 (1 ticket per event)

Payable to The Jewish Cultural Council

I would like to be a Cultural Council Volunteer, please contact me.

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids,

2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**SHIR SHALOM
HANUKAH CONCERT
AT MEIJER GARDENS**

You are invited to a gala Hanukah concert by the Shir Shalom Chorus.
SAVE THE DATE, Sunday, December 7th, 6pm and 7pm
BRING FAMILY AND FRIENDS



2014/15 - our 22nd Season
JEWISH Theatre GRAND RAPIDS
One Night with Fanny Brice
by Chip Deffaa
January 7-18, 2015
Wed., Thurs., & Sat. at 8 p.m. Sundays at 3 p.m.
GRCC Spectrum Theater - 160 Fountain St. NE
Second Floor Black Box Theater
Tickets: **616-234-3946** or www.jtgr.org
available December 8 for Subscribers; December 15 for all others. Box office closed 12/24/14 through 1/4/15. Online sales will remain open.

YAD

(Young Adult Division)

Welcomes young adults (21-35 years old) to participate at monthly social events!



Grand Rapids Drive Basketball Game - Sunday, December 28 at 4:00pm vs LA D-Fenders at the DeltaPlex. RSVP by November 30.

Havdalah and Grand Rapids Griffins Hockey Game - Saturday, January 10.

Havdalah at 6:15pm, game vs Chicago Wolves at 7:00pm. Post-game open skate, and free hat give-a-way! RSVP by December 1.

For more information and RSVP check us out on Facebook or email laurenevetter@gmail.com



Jewish Women's Professional Network

We meet monthly for networking. All women are invited - whether working outside the home, thinking of returning to the workforce, in career transition, or a community volunteer. For more information, please email marnivyn@yahoo.com or phone 616-774-8644

Wednesday, December 3

12:00pm

The Omelet Shoppe

545 Michigan NE

*Note change in Location.



Jewish Community Business Forum

Thursday, December 18

12:00 -1:00pm

El Barrio Restaurant

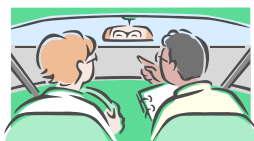
545 Michigan NE

Everyone is Welcome! A good networking opportunity to discuss business principles and to stay aware of resources available in our community.



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS STILL NEEDED!

Some members in our community need rides! They struggle to get groceries, go to a medical appointment, etc. Might you be willing to drive a senior on an 'as needed basis'? For more information or to volunteer your time, please call Ann at 942-5553 ext. 206



MISSION TO ISRAEL!

Are you thinking of going on a trip to Israel?

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is in the process of organizing a mission to Israel. We would like to invite anyone interested to meet and brainstorm possible dates and areas of interest.

If you are interested, please contact our office:

[616-942-5553](tel:616-942-5553) or info@jfgr.org

Hadassah Book Club

When: January 14th, 2015

Where: Flory Silverstein's Home: 2930 Bonnell SE,
East Grand Rapids, Phone: 616-949-5766

Please RSVP and reserve your place so that Flory knows you will be there! Thank you so much.

Book to read...."A Guide for the Perplexed" by Dara Horn

The book will be at Schuler Books on 28th Street.

Until January when we meet again,

We are.....As always, your faithful bookends,
Sue Remes 616-949-3505

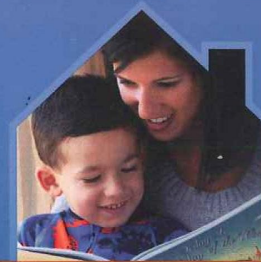
Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766



PJ Library is here!

**Thank you! To the Ravitz Foundation and
Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation.**

A GIFT for
JEWISH CHILDREN
and their families.



WHAT? The PJ Library ("PJ" for "pajamas") program offers the gift of free, high-quality Jewish books and music each month to children ages 6 months through 8 years all across North America. The program is also available to children ages 6 through 8 in some communities.

WHY? PJ Library books celebrate important aspects of Jewish culture, values and tradition, and become cherished bedtime stories.

HOW? Signing up is easy!
To sign up for PJ Library visit
www.pjlibrary.org.

PJ Library is a gift from your Jewish community in partnership with local philanthropists and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

PJ Library

www.PJLIBRARY.org

A PROGRAM OF THE
HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



SHALOM GRAND RAPIDS!!

A program of the Jewish Federation

*** Would you like to become an ambassador to welcome people who are new to the Jewish community or not currently involved?**

*** If you know about somebody new to the Grand Rapids community, please let us know. "Shalom Grand Rapids" would like to welcome them.**

**To sign up or receive additional information about the program, contact Sari at the Federation office:
616-942-5553 or Sari@jfgr.org**

WELCOME



Beit Sefer B'yahad/United Jewish School
1715 East Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Pam Rush, School Director 616-459-5976
pam@templemanuelgr.org www.unitedjewishschool.org

UJS Board:

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

Erica Wikander co-chair Allyson Strauss co-chair

Sharlena Lovy

Rhonda Pappas

Rick Rinzler

Elisabeth Rosewall

Amy Singer

Amy Winkelman

Please remember UJS with your contributions. We have a beautiful tribute card that can be sent in memory of someone, in honor of a special occasion or just for a simple "thank you"

December 14 11:30pm–1:30pm

“Pre-Hanukah Fun Bowling Ball”

<http://www.fairlanesgrandville.com/>

3335 Fairlanes Ave SW Grandville, MI 49418 616-534-2695



What a fun way to celebrate with the community!

Buses will transport students from religious school to Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center. They will receive lunch, shoe rental and enjoy many fun activities. All parents and guests are welcome. This event is free for all students and staff of UJS.

UJS Students and staff: Free of charge

Adults: \$ 6.00 lunch \$ 4.00 bowling and shoe rental

Bus pick-up Temple to Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center: 11:00am

Parent pick-up from Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center: 1:30 p.m.

For RSVP and additional information call the Federation office 616-942-5553 or e-mail: sari@jfg.org, or pam@templemanuelgr.org

Fairlanes
Family Entertainment Center

UJS Mitzvah Mall – December 14 10:00am till 11:00am

Instead of buying gifts this holiday season that collect dust or are put in a closet and forgotten, parents and their children will have the opportunity “shop” at the Mitzvah Mall. Various organizations will be represented, selected by our older students including local, national or international non-profits. Families will shop together and make donations on behalf of friends, family or others on their holiday gift list, “buying” a gift that keeps on giving. All donations are \$5, and a great way to say “Thank you” or “have a great year”. Shoppers receive decorative gift cards to present to the person in whose honor the gift was purchased. The card will indicate that a donation has been made to provide a specific service – i.e. A donation to Kids Food Basket will help provide a dinner for a Grand Rapids child who might otherwise go to bed hungry. What a *mitzvah*: resisting holiday consumerism, doing good deeds, bestowing a wonderful gift and having fun doing it. Honor your friends and family *and* the others you will be helping. Together we can help Repair the World – Tikkun Olam

Chabad House of West Michigan

Cteen

Come join us December 21st for some Awesome Hanukah fun and discuss combating peer pressure through the Power of Hanukah! #We'reIncredibles To find out more or to join Cteen call Chana @ 616-570-1742 or check us out on Facebook @Cteen Grand Rapids.

Chabad Kids Club December 16th - Yehuda the Maccabee. Bring light into the world like Yehuda the Maccabee, join a spectacular glow in the dark Hanukah party! Get your flashlights out because its time to light up the dark! Light a glow in the dark Menorah, feast on delicious Chanukah foods, and create a glow in the dark Chanukah craft. Location: Chabad of W Michigan, 2615 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids MI. Boys & Girls ages 5-12. Time: 4pm -6pm \$10 per session (includes light dinner) To book or for more info call Chana: 616-570-1742.

Gan Israel Winter Camp Warm up your winter with Gan Israel Winter Camp. Monday December 22nd 10am - 4pm Tuesday December 23rd 10am - 4pm. \$45 for both days. Hanukah Fun, Baking, Games, Arts and Crafts, Activities, Hot lunches, Music, Songs and more. For all Jewish children ages 4-12. Why wait for summer to experience the excitement of Camp Gan Israel? Bring the fun of Gan Izzy right into your winter break! For more information or to register contact Chana at 616-570-1742

Jewish Women Circle. Back by popular demand! Join the Jewish Women's Circle for round two of a fantastic women's self defense class. This is a practical hands on class in self defense where you learn the techniques and gain confidence in a fun way! Sunday January 11, Event begins 7:30pm, Big Dog Taekwondo, 6504 28th Street SE. Cover cost:\$10 | Friend:\$18 | Sponsor: \$54 To RSVP or for more information contact Nechamy at 616-828-2340 or nechamy8@gmail.com

Latka Party Festival Latka Party at the Chabad House, Saturday night December 20th at 8:00pm. Hanukah Music, Hanukah crafts, Hot delicious Lakkas, Sufganiot, Dreidel games, Menorah lighting & lots more. Fun for the whole family! For more information or to RSVP call 616-957-0770



Congregation Ahavas Israel

Se'udah Shelisheet

Please join us on Shabbat afternoons in December (6, 13, 20, and 27) at 4:45 p.m. for the Shabbat afternoon service (mincha) service, a little food, the evening service (ma'ariv), and havdalah. The evening will conclude about 15 minutes following the havdalah time for that week, approximately 6:15. To sponsor a Seudah for \$36, please contact the synagogue office. We look forward to your presence and participation. As usual, Cantor Stuart and the Religious Life Programming Fund will provide delightful and interesting food to enjoy!

Shabbat morning Schmooze 'n Shmear

Complements of the Religious Life Committee, you are invited to come to shul a bit early to enjoy coffee and a bagel before coming into the service. Breakfast will be available on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Look for it in either the Library or the Meeting Room.

Junior Congregation

JCong will meet at 11:00 a.m. on December 6 & 20 as well as January 3 & 17

Junior Congregation is about a creating a community in which you look forward to hanging out and having fun with your friends while learning and doing prayer, studying and arguing about Torah, and reinforcing Hebrew skills.

Junior Congregation will be led by Marisa Krishef and Marni Vyn usually meeting on the first and third Shabbat of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel or classroom #6. Come join us!

Junior Congregation is primarily aimed at students who are reading, but younger students - with parental assistance - are welcome. Contact Marisa Krishef at MarisaRBK@gmail.com or 616-459-4627

Temple Emanuel

Sunday, December 7th at 12:30pm in the Lewis Social Hall at Temple Emanuel. All women are invited to lunch, music, and conversation about your personal and spiritual needs. Your only admittance fee will be an old or gently used pocketbook, purse or briefcase which will be given to the **Center for Women in Transition Wardrobe for Work** program. Food prepared by some of the area's finest chefs, and gifts will be available for all at this Thank You for Being You pre-Hanukah luncheon! RSVP to the temple office at 616-459-5976 by December 5.

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 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.

*Thank you for supporting the
Grand Rapids Jewish Community*

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



JFGR Endowment Fund Donation Form

Donation from: Name _____ Fund (pick from list) _____
 Donor Address _____ In honor of _____
 Donor City/St/Zip _____ In memory of _____
 Send card to: Name _____ Notes: _____
 Send card to address _____ **Send your donation and this form to:**
 Send card to City/St/Zip _____ **2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

The Shofar

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1240

Send article text to: Ann@jfgr.org

Phone: 616.942.5553

Fax: 616.942.5780

www.jewishgrandrapids.org

Email: info@jfgr.org

Next Issue's Information Deadline:

DECEMBER 8, 2014



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

CAMPAIGN 2014

Together we do extraordinary things.

It's easy to pledge your support.

See page 2 inside, or visit our website
at

www.jfgr.org

Happy



Hanukkah