



ADAR I / ADAR II 5776 — MARCH 2016 — WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

The Shofar

Chairman's Letter

I recently completed reading a magazine entitled *Eretz Acheret*, or “A Different Place.” This was a collection of articles dealing with the concept of Jewish unity and the complex relationship between Diaspora Jews and Israel. The basic premise was the challenge we face in maintaining the traditionally strong relationship between American Jews and the state of Israel as the world continues to evolve. Thankfully, both the American Jewish community and the state of Israel have achieved incredible prosperity and advances in virtually all aspects of life, from economic growth to upward social mobility. This ultimately begs the question that, without an existential threat to the State of Israel, is it more challenging to have the American Jewish community united in support of Israel? What used to be a very solidly unifying issue among the Jewish community has, unfortunately, become more divisive now than in few other times in modern history.



The likely causes of the wavering support involve a series of complex social, economic, and political issues among both American Jews and Israeli Jews. Too often American Jews are confronted with a sometimes uncomfortable dilemma of feeling emotionally obligated to support Israel in times of peril and upheaval which may or may not run counter to our moral and/or political beliefs. As we have long known, the disproportionate amount of media attention placed on Israel, despite its geographic size and global influence, makes even the most banal of events seem to be of global significance. When was the last time the construction of an apartment complex in any other city other than Jerusalem was reported on national news? One of the challenges we face is finding the balance of accommodating diverse political beliefs while sending a message that support of Israel is as strong as ever in its diaspora communities.

(Continues on page 3)

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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info@jfgr.org
www.jfgr.org

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\$500,000
\$425,000 GOAL
\$364,726 Total



345 Donors

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 also 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 2015

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.

Have you ever thought about contributing to, or setting up, a **L'dor Vador Endowment Fund** to help ensure the future of our Jewish community?

Please contact Mike Present in the Federation office at 616-942-5553 or mike@jfgr.org to learn more.



STAFF: |Executive Director: Mike Present, 616.942.5553 ext. 207, mike@jfgr.org |Director of Social Service Resources: Ann Berman, ext. 206, ann@jfgr.org |Programming Director: Leigh Rapaport, ext. 205, leigh@jfgr.org |Financial Administrator: Jennifer Stanton, ext. 203, jennifer@jfgr.org |Donor Relations Director: 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

Card Number _____
Exp. Date: _____

(Continued from page 1)

As the holiday of Purim draws closer, I hope we are reminded of the need to always be vigilant in the defense of our religion and our ancestral homeland. Let us not forget that Israel, like America, is a democracy with the same pleasures, liberties, and social problems that accompany free societies. We should not allow the media to be unjustly critical of events that occur in Israel and yet ignore similar, if not worse events occurring throughout the world. This is considered an unfair double standard that Israel has had to endure for some time and we should be unified in opposing such unjust reporting. I hope that in the spirit of the Purim holiday we can stand as a unified voice as American Jews when challenges face our communities, domestically as well as in Israel and throughout the world.

Sincerely
Dr. David R. Alfonso

SAVE THE DATE, SENIORS!!!

Jewish Theatre of Grand Rapids
Matinee

For This Moment Alone

Set in Toronto in 1948, a Jewish family, struggling to recover from the horrors of the war in Europe, finally has cause to rejoice. Ruth is about to be reunited with the only surviving member of her immediate family - her brother Freddie. But when she goes to the station to meet him, she is faced with the most devastating shock, the brother she was expecting turns out to be an imposter. Now what to do?

Sunday, April 10, 2016

2:15pm carpool

3:00 performance

RSVP by Monday April 4th.

Call Ann: 616-942-5553 for a discounted ticket or a ride.

Cost: \$15

LUNCH BUNCH



Let's check out a new restaurant.



A TASTE OF ITALIAN

2078 E. Beltline

Thursday, March 17, 2016

11:30am

Cost: \$8

RSVP by Tuesday, March 15
to Ann at 616-942-5553

Transportation is available by calling Ann.
*If a cancellation is necessary, you will be notified by phone by 10am.



Let's spend the afternoon with the

BUTTERFLIES!

Monday, March 21, 2016

Time: 2:00 to 4:00pm

Cost: \$10

Spring is almost here and that means the
Butterflies are back at Meijer Gardens.

So grab your friend, sign up, come early and grab
a cup of coffee at Taste of Gardens Café.

Who couldn't use a couple hours of 85 degrees?
We can sit and enjoy the warmth
and maybe a butterfly will land on
one of us.

Call Ann at 616-942-5553 to
RSVP by Thursday March 17th



SAVE THESE DATES

For Future Lunch Bunches...

- **April 14, 2016 - tbd**
- **May 19, 2016 - tbd**
- **June 16, 2016 - tbd**





Coming to West Michigan!!!

2016 JWI and JFGR Community Roster!

The Roster is a directory of the Jewish community in West Michigan, mainly Grand Rapids, but also including the surrounding communities such as Holland, Grand Haven and other nearby cities. There are about 900 listings. **Is your business or organization interested in placing an advertisement in the roster?** If yes, please contact Eileen at 616-949-6444 or Phyllis at 616-247-7963.

Thank you all for joining us recently at the annual community ice skating event at Patterson Ice Arena!



SHALOM GRAND RAPIDS !!

A program of Jewish Federation

- * Would you like to become an ambassador to welcome new members to the Jewish community or currently not 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 Leigh at the Federation office: 616-942-5553 or Leigh@jfgr.org

Film Festival

Welcome to the 2016 Jewish Film Festival

Welcome to the 18th Annual Jewish Film Festival of Grand Rapids, a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. We are thrilled to continue our festival at Celebration! Cinema North, Jack Loeks Theaters and Celebration! Cinema have continued their generous support of the Jewish Film Festival.

Sunday:

B-Boy (14min. – Documentary – USA)

Blue Tattoo: Dina's Story, Joe's Song (39min. – Documentary - USA)

My So-Called Enemy (1hr. 30min – Documentary – Israel/USA)

Monday:

To Life! (1hr. 30min. – Drama – Germany)

Tuesday:

The Farewell Party (1hr. 35min. – Comedy/Drama – Israel)

Wednesday:

Gett (1hr.55min. – Drama – Hebrew)

Thursday:

Deli Man (1hr. 32min. – Documentary – USA)



⋮



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

ENJOY FILMS? BECOME A JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL SPONSOR

The 2016 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 Festival events in our community mailings.

Film Festival is offering special rates through a **Flex Pass** (eight admissions) for **\$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 Friday April 29th.**

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) Receive two Flex Passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications, and four admissions to all private receptions, dinners and events.



Producer: (\$250) Receive two Flex Passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications, and two admissions to all private receptions, dinner, and events.

Actor: (\$100) 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 a sponsorship 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.

Yes! I would like to be a Film Festival Sponsor

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

_____ Film Festival Director (\$500)

_____ Film Festival Fan

_____ Film Festival Producer (\$250)

_____ Flex Pass (\$36)

_____ Film Festival Actor (\$100)

Mail this form and your check to:
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506



Jewish Cultural Council 2016 Spectrum Series

Professor Steven Gold

Lecture on

Latin American Jewish Immigrants in the U.S.



Date: Sunday, March 6, 2016

Time: 11:30am

Place: Temple Emanuel - 1715 E. Fulton

Cost: \$15 for adults, \$5 College Students,
Children up to age 18 are free

Steven J. Gold, who was educated at University of California, Santa Cruz, University of California, Berkeley, and Brandeis University, is a professor and associate chair in the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University. His interests include international migration, ethnic economies, Jewish studies, qualitative methods and visual sociology. The past chair of the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association, Professor Gold is the author, co-author, or co-editor of seven books.

Light noshes will be served



Become a Cultural Council Member

Spectrum Series 2016 – Membership Form

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Payable to: The Jewish Cultural Council

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids,

2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Please send me season tickets for Spectrum 2016

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to be a Cultural Council volunteer. Please contact me.



2015-16 SEASON
JEWISH
Theatre
GRAND RAPIDS

Presenting quality theatrical productions with Jewish themes that are universal in appeal. You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy Jewish Theatre!

For this Moment Alone
by Marcia Kash

April 7 - 17, 2016
Thursdays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.
Sundays at 3 p.m.

GRC Spectrum Theater
160 Fountain NE

TICKETS: **616-234-3946**
or www.jtgr.org

Season subscribers beginning March 21. All others beginning March 28.

MISSION TO ISRAEL!

Are you thinking of visiting 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
or info@ifgr.org



West Michigan Women Who Have Made A Difference

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan has undertaken a project to document *Michigan Women Who Have Made A Difference*. They asked for our community's help in gathering and chronicling information about local women who made a difference.

The Peg & Mort Finkelstein Archives at Temple Emanuel has been integral in providing much of the information needed for this project. Thankfully, Peg Finkelstein and her daughter, Megan Yost, work tirelessly compiling and maintaining historical records for our community.

Would you like to nominate a local woman, who is living or deceased, who has made an impact in our community, either professionally or through her volunteerism? Please contact Cathy Winick, 616-942-5553, email cathy@ifgr.org; or Toby Dolinka, 616-949-6528, email tobykatlover38@sbcglobal.net.

More information can also be found online at www.michjewishhistory.org/mwwmd/



Rabbi Al Lewis & Pastor Nelesen tour of:

Israel

Scheduled Dates: November 2 - 14, 2016

For more information on this interfaith trip: contact Rabbi Lewis at albertmlewis@att.net or 616-485-5394



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, March 2, 2016

12:00pm

Kitchen 67

1977 East Beltline

(Please note location)

Jewish Community Business Forum

Thursday, March 17, 2016

12:00pm - 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.

Betzalel Art Group

Thursdays 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Ahavas Israel

(in the meeting room)



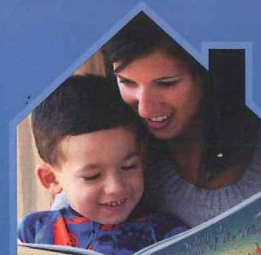
Have some art fun with any painting or craft you enjoy doing.

It's open to everyone. Please bring your own art or craft supplies as they are not provided. Please come and enjoy.

For further information contact Pat Weller 616-453-2954 or patandfred@tds.net.

PJ Library is here! Thank you! to the Ravitz Foundation and Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundations.

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



Hadassah Book Club

When: Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Where: Diane Broomberg's Home

2865 Lake Drive SE

Phone: 949-6084 to RSVP

Time: 7:00pm

**Book to read...."INVENTIONS of WINGS"
by Sue Monk Kidd.**

Call Schuler Books on 28th Street, or your library for a copy.

We are as always your loyal bookends,

Sue Remes 616-949-3505

Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766



*Ahavas Israel***Junior Congregation****Saturday, March 19, 10:30am**

Come in costume to celebrate a Junior Congregation Purim. Be sure to come back on Wednesday night, March 23 for the real Purim.

Celebrate Purim**Wednesday night, March 23****7:00pm** - Megillah Reading**8:00pm** - The Religious Life

Committee celebrates Purim with a FAUX TREYF BUFFET featuring Faux Cheeseburgers and BLT sandwiches. Show your colors! Come vote for your favorite Shushan candidate! Enjoy fresh shul baked Hamantaschen and other goodies that we will surprise you with! OUR ANNUAL PURIMSPEIL this year is written by Diane Baum, and will be followed with more food and libations. Support your Shushan candidate by dressing up like one! Calling all Achashveroshs, Esthers, Hamans, Mordechais and Vashtis!

Thursday, March 24

7:00am - morning Purim Minyan

*Temple Emanuel***Sunday March 6, 11:00am**

In the Sanctuary the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids presents Professor Steven Gold who will lecture on *Latin American Jewish Immigrants in the United States*. Noshes will be served!

Sunday, March 13, 10:00am

Brunch & Canvas! Join Jack Moga for a lesson in painting in a very social setting. Enjoy noshes and mimosa or other brunch cocktail (or just a plain old cuppa joe) while Jack teaches us to paint. Reservations are necessary for this event! \$5 per person is suggested donation.

*Temple Emanuel***Sunday, March 20, 10:00am**

Your Opinion Counts & Brunch. Join moderator and Chef Jim Siegel for brunch and discussion of interesting and even polarizing topics.

Family Purim Beach Karaoke

Costume Party! This party has it all! Wednesday, March 23rd from 6-8:30. Join us for some Purim fun at our Karaoke Beach Party! Sip some tropical mocktails and cocktails and enjoy a dinner of classic picnic food. After dinner we will break out the groggers and read the Megillah. Dinner is \$3 per person OR \$10 per family of 4 or more. RSVP to Temple Office - 616-459-5976 by 5pm on Friday March 18th

CTeen Junior*Chabad House of WM***Thursday, March 17**

Destination: Shushan, capital of Persia. Bake delicious Hamantaschen and other Purim goodies and deliver them to Jewish Grand Rapids residents. 4:00-6:00pm (Grades 6-8th)

CTeen's Purim Bash!**Sunday, March 20**

4:00-6:00pm (High School Students)

Kids Club - "A Pre-Purim Peak"**Tuesday, March 22**

Go wild with imagination as you decorate Purim noisemakers and masks! Shape your own Hamantaschen and feast on triangular Treats in the Hamantasch spirit! 4:00-6:00pm (Ages 5-11) For more information or to RSVP for Kids Club, Cteen or Cteen Jr. contact Rivka at RivkahWeingarten@gmail.com or 616-206-9654.

*Chabad House of WM***33rd Annual Purim Celebration Dinner****Thursday March 24, 2016.**

Purim Day, the Chabad House of Western Michigan invites the entire Jewish community to the A Hakhel (Year of Jewish Unity) Event. The event will be held at the Chabad House - 2615 Michgian St NE.

Lchaim-Live Music Entertainment.

Come join us for a festive, fun and joyous evening. **Hor d'oeuvres:**

5:45pm, Megillah Reading**6:00pm, Dinner 6:30pm**

Donation \$25 per person. For more information or to RSVP call 616-957-0770.

Gan Israel Day Camp

A Jewish summer experience of a lifetime! Dates: June 27-July 15.

Main Division: Boys & Girls

Ages 5-12, 9:00am - 3:30pm.

Tuition fees cover all activities, snacks and trips. 3 week session: \$500. Per week: \$180.

For registration or for more information please contact Sarah at 616-375-9404 or Shsarahw@gmail.com.

JLI - Jewish Learning Institute

"The Jewish Course of Why" A remarkable course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute.

Wednesday Evenings - March 2, 9 and 16 from 7:30pm-9:00pm.

Location: Chabad House. For more information please call 269-903-7916 or email:

RabbiHaller@chabadwm.com

"Behind Enemies Lines" - An evening with Martha Cohn

Wednesday March 30. To purchase tickets visit www.ChabadWM.com. For more information or to RSVP contact Nechamy:616-828-2340 or Tickets@chabadwm.com. Also see the ad on page 11!

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

Woman of Valor Endowment Fund
In honor of Cathy Winick & Martin Hillard's wedding anniversary.
From Diane Ginsburg

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: _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Send your donation and this form to:
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 15, 2016



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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



Happy Purim!