



Jewish Federation®
OF GRAND RAPIDS

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

"They tried to kill us, we won, let's eat."

Have you ever wondered why this 'answer' has not been used on Jeopardy? Together with the correct 'question' – "How can you describe the Jewish people in ten words or less?" – would make for a great \$2,000 answer, don't you think? Of course, this probably makes sense only to Jews, so then again...

We are in that time of year of Jewish holidays when this old joke rings true with the stories we tell. From the Maccabees and Hanukkah to Moses and Passover, we are all familiar with the mighty struggles of our ancestors to survive and continue the saga of the Jewish people.

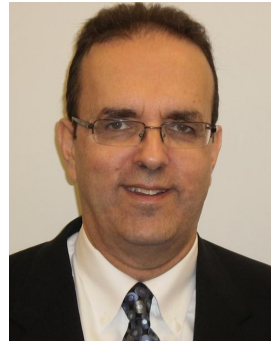
In between Hanukkah and Passover, we now prepare to celebrate Purim with its story unique, yet oh so fitting for the old joke, as well as providing some wisdom for today.

One of my clearest recollections as a child was being in a Purim play. Why so vivid? Well, I was not happy about it. You see, I was assigned the role of Haman, while my older sister Mindy was Queen Esther. Very unfair, I thought, and I was quite angry. Told my anger came through during the performance, I was apparently a convincing 'bad guy', though never to try acting again.

As the memories fade (though not those angry feelings), I've come to appreciate the story of Purim as a story of ingenuity of the Jewish people when facing great danger, in this case ancient Persia which, of course, is present day Iran. Mordecai's ability to turn the tables on the 'bad guy' – Haman – is well known. The timeless lesson to be learned in my view is to not underestimate the ability of our people, the Jewish people, to be creative when our well being is threatened.

Today's Iran is only one example of the threats we face. From the conflict with the Palestinians to the broader threat of ISIS and other radical Islamists in the Middle East, Europe and beyond, the ongoing challenge to Jews around the world remains. We are fortunate in the United States to be currently in the safest place for Jews, and perhaps in history. But the news from elsewhere is sobering.

Continues on page 2



ADAR/NISSAN 5775 - MARCH 2015 - WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

The Shofar

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
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www.jfgr.org

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Your donation to JFGR is tax deductible. 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 Any new gift or increase is matched dollar for dollar by a challenge grant

*Total does not include matching grants.

Matching Grants Campaign 2014

The **Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation** has made a dollar-for-dollar matching grant commitment for all new gifts and increases in contributions. In addition, the **Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation** has made a similar matching grant commitment for new gifts and increases in contributions from donors age 45 and under.

Continued from page 1

How naïve it now seems when there was the talk of a post anti-Semitic world following the Holocaust. Lessons were to be learned about the dangers of religious and ethnic hatred that would eradicate anti-Semitism from our midst. Great museums were built to perpetuate those lessons for centuries to come. And yet, here we are, only three-quarters of a century later.

While there is much to be concerned about, we should also – and always – remain hopeful. Yes, I am troubled by what happened in Paris and, most recently, Copenhagen. It is tempting to become a pessimist about what we face. However, as the story of Purim teaches, we have the ability, and the capacity, to figure out how to counter such challenges, to not only survive but thrive. I remain confident that we the Jewish people, both in Israel and around the world, will figure out how to overcome today as we have in the past. Why? Because as Mordecai and Esther showed us, that is who we are.

Come celebrate Purim with our community on March 1st at Temple Emanuel following Sunday school. The Purim Carnival truly is a fun time for all. You can even come in costume. My only words of advice – don't come as Haman...

Best regards,

Mike

mike@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 Administrator: 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 consider a 10% increase

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

Card Number
Exp. Date: _____

Come on Down! JFGR invites you!

Be a Part of the Most Exciting Family Game Time of Your Lives!



Sunday, March 15 – 12:30 p.m. - Temple Emanuel

Join us for an afternoon of fun and games as families compete to see who wins the West Michigan Jewish Community's

"Family Game Show Marathon"

Game show Host: Avi Forstein

Everyone in the family is welcome to participate as we come together to have some fun!

PIZZA AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

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

NOTE: Games are designed to be enjoyable for those ages 8+.



Seniors

LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, March 19....11:30 a.m.

Cost \$8

Anna's House

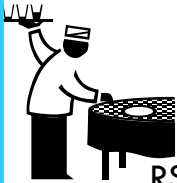
2409 E Beltline Ave SE,

RSVP by Tuesday, March 17

to Ann at 616-942-5553

Transportation is also available by calling Ann

*If a cancellation due to weather is necessary, you will be notified by phone by 10 a.m.



Road Trip

Passover Shopping

Back by popular demand - A day trip to The Detroit Area

Monday, March 30

All Day

Leave Ahavas Israel Parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

Lunch at Pickles and Rye

(formerly Unique Deli)

6724 Orchard Lake Road

West Bloomfield, MI

11:30 a.m. (ish)

Then off to

Hillers Grocery Store

6433 Orchard Lake Road

To make some Passover purchases!

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch and transportation)

MUST RSVP BY WEDNESDAY MARCH 25TH

Seats are limited

Please call Ann at 616-942-5553

(We are sorry to be unable to take orders)

SAVE THESE DATES:

LUNCH BUNCH

April 23 - 11:30 a.m.

May 21 - at 11:30 a.m.

Taking suggestions for places to eat: 616-942-5553

Jewish Theatre of Grand Rapids

Sunday April 26 - 2:30 p.m.

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

Invites the entire community



PURIM CARNIVAL

The program is sponsored by Ahavas Israel, Chabad House, JFGR, Temple Emanuel and United Jewish School

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

12:30 P.M. ~ 2:00 P.M.

Temple Emanuel

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Remember to wear a costume...

- *Lunch * Hamantashen * Games * Moon Walk *
- *Cotton Candy * Arts & Crafts * Face Painting *
- *Costume Contest and Lots of Surprises *



Celebrating Purim with Kids



* Lunch \$ 4.00

Children up to 18 years old FREE

RSVP for lunch by February 26

sari@jfgr.org or 616-942-5553

Cultural Council invites you to

MUSIC TALKS

Cellist Elad Kabilio

Accompanied by Pianist Ben Laude



Saturday,
February 28, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Temple Emanuel
1715 East Fulton

Tickets to event are \$15 for adults,
\$5 for college students

And children up to 18 are free.

Tickets available at the door or by
contacting Sari at sari@jfgt.org or
616-942-5553

Music Talks aims to bring classical music to an informal setting and break down the barriers between musicians and their audience by taking advantage of the ambiance that chamber music provides. With engaging and interactive conversation, the listener is given an experience that truly makes music talk. Israeli cellist Elad Kabilio is an active soloist, chamber musician and a teaching artist. He has recently performed at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Morgan Library, and the Joyce Theater in New York City. In 2011, Mr. Kabilio was appointed Music Director of Ballet Next, New York's new top Ballet Company, to critical acclaim. Join Cellist Elad Kabilio and Pianist Ben Laude as they explore the fantastic colors and textures of the great French Impressionist composers Debussy and Ravel. This intimate concert talk program will put a spotlight on the depiction of water in Impressionist works, as well as its sheer beauty.

Dessert reception to follow



The 2015 Jewish Film Festival is once again bringing special movies to the Grand Rapids community. The committee has been previewing movies and planning special programs. As in previous years, the Film Festival will be held at Celebration! North Cinemas. Watch for more details about the festival events in our community mailings.

The Film Festival is offering special rates through a **flex pass** (eight admissions): the flex pass is **\$36.00**. Flex pass ticket holders will have seats reserved until **THIRTY MINUTES** prior to the movie beginning.

At that time, tickets will be sold for all seats.

PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY. That means even if you are holding a flex pass ticket, seats are not guaranteed later than thirty minutes prior to movie time.

Flex pass tickets are only available until May 2nd.

The Film Festival also offers members of the community an opportunity to become an individual sponsor of the Jewish Film Festival. Please read about the benefits of becoming a financial supporter below.

Individual Sponsors Get Great Benefits!

Director: (\$500.00) receive two flex passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications, and four admissions to all private receptions, dinners and events.

Producers: (\$250) receive two flex passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications and two admissions to all private receptions, dinners, and events.

Actor: (\$100.00) receive one season punch card (8 admissions) and recognition in the program booklet.

Film Fan: If you would like to financially support the Jewish Film Festival and do not see an amount that interests you, please feel free to send a contribution in any amount to the Federation office. You will be listed in the program booklet.

I would like to be a Film Festival Sponsor

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

___ Film Festival Director (\$500) ___ Film Festival Producer (\$250) ___ Film Festival Actor (\$100.00)
 ___ Film Festival Fan ___ Flex Pass (\$36)

Method of Payment

Visa

American Express

Check

MasterCard

Discover

_____ Credit Card #

_____ Exp. date

_____ Signature

Pay by check or credit card.
 Mail this form and your payment to:
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
 2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506



“Hannah Cohen’s Holy Communion”

(13 min – documentary – UK) English

“Havana Curveball”

(60 min – documentary - USA) English/Spanish

“Apples in the Dessert”

(96 min – drama - Israel) Hebrew

“I Shall Not Be Silent”

(57 min – documentary – USA) English

“24 Days”

(108 min – drama - USA) English

“Mr. Kaplan”

(98 min –comedy – Uruguay) Spanish

“Above and Beyond”

(87 min – USA - documentary with speaker) English

“Watch for more information in the next **Shofar** and on Jewish Film Festival’s **Facebook** page.”

Community

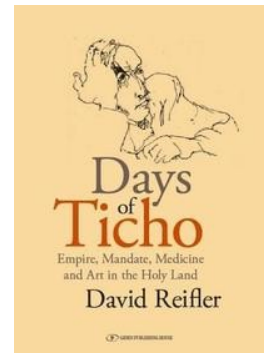
You are invited to attend the U.S. launch of Dr. David Reifler's book:
Days of Ticho: Empire, Mandate, Medicine, and Art in the Holy Land
Sunday, March 22, 10:00 a.m. - Temple Emanuel.

Free event!

Light brunch and book signing are included

Dr. Avraham Albert Ticho was a Viennese-trained ophthalmologist who immigrated to Ottoman-ruled Jerusalem in 1912. There he married his cousin, the artist Anna Ticho, and together they made their mark on the history of the Land of Israel. Among the stories in this book are Dr. Ticho's supervision of the first nurses in Palestine and the early years of Hadassah Hospital, as well as the near fatal stabbing of Dr. Ticho by an Arab would-be assassin in November 1929, during the murderous riots that took place throughout Palestine. Those riots were an important turning point in Jewish-Arab relations; the harbinger of problems that remain the focus of world attention until today.

David M. Reifler, M.D., a member of our community, is an award-winning ophthalmologist who specializes in oculoplastic and reconstructive surgery. Dr. Reifler is currently on-call professor at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. He is the editor and author of *ASOPRS: The First Twenty-Five Years* (1994), describing the subspecialty and the organization for which he served as president in 2004, and has written dozens of medical articles and book chapters.



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 everyone 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) info@jfgr.org



Save the Date!

**COMMUNITY WIDE WOMEN'S
MEGA CHALLAH BAKE!**

An evening of unity, inspiration and fun.
Thursday, May 28 – Temple Emanuel

A joint project of the Jewish Federation, Temple Emanuel, Ahavas Israel and Chabad House.

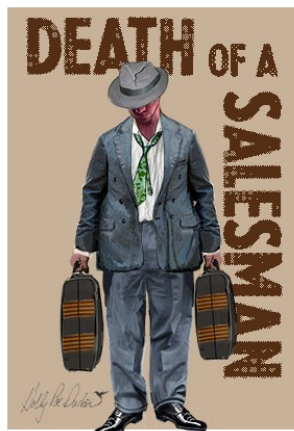
**JEWISH THEATRE
GRAND RAPIDS
"DEATH OF A SALESMAN"**

by Arthur Miller
April 16-26, 2015
on the Main Stage
Thurs. & Sat. at 8 p.m.
Sundays at 3 p.m.
**Season ticket holders,
students, and other discounts
should call the Box Office
directly to make
reservations.**

Tickets on sale beginning
March 30 for subscribers,
April 6 for all others.

**Spectrum Theatre Box Office:
616-234-3946**

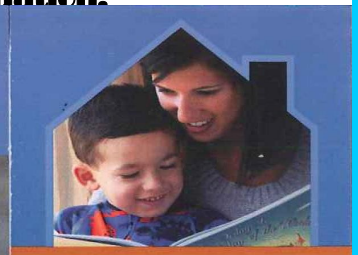
Box Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 1 - 5 p.m.



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



CONGRATULATIONS

David Samrick

on becoming a member of the
**American Israel Public Affairs
Committee (AIPAC)
National Board of Directors**



**Hadassah Book Club
Wednesday, March 11th
Book to read... "A Guide for the
Perplexed" by Dara Horn**

Host: Flory Silverstein
2930 Bonnell SE
East Grand Rapids
RSVP: 616-949-5766

RSVP's are a MUST! Thank you for your courtesy!

Books available at **SCHULERS BOOKS,**
28th Street

As always, your faithful bookends,
Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766



Jewish Women's Professional Network

**March 4,
12:00 -1:00 p.m.
Olive's ...2162 Wealthy St. EGR**



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.

Jewish Community Business Forum

**March 19
12:00 -1:00 p.m.
El Barrio
545 Michigan NE**



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

United Jewish School



Beit Sefer B'yahad/United Jewish School

1715 East Fulton Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Pam Rush School Director 616-459-5976 ext.12 pam@templemanuelgr.org www.unitedjewishschool.org

Middah for February

EREKH APAYIM - אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם

Slow to anger

"One who is slow to anger gains great understanding, and one of quick temper acts foolishly." (Proverbs 14:17)



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.

Please take the time to remember the school in 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'.

UJS welcomes new teachers:
*Jan Fonger 10th grade
Sheila Bates 7th grade*

School Calendar

- 3-1-15 Marc Rossio and Purim Carnival after school
- 3-8-15 UJS Deli luncheon fundraiser



**UJS
Fundraiser**

*Zingerman's comes to UJS March 8
Grab a quick bite after Sunday school
Grab a brown bag for take out!!
Order details coming soon.*

great taste you can trust!

*Chabad House***Chabad Kids Club - Jewish Heroes - March**

3rd Come have a blast at the coolest Kid's Club around as we learn all about the Jewish Heroes from our history and discover our own extraordinary super powers!

Believe in the miracles like Mordechai and the Jewish people. Watch a breathtaking magic show. Partake in an array of exciting Purim activities and create a unique Mishloach Manot package for someone who can use more JOY.

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

Purim in Paris

Chabad House of Western Michigan Invites the entire Jewish community to join us in Celebrating Purim in Paris In solidarity with our brothers & sisters in France Purim Day Thursday March 5th 2015 Five Thirty O'clock

at the Chabad House 2615 Michigan St
Hors d'oeuvres: 5:30pm Megillah Reading: 5:45 pm
Dinner: 6:15 pm Great Entertainment Live Music by "Chutzpah" Our local Klezmer Band Come dressed in your finest. Donation \$ 25.00 per person
For more info or to R.S.V.P. call 616-957-0770

Cteen Junior

Come join us March 10th for a Pre Pasach event!
Location: Chabad of W Michigan: 2615 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI Boys & Girls Grades 6th-8th
Time: 5pm-7pm \$10 (includes light dinner).
To R.S.V.P. or for more info call
Chana: 616-570-1742

Cteen

Come join us March 22nd for Pre-Pasach Prep.
Grades 9th-12th To R.S.V.P. or for more info call
Chana: 616-570-1742

Matzah Factory

Hey Kids! It's MATZAH Time! Grind your own wheat and bake your own Matzah! At The Model Matzah Factory. Sunday, March 22nd 2015 1:00 p.m. Cost \$4 At the Chabad House, 2615 Michigan N.E. Grand Rapids, MI. 49506 For more information please call 616-957-0770

Chabad Kids Club - March 24th

Moshe Ride like a modern day Moses in a limo and deliver handmade Matzah to local senior residents.
Meeting Location: Chabad of W Michigan: 2615 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI. Boys & Girls Ages 5-12 Time: 4pm-6pm \$10 per child (includes light dinner). To book or for more info call Chana: 616-570-1742

"Matzah - It's a Matter of Taste"

Join us for a Pre-Passover event
Understand the taste of personal redemption as we learn the inner meaning of matzah.
Fashion a beautiful silk matzah cover to use at your Passover Seder!
Thursday March 12 /7:30 pm
Cover Cost :\$10
To RSVP or for more info please contact Nechamy at 616 828 2340 or Nechamy8@gmail.com

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Wednesday, March 4: Celebrate Purim at Ahavas Israel!

7:00 p.m.: Ma'ariv and Megillah reading with Power Point illustrations!

8:00 p.m.: A Party! A Band! Food! Drink! The Religious Life committee celebrates a ROCKIN PURIM with the band, Slyngshot featuring our own Sandy Freed on bass. Munch bar food and ... well, let us surprise you. Rock star impersonators welcome!

Thursday, March 5: 7:00 a.m., Synagogue Purim Minyan

Temple Emanuel

"Crescent Over The Thames: Roots of Islamic Extremism in Europe"

Join us for Brunch and an enlightening lecture
Special Guest Lecturer: Jonathan Bronitsky
Temple Emanuel Social Hall
Date: Sunday, March 8th, 2015
Time: 10:00-12:30PM (During UJS)
Lecturer Sponsored by: Temple Emanuel
Brunch Sponsored by: The Witkin-Mixon Family (members of Ahavas Israel).
For more additional information call
Dana at 616-808-7064 or dana.mixon@gmail.com

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 (\$10 minimum contribution). 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.

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

Woman of Valor Endowment Fund

In honor of Cathy Winick & Martin Hillard's wedding anniversary

From Diane Ginsburg

JFGR General Endowment Fund

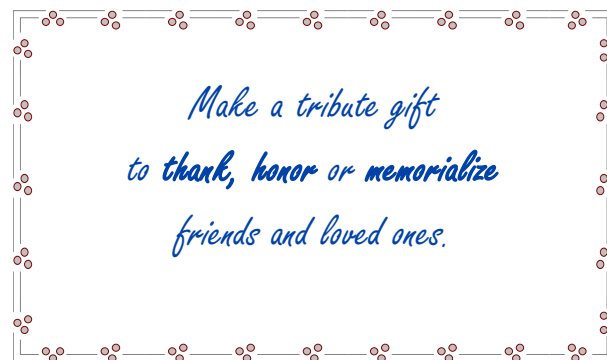
In memory of Joan Winniman

From Roger & Marcia Beutner

David & Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund

In honor of David Samrick's election to the AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) National Board of Trustees

From Mary & Steve Schwartz



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:

March 16, 2015



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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

Happy Purim from JFGR!

Please join us at the community wide



PURIM CARNIVAL



See page 4 for more information