



#ItStartsWithWomen - Marni Vyn, Board Chair, JFGR & City Leader, MOMentum

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids has partnered with MOMentum (formerly the Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project), a global movement empowering mothers of Jewish children. MOMentum connects women with Israel, Jewish heritage, and each other. Over the past ten years, more than 18,000 women from around the world have visited Israel as part of this special “Birthright for Moms” women’s leadership program.

MOMentum believes:

“Inspire a woman, you inspire a family. Inspire enough families, you inspire a community. Inspire enough communities, you can change the world.”



Alison Bernstein, Amy Winkelman, Marni Vyn, Danielle Remes, Valerie Shavell, Helayne Sherman, Lisa M Rose, Amy Ostrow, Heather Alfonso, Mei Mah, Elizabeth Christopherson, Cathy Schwartz

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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.

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#ItStartsWithWomen *cont'd from front page*

Last month, twelve women from Grand Rapids traveled to Israel with MOMentum, This was the Federation's second trip to Israel. This transformative 10-day experience enriched our personal identities as women, spouses and mothers, increased our Jewish knowledge, deepened our connection to Israel, and brought renewed energy to our families and Jewish community.

Even though we've returned from Israel, the program is not over! MOMentum is more than a trip to Israel – it's a year long experience of growth and learning. Our group will gather monthly for the next twelve months to explore Jewish traditions, brainstorm special projects to impact the Jewish community, and maintain our strong connections to one another.

On behalf of the MOMentum participants, we are deeply grateful for the Federation's investment in us as Jewish leaders.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Putting Your Best Face Forward This Holiday Season - David Alfonso, MD
Past Chair, JFGR

We have all heard the expression that beauty is only skin deep, however, it turns out that some of the source of our beauty originates from a much deeper source, our gut. The foods we eat can have a significant impact on the appearance and health of our skin. Scientists are focusing new research on the benefits of many of the foods we eat on helping our skin look and feel its best. Below are some of the best foods that help enhance our skins beauty.



David Alfonso, MD

Fatty Fish- you may know of the benefits of fish that are high in Omega-3 oils for heart health. New evidence also points to their role in skin health as well. These oils help keep skin moisturized and help reduce inflammation throughout the body. These are found in fish such as salmon, mackerel, and herring.

Avocados- a recent study of over 700 female patients found that those with consistent intake of avocados had more supple and elastic skin. They also provide vitamin E which helps prevent oxidative damage to your skin. In addition, they contain Vitamin-C which is crucial for developing new collagen which helps keep your skin tight and healthy.

Walnuts-these nuts have one of the best ratios of Omega 3/Omega 6 fatty acids to promote health. They also contain Zinc which helps support the skin and its integrity as well as assisting in helping our skin barrier heal from injuries.

(continued on page 4)

STAFF: Executive Director: Nicole Katzman, ext. 207, nicole@jfgr.org

Director of Programming: Marisa Krishef, ext. 205, markay@jfgr.org | Director of Donor Relations: Cathy Winick, ext. 204, cathy@jfgr.org



GOAL: \$500,000.00
289 Donors
\$375,643.53

Please reflect on all that Jewish Federation Grand Rapids does for our local community as well as supporting causes in Israel and around the world. Our goal this year is an increase of "chai" (18) percent over last year's campaign ... we hope you'll be able to increase your pledge over last year to help us achieve that goal.

Remember, any amount you increase – and any NEW pledges – will be matched by a generous grant from the Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation. And, if you are under 50 years of age, it will ALSO be matched by a generous grant from the Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation.



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.

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



(cont'd from page 2)

Sweet potatoes - These foods are high in beta carotene which function as a natural sunscreen for your body. Boosting its ability prevent sun damage. High amounts of beta carotene may also help add some natural appearing color to your skin.

These are just a few of the most well known examples of superfoods for your skin. Keep in mind that as we enter the cold winter months when the air is dry, our skin needs even more attention. Skin moisture is difficult to maintain this time of year. I recommend a high quality facial moisturizer that you apply once or twice daily, even if you think your skin doesn't feel dry. Skin maintenance is also very important. There are many skin care treatments that require no downtime and they help to open pores, flush out toxins and infuse healthy vitamins into your skin. I recommend receiving a treatment at least 3-4 times per year. Some of the more popular treatments are the Hydrafacial and the Oxygeneo Treatment.

Dr Alfonso is a board-certified plastic surgeon specializing in cosmetic surgery, and has an interest in nutrition, and its role in health, healing and recovery after surgery.

**Stories, Art, and Playful Exploration:
PJ Library Learning Opportunity! - Marisa Krishef, Director of Programming, JFGR**

In November, Jessica Gillespie, our PJ Library Professional, and I attended a PJ Library conference in Northampton, Massachusetts called *Stories, Art, and Playful Exploration: a PJ Library Learning Opportunity*. This conference was as fun as the title sounds! As part of our "homework" for the conference we were asked to bring a gallon sized plastic baggie of materials found from our homes that could be repurposed like bottle caps, string, yarn, ribbons, buttons, bits of toys or plastic. Together with about sixty other participants from around the United States, we used these materials to explore different ways of repurposing them for art projects for PJ Library programs.

One of the highlights of the conference was spending a day at the Eric Carle Museum in Amhurst, MA. You may remember this children's author and illustrator for some of his popular books like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* We also visited the Rich Michelson Museum of Children's Book Illustration in Northampton. Michelson is a Jewish children's book author whose books have been selected for the PJ Library circuit. He was also a very dear friend of the late actor Leonard Nimoy. Michelson met us at the museum and spoke about his journey to becoming a Jewish children's author and even read us one of his own PJ Library books! At the end of the conference, we all committed to hosting a PJ Library event in one of our home town museums with the intent to use repurposed materials in creative ways. Jessica and I hope you and your children or grandchildren will join us at this event next Spring with the date, time, and museum to be determined!



Jessica and Marisa at PJ Library's 2019 Engaging Families Through Stories, Art, and Playful Exploration Conference.



Chanukah Adopt-A-Family Update

We would like to thank the people who generously donated to the Chanukah Adopt-A-Family program this year. You have helped to brighten the lives of individuals and families in our local Jewish community:

Bill Boorstein

Lisa Rashewsky & Dorothy Berg

Jackie Dennen & Mike Meyer

Pam & Jeff Rush

Roberta & Mike Jacobson

Sheryl & Jim Siegel

Judith & Julian Joseph

Jana & Jerry Soverinsky

Dafna & Greg Kaufman

Sharyl & Claude Titche

Marisa and David Krishef

Barb Wepman

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Erica & Matt Wikander

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“Stumbling Upon Strangers” - Rob Franciosi, Professor of English, GVSU

Next summer two GVSU-sponsored stolpersteine will be installed outside 19 Fehrbelliner Strasse in Berlin. These small brass markers, or “stumbling stones,” are set in sidewalks outside the last residences of Nazi victims, commemorating both their lives and fates. Conceived by artist Gunter Demnig, the project has spread to twenty-four countries and includes some 70,000 stolpersteine. During a trip to Germany, partly sponsored by the Joseph Stevens Freedom Endowment, my students were so moved by these markers that we decided to sponsor one for a Jewish victim, a stranger to us, but who had lived near our Rosenthaler Platz hostel. That’s how my journey with Frieda Goldstein and her son Samuel began.



Rob Franciosi

She was born on January 12, 1871, in the Polish town of Oświęcim. After her son’s birth in 1902, Frieda moved to Berlin and worked there as a seamstress for thirty-nine years. Samuel became a dentist and they shared an apartment at 19 Fehrbelliner until the summer of 1939. Then the paths of this Jewish mother and son—and their fates—diverged. He escaped to England just seven weeks before the war began, finding refuge in the Kitchener Camp on the Kentish coast near the town of Sandwich. Unlike the celebrated Kindertransport, which rescued some 10,000 children, Kitchener was a haven for young Jewish men from Germany and Austria, and nearly 4000 survived because of it. As was the case across Germany between 1938 and 1941 (when Jewish emigration was forbidden), Frieda was part of a Jewish population that was disproportionately elderly and female. She remained in Berlin until October 1941, when she was deported back to Poland, not to her hometown, but to the ghetto in Łódź. From there, seven months later, she was transported on May 15, 1942, to the Chelmno death camp, where she was murdered in a gas van.

Using the summer installation as a narrative launch, I plan to write a memoir that will engage the memorial process behind these two commemorative markers as well as chart the different destinies of mother and son. A great deal of research on the Holocaust today is being conducted on the micro-historical level, with studies of small towns, single events, even isolated photographs or documents. By researching the lives of Frieda and Samuel Goldstein, I hope to retrieve their stories from the overwhelming anonymity of Holocaust numbers.

Rob Franciosi is a professor of English and Honors at GVSU where he teaches courses on the Holocaust and on American Literature. Rob welcomes questions or comments about his article. You may contact him at francior@gvsu.edu



“Stumbling Stones”



Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Cultural Council Spectrum Series Presents: A Night of Stand Up Comedy with Benji Lovitt

Enjoy a fun night out with appetizers, desserts and cash bar! Cost: \$25.00 per person, \$5.00 for students, ages 18 and up

RSVP to Marisa by February 17th at Markay@jfgr.org or 616-942-5553, ext. 205

This event is generously underwritten by the Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund and the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation

Benji Lovitt

American / Israeli
Comedian / Educator



Because the Middle East is Funny

Benji Lovitt's hilarious and insightful observations on Israeli society and cultural differences, combined with his lifelong involvement in informal Jewish education, create a hilarious narrative that has brought smiles to faces all over the world.



Benji's background in informal Jewish education, summer camps, and Israel programs enable him to easily connect with a wide variety of audiences.

Benji Lovitt
Saturday, February 22
8:00 pm
Hilton Garden Inn Hotel
2321 E. Beltline SE
Grand Rapids, MI



Jewish Federation
OF GRAND RAPIDS



RCF

Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation



Cultural Council of
The Jewish Federation
of Grand Rapids



January 2020: The Beginning of Tax Season, Steps to Make it Easier

*Claude A. Titche III, CPA Partner Beene Garter LLP,
Treasurer Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Board of Directors.*



1. Take a deep breath and relax, if you start thinking about taxes early you take a lot of pressure off.
2. Not many changes for 2019 except for inflation adjustments in tax rates and the forms will look more like 2017 rather than 2018.
 - a. One of the promises to make the tax return filing process easier and shorter was a postcard size return. The government attempted this but added a number of other schedules which made returns more confusing. The 2019 form will be very familiar to experienced taxpayers.
 - b. There are additional specific lines for taxpayers that are investing in crypto currencies and basis issues for business ownership entities.
3. If you are old school, set up a location to place all your tax related documents such as:
 - a. W-2's
 - b. Interest and dividend income Form 1099's
 - c. Retirement statements Form 1099-R for IRA's or pensions
 - d. Form 1099-SSA from Social Security
 - e. Internal financial statements for Schedule C, Partnerships, Limited Liability Companies, S Corporations and Farms
4. If you are electronically inclined you will need the same information but save into your computer system
5. With the 2017 Tax Act many taxpayers no longer are able to utilize Schedule A Itemized Deductions. Single taxpayers must exceed \$12,200 and married taxpayers must exceed \$24,400 to generate additional tax savings
6. If you are unable to use Schedule A Itemized Deductions you no longer have to retain the following documents:
 - a. Out of pocket medical expenses that exceed 10% of your Adjusted Gross Income
 - b. State and Local Taxes, this is limited to a maximum of \$10,000 per tax return and includes real and personal and property taxes, state and local income taxes
 - c. Home mortgage interest expense limited to new debt up to \$750,000
 - d. Charitable contributions including those to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

Advanced charitable planning include:

1. Gifting of appreciated securities held longer than one, benefit is deducting the fair market value of the stock without ever reporting the gain on the stock
2. For taxpayers over 70 ½ use of Qualified Charitable Distributions which can lower the amount of Required Minimum Distribution income that will be reported as taxable income
 - a. Casualty deductions only if in a Presidential declared disaster area.

Remember, start early, stay organized, file electronically and the IRS promises to process the return sooner and hopefully your small interest free loan to the government is returned quickly.

Claude is a tax partner with Beene Garter LLP the largest locally owned CPA firm in West Michigan. In his free time he enjoys golf, reading and television.



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kw

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Stephanie's clients know that they are her top priority. She has lived in Ada and East Grand Rapids over the past 27 years and is your local expert willing to share her knowledge and expertise about the Greater Grand Rapids area. Her professionalism, attention to detail, and pride in her work ensures each client receives the height of service. Stephanie prides herself on being efficient, knowledgeable, and responsible while going above and beyond any expectations her clients have. She was selected as one of *Grand Rapids Magazine's* **REAL ESTATE ALL STARS** for 2019 which recognizes the top 5% of real estate agents in the greater Grand Rapids area. Stephanie helps both buyers and sellers achieve their real estate goals and specializes in everything from modest living spaces to luxury homes.

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



FINANCIAL FOCUS

Financial Moves for Life's 'Inflection Points' - Chad Zagel, JFGR, Board Member



Chad Zagel

You've probably heard or read about inflection points. The term has a specific definition in mathematics, but it's also used widely to describe historical or technological events, such as the Industrial Revolution or the creation of the internet – events that changed human existence in some important way. However, you have personal inflection points, too – and when they occur, you'll need to make the right financial moves.

Here are four of the most important of these inflection points, along with suggestions on dealing with them:

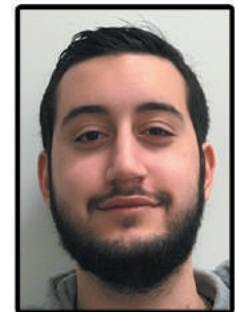
- **Marriage** – When you get married, you and your spouse will need to discuss a variety of financial issues: What assets and liabilities do you each bring to the marriage? Should you combine your finances or continue with separate accounts? Is one of you a “saver” while the other is a “spender”? Do you share similar investment philosophies, or is one of you much more aggressive than the other? You don't necessarily have to agree on everything, but you should at least try to gain enough knowledge so you can avoid unpleasant surprises, such as hidden debts, and find enough common ground so your household can advance toward your common financial goals.
- **New child** – When you welcome a new child into your family, you'll need to make sure you have adequate life insurance. You'll also want to review the beneficiary designations on any existing insurance policies, as well as on your IRA and 401(k). And if you can afford it, you may want to start contributing to a college fund, possibly using a 529 savings plan, which can provide you with tax advantages as you put money away for your child's higher education.
- **Divorce** – It's unfortunate, but true: Divorce is still pretty common, and it's neither pleasant nor cheap. You might not be able to avoid some of the costs, such as lawyers' bills, but if you and your ex-spouse can work together amicably, you both may be able to avoid serious financial disruptions. You'll need to work out how to divide your financial assets, paying attention to beneficiary designations, which you may well need to change. Also, as a newly single individual, you may need to review and revise your long-term investment strategy to accommodate changes in your goals and your retirement income.
- **Retirement** – By the time you retire, you will have hopefully been investing in your IRA and 401(k) or other retirement plan for several decades. But once you do retire, you'll need to determine how much you can afford to withdraw each year from your various retirement accounts. Your withdrawal rate will depend on your age, your asset level and your retirement lifestyle. And you'll also want to consider other issues: Are you prepared to deal with health care costs? Even with Medicare, these costs may be higher than they were when you were working. And how about your estate plans? Are they up to date? Have you protected your family from the possibility of your estate going through the time-consuming, expensive and public process of probate? You may need to work with your financial, tax and legal advisors to develop an effective estate strategy.

By making smart decisions following your own inflection points, you can ease the transitions in your life – wherever life takes you.

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.



 Visit Federation's Updated Website 
www.jewishgrandrapids.org



Arad Okanin

Shalom, my name is Arad Okanin, and I am the new Website Consultant for JFGR.

My family and I moved to the United States from Israel when I was thirteen years old. I graduated from East Grand Rapids High School in May of this year, and I'm currently planning on attending Grand Valley State University in August.

My background is in Information Technology and I earned my CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+ and Microsoft Technical Associate certifications. I am also employed at a company that specializes in computer repairs, diagnostics and security to clients across west Michigan.

During the past month, I have made many layout and content changes to the JFGR website. This includes a complete redesign of the site as a whole, adding new innovative content from the Shofars, updating the online calendar and much more. I hope to continue supporting Federation's growing impact in the greater Grand Rapids community by enabling a more broad online presence.

I welcome you to visit Federation's new and improved website: www.jewishgrandrapids.org



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LUNCH BUNCH FOR RETIREES

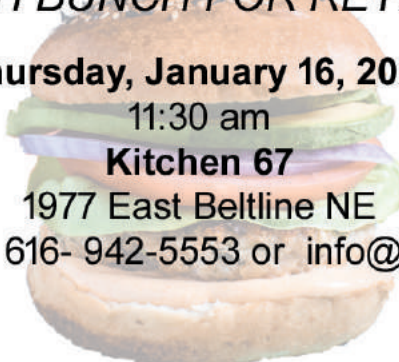
Thursday, January 16, 2020

11:30 am

Kitchen 67

1977 East Beltline NE

RSVP: 616- 942-5553 or info@jfgr.org



LUNCH BUNCH FOR RETIREES

SAVE THE DATE

February 20, 2020

11:30 am

Ju Sushi





TEMPLE EMANUEL - 1715 E. Fulton St. Grand Rapids MI 49503

Challah French Toast & Egg Breakfast & BINGO

We invite our everyone to join us for breakfast and bingo on Sunday morning, January 5 at 10:00 AM in the Lewis Social Hall at Temple. This is the last day of winter vacation for our students. There are no United Jewish School Classes this day.

Challah French toast and eggs are on the menu, along with juice and coffee. After breakfast we will pass out BINGO cards and get down to some serious play. Prizes will be in abundance for all winners.

The cost for breakfast is \$5 per person. We are seeking volunteers to help cook. Please contact the office to RSVP 616-459-5976 or info@grtemple.org.

Introduction to Judaism

This year the our Intro to Judaism class will meet 12 times on Saturday mornings in the Temple Library from 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM throughout the winter and spring. All members are welcome to attend. Please contact the office to RSVP.

January 4-What is Judaism?

January 18-Shabbat

January 25-Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

February 1-Passover and Shavuot

February 15-Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Tu B'Shevat

February 22-Brit Milah to Bar/Bat Mitzvah

March 14-Marriage to End of Life

April 18-Prayer and the Synagogue

April 25-Anti Semitism

June 6-Zionism and Israel

June 13-Perspectives on God

June 20-Ethics and Values

Soup Shabbat-Luck Supper

Join us for a warm and nourishing Shabbat-Luck Supper following services on Friday, January 17th. Bring your vegetarian or dairy soup to share, or simply sit and slurp along with us. There is no charge for Soup Chefs, \$3 per person for those who prefer to leave the cooking to others. Challah, beverages and dessert will be provided. We will be sure to have plenty of room for slow cookers to be plugged in during service! To RSVP to the Temple Office to let us know you will be joining us call 616-459-5976 or info@grtemple.org

Your Opinion Matters & Brunch

Sunday, January 19th at 10:00 AM

Lewis Social Hall, Temple Emanuel

Topic: How does the Jewish end of life discussion go? Are we talking with family, our doctors and/or God? Does someone get left out of that conversation?

RSVP to Jim Siegel: JimS@SiegelJewelers.com

Pub Crawl 2020

The Temple Pub Crawl is back by popular demand! Every month we try to meet up at a local brewpub or restaurant to get to know each other better. Everyone picks up their own tab, and we try to select places that can accommodate large groups, good conversations and people on strict or limited diets while being modestly priced.

Join us on Sunday January 26th at 5 PM at Rockford Brewing Company. Their tap list includes everything from lagers to stouts to hard seltzers, and with an expanded pub menu, there is something for everyone. Come out and enjoy an evening "on the town."

RSVP to Cat@grtemple.org so she can call ahead and reserve a big enough table.

Cathrin Finney - Program Manager - Temple Emanuel - 616 459-5976 - www.grtemple.org



Chabad House of West Michigan - 2615 Michigan Street NE Grand Rapids MI 49506

“From Auschwitz to the IDF”

A story of Jewish pride, strength, and perseverance with Guest Speaker ~ Leibel Mangel

Sunday, January 12th • 7:30pm

Hear the story of his grandfather being one of the youngest survivors of Auschwitz and how he inspired Leibel to enlist in the IDF. Leibel's experiences while serving during Operation Protective Edge and Brother's Keeper influenced him to continue fighting for our people. He will share the message of the importance of strong Israel/Jewish pride with details of what that means. A story and message that is more relevant now than ever.

Hear his story. Feel his passion. Learn his mission.

Admission: \$18 | Students: \$5 | Sponsor: \$180

For reservations & information visit us at ChabadWM.com/Mangel or call: 616.206.9654

CTeen Grand Rapids Upcoming Events:

CTeen is the place for ALL Jewish high school teens! Part of the Fastest Growing Teen Network in the World!

Sunday, January 12th • 1:00-3:00PM -

CTeen Day- Family Feud CTeen edition & Sushi Making

Sunday, January 12th • 7:30PM -

“From Auschwitz to the IDF” with Guest Speaker ~ Leibel Mangel

Saturday, February 8th • 7:30PM -

CTeen Havdallah, Pizza, and movie night!

Sunday, February 9th • 11:30AM -

Pre-Shabbaton Meeting ~ A session for teens & their parents.

FEBRUARY 27TH – MARCH 1ST ~ CTeen International NYC Shabbaton

Sign up Today!! The International CTeen Shabbaton is an annual weekend retreat for Jewish teens from around the world. For the past eleven 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

CTeen Junior Upcoming Events: (Grades 6th-8th)

Enrich your Jewish Pride & Explore Essential Milestones within the Jewish twist while giving back to the Community.

Sunday, January 12th • 4:00-6:00PM

Sunday, February 9th • 4:00-6:00PM

JTEXT

Jewish Trivia Game For Jewish Teens Grades 6 - 12!

Every Monday and Thursday at 7:00pm.

Be the 7th to answer correctly and win a \$20 Amazon Gift Card straight to your phone!

Are you a Jewish teen in West Michigan and would like to join?

Text "CTEENGR" to 616-207-1218 to be let in on the fun!

For more information about CTeen, CTeen Junior, or JText please contact Rivka @616.206.9654



(Chabad cont'd)

CKids Club/Mini Chefs Upcoming Events: (For Jewish boys & girls, Ages 5-11)

Mini Chefs - Around the World! is a unique culinary experience that gives your children the opportunity to cook, bake and decorate cuisines from around the globe. Experience the joy of Kosher Cooking!

Tuesday, January 21st

“Israel” Falafel & Burekas

Location: The Chabad House | Time: 4:30-6:00PM | \$5 Donation per session (includes light dinner)

For more info, please contact Rivka @616.206.9654

JLI - " Judaism's Gifts To The World"

By most indications, modern society is a model of moral progress. Yet when it comes to everyday values, we still grapple with the big ones... What are our responsibilities toward the less fortunate? How do we fashion a more moral and equal society? How can we make a move toward more cohesive family living?

Join us to unpack six of the world's most cherished values and how they were delivered to humankind by the Torah. By tracing their fascinating journey to the mainstream, we'll discover a timeless core of purpose, integrity, and clarity in each value—a powerful gift of guidance as we navigate our own daily choices.

To register today, visit myJLI.com

Six Wednesday Evenings: 7:30-9:00PM

Beginning on Wednesday, January 29th, 2020

At the Chabad House | Fee: \$99 (textbook included) | \$180 Sponsor

For more Info or to register, please contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.2770 or

Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com

Jewish Woman's Circle

Thursday, February 6th • 7:30pm

Braids of Blessing

Join us for a casual and fun challah get together. Get some tips and tricks about challah making and discover some new insights into this treasured traditional food.

Hostess: Liat Okanin

RSVP: Nechamy8@gmail.com

Ahavas Israel Book Group - Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.

“Waking Lions,” by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen.

Eitan Green is a respected neurosurgeon who has been forced by a professional dispute to relocate from Tel Aviv to Beersheba, a desert town where dust is everywhere, “a thin white layer, like the icing on a birthday cake no one wants.” Speeding through a remote area in his S.U.V. late one night, he hits an Eritrean man walking by the roadside. And when he decides that the victim is beyond help, he impulsively flees the scene.

“Waking Lions” offers a commentary on privilege and otherness, challenging readers to confront their own blind spots and preconceptions. The themes of visibility and invisibility, of the power dynamics between the observed and the observer, run throughout the narrative.



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.

JFGR Endowment Fund Donations Form

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Donations 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 donations and this form to 2727 |
| Send card to City / St / Zip _____ | Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 |

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★ SAVE THE DATE ★

APRIL 19th, 2020

Celebrate the wonders of growing up green with Parent's Choice Award Winner, ShirLaLa, and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. Join Shira Kline as she brings fun, energetic music to teach a new generation how important it is to take care of the world we live in. Shira Kline is an award winning musician on the PJ Library circuit.

Earth Day Celebration
4:00 p.m.
Temple Emanuel
1715 Fulton St. E
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



For more information contact Marisa Krishef, Director of Programming, Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, at Markay@jfgr.org or 616.942.5553