



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

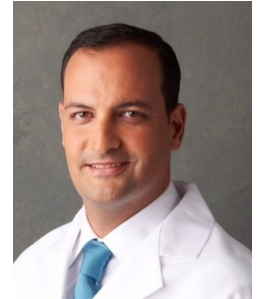
THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

The Shofar

TISHREI / CHESHVAN 5776 — OCTOBER 2015 — WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

Chairman's letter

Warm regards from the Jewish Federation to all of our community members. I am honored to be able to write to you as the new Chairman of the Board of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. As we enter into the High Holiday season and a New Year, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the past year as individuals and plan for the upcoming New Year in our Jewish lives. As an organization, the Federation also engages in analysis and reflection on how to continue to enhance the lives of our Jewish community members here in West Michigan and everywhere our dollars and services travel. I always tell people I meet from other larger Jewish communities that what our community lacks in size is overcome by the strength and energy of our members and the degree of involvement. One of the great aspects of being a part of a smaller community is the cohesion and rapport that is shared among the institutions and people of a smaller community. When I gaze at the multitude of young faces at the yearly opening of the United Jewish School, I am optimistic for the future of our community, and proud that we could accomplish the arduous task of creating a unified center for Jewish education for our children and grandchildren.



We are all stakeholders in this community, and I would encourage anyone who hasn't attended a Federation event in the past to resolve this New Year to attend a function. With the diversity of programming, it shouldn't be hard to find a topic of interest to virtually any member of our community. I would also encourage our members who have not donated in the past to consider a Jewish New Year resolution to become a first time donor, or perhaps encourage another friend or family member to give as well. The great thing about a smaller community is that every dollar counts and helps us to provide valuable social services, stimulating programming, and general assistance to Jewish causes locally and globally.

Speaking of campaign, as many of you are aware, we have a wonderful event this month featuring one of the attorneys involved in the famous "Woman in Gold" trial, in which an elderly Vienna-born, American Holocaust survivor attempts to regain a valuable family possession confiscated by the Germans. Having a grandmother who hastily fled Vienna in the same time period, this powerful drama was especially meaningful, and serves as a reminder that we should always persist in the pursuit of justice. I hope you will be able to attend and hear a behind the scenes account of this incredible story.

In closing, I would like to wish our entire community L'Shanah Tovah, a year filled with health, happiness, and prosperity.

Sincerely,

David R. Alfonso

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
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Chabad House
Of Western Michigan
Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT JFGR!

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? Gas reimbursement cards are available.



We also need help with a special publication project. Call Ann for more information about volunteering for the Jewish Community Roster. This would be a great opportunity for someone wanting to sharpen their marketing or publications skills.

For more information or to volunteer your time, please call Ann at 616-942-5553 ext. 206.



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 Admin: Jennifer Stanton, ext. 203, jennifer@jfgr.org | Campaign & 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: \$ _____

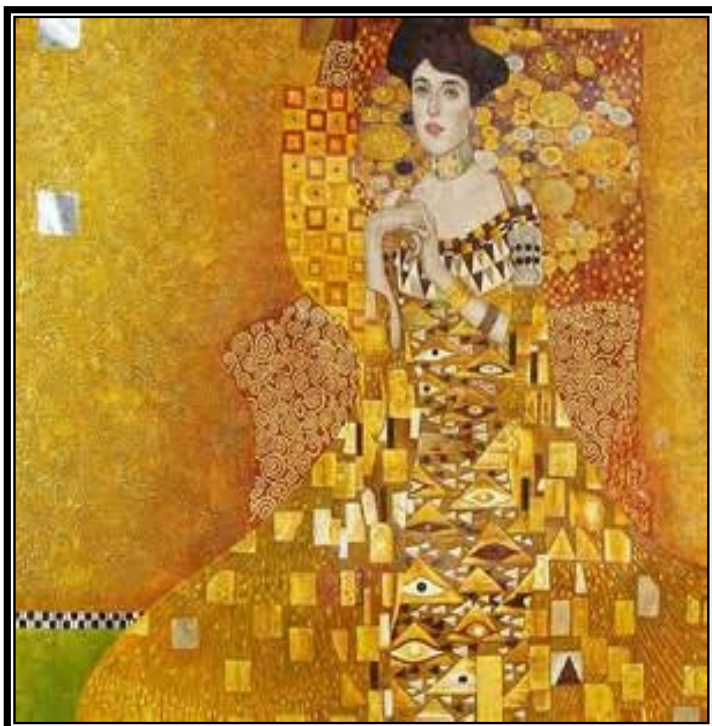
DONOR'S SIGNATURE _____

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

Please consider a 10% increase

Card Number _____
Exp. Date: _____

Jewish Federation Community Event



Gustav Klimt's portrait of The Woman in Gold, Adele Bloch-Bauer

Thursday, October 8, 2015

7:30pm

LaFontsee Galleries

833 Lake Drive SE



Special Guest Speaker
Donald S. Burris

Presents

The Story Behind the Woman in Gold

Donald Burris heads the law firm Burris, Schoenberg & Walden, depicted in this year's film, *Woman in Gold*. The movie tells the fascinating true story of Maria Altmann, an octogenarian Jewish refugee, who takes on the Austrian government to recover her family's artwork that was looted by the Nazis in World War II.

Donald Burris is a leading expert in the pursuit of art stolen by the Nazis. A Brooklyn, New York native, and graduate of Georgetown Law School, he served as special counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee. Mr. Burris is an international lawyer and litigator based in California.

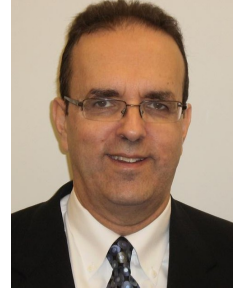
RSVP info@jfgr.org or 616-942-5553.

Financial support provided by the Henry Pestka Charitable Fund

Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

I would like to invite you to a special event this month. Our annual community event will be held on Thursday evening, October 8 (see prior page for details). The guest speaker will be Don Burris, an attorney who worked on the U.S. Supreme Court case on which the compelling motion picture, *Woman in Gold* (starring Helen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds) was based. Many of you saw this film earlier this year, which is now available on DVD and digitally.



If you did not see the film, it tells the true story of Holocaust survivor Maria Altmann (played by Ms. Mirren) who takes on the Austrian government to reclaim her family's stolen assets, including a famous painting of her aunt by the renowned artist, Gustav Klimt. The title of the movie is derived from this *Woman in Gold* painting, as it became known in Austria while displayed by the government in the period since World War II.

The role of Randol Schoenberg, a young attorney who represents Ms. Altmann, was played by Mr. Reynolds. Mr. Schoenberg's firm, Burris, Schoenberg & Walden, is led by Don Burris, our speaker who worked closely with his partner, Mr. Schoenberg, in representing Ms. Altmann. Experienced in the ways of Washington from his days as a member of the Senate Watergate Counsel team, Mr. Burris will visit us to tell the back story of the struggle to retrieve Ms. Altmann's family possessions which took them all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The venue for Mr. Burris' talk is the LaFontsee Galleries on Lake Drive between Diamond and Eastern. Therefore, as you can see, this program is a little different from the annual events that Federation typically holds each fall. I believe it is an event that will be of interest to people of all ages, not only by telling the story of how the Holocaust experience relates to today, but also a very human story of persistence and diligence in the pursuit of justice.

On behalf of Federation's board and staff, I'd like to thank Linda and Steve Pestka for providing significant underwriting for this program from the Henry Pestka Charitable Fund. Their father Henry was a Holocaust survivor and a prominent member of our Grand Rapids Jewish community for many years.

This event, as in past years, also provides the opportunity for our community to come together to support Federation's annual campaign. As you know, the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids provides financial support for many of the programs and services in our community. This includes funding for the United Jewish School, social services for our community's elderly and infirm, support for Jews in need in Israel and around the world, and much, much more. I hope you will consider a generous contribution to Federation that is meaningful to you. We anticipate any increase in your contribution will once again be matched by generous gifts from local family foundations.

Please mark your calendar to plan and come out to join your friends and family on October 8 for this exciting *Woman in Gold* event. I look forward to seeing you there. While there is no cost to attend, we ask that you RSVP by contacting our office at 616-942-5553 or by email at info@ifgr.org. Of course, should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,
Mike
mike@ifgr.org



Sarah Stroumsa

Louis and Helen Padnos Visiting Professor in Judaic Studies
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Golden Ages and Other Myths: On Jewish Culture in Islamic Spain

The legendary splendor of Islamic Spain (*al-Andalus*) is often associated with the emergence of a cultural "golden age" for the Jews. Between the 10th and the 12th centuries, science, philosophy and poetry, written in both Hebrew and Arabic, flourished among Andalusian Jews, producing such luminaries as Samuel Ibn Gabirol, Judah Halevi, and Moses Maimonides. The undeniable effervescence of Jewish culture in *al-Andalus*, however, must be seen as part of a more complex reality, in the Iberian peninsula itself as well as in the broader world of Islam. The lecture will discuss this complex reality, in an attempt to replace some myths with a nuanced picture of the multi-religious culture of Islamic Spain.

November 8, 2015
10 am

Temple Emanuel
1715 East Fulton
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-459-5976

templemanuelgr.org



If you have a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation, please call (734) 763-9047 at least two weeks prior to the event.



LUNCH BUNCH
At Rose's
 550 Lakeside Drive SE
Thursday, October 15th
11:30am
Cost: \$8

RSVP by Tuesday October 13th
 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.

Shir Shalom Begins It's 35th Season!

Our Shir Shalom Chorus is excited to begin its 35th season. This Jewish Community Chorus plays an important part in our West Michigan area by sharing our Jewish musical heritage with our audiences whether they be general or Jewish. We have openings for new singers to share in the fun. Please consider joining us this season. We welcome all who want to have a fun musical experience. For more information call Toby Dolinka 616-949-6528.



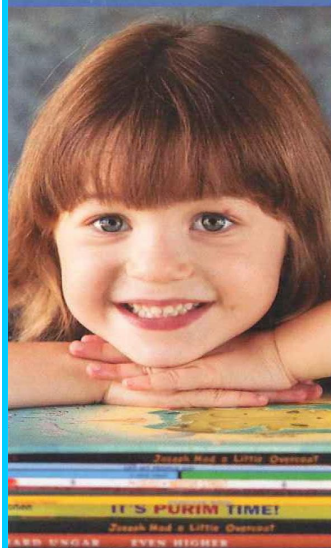
SAVE THESE DATES
 For Future Lunch Bunches...

- **November 19, 2015 - tbd**
- **December 10, 2015 (Chanukah lunch)**
- **January 14, 2016 - tbd**
- **February 18, 2016 - tbd**
- **March 17, 2016 - tbd**

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.



www.PJLIBRARY.org

A PROGRAM OF THE
 HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



2015-16 SEASON



www.jtgr.org

Presenting quality theatrical productions with Jewish themes that are universal in appeal.

You don't have to be Jewish to LOVE Jewish Theatre!

FOR SEASON PASS INFORMATION

visit us on or www.jtgr.org
 or call 616-234-3595

All performances are held at GRCC Spectrum Theater
 Thursdays & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m.
 Additional Wednesday shows at 8 p.m. for "Becoming Dr. Ruth"

*Becoming
 Dr. Ruth*
 By Mark St. Germain
 September 9-20, 2015

*For this
 Moment Alone*
 By Marcia Kish
 April 7-17, 2016

**TWO JEWS
 WALK INTO
 A WAR**
 by Seth Rozin
 June 16-26, 2016

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 or info@ifgr.org

Hadassah Book Club

The Storied Life of A.J. Fidery by Gabrella Zevin

Call your local library or Schuler Books on 28th Street.

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Where: Sheila Frank's Home

6254 Heathmoor Court SE

Please call Sheila (949-2803) and let her know if you will be at the meeting or not able to attend, so she can plan her setup! Thank you so much!

Looking forward to another great book discussion!

As always, your faithful bookends.

SUE REMES616-949-3505

FLORY SILVERSTIEN.....616-949-5766



Betzalel Art Group
Thursdays, 2:30 - 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

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, October 7

12:00pm

Olives

2162 Wealthy St SE

Corners of the Field Garden needs your help!

We need volunteers to help us pick produce on a regular or one-time basis.

If you are interested please contact

Allyson Strauss: 616-406-6536

garden@ahavasisraelgr.org



Jewish Community Business Forum

Thursday, October 15

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.



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



UJS Board:

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

Co-Chairs:

Rhonda Pappas &
Amy Winkelman

Allyson Strauss
Rick Rinzler
Elisabeth Rosewall
Amy Singer
Erica Wikander

September 20, 2015 Opening Day for UJS!

It was very exciting to see the 135 eager faces coming into the classrooms to begin the 2015-2016 religious school year. Families were greeted by the musical sounds of the “Chutzpah” band. There was lots of laughter, joy and energy. Students ran off to classes at 10am while the parents went to an informal question and answer session.

UJS Calendar

September 30 – 1st day of midweek at Ahavas
October 4 – Blessing of Pets/Marc Rossio/Sukkah visits
October 11 – UJS Open House
October 18 – Mitzvah Day

Please Welcome: UJS Teachers for 2015-2016

Gan Katan – Marisa Krishef

PreK – Tina Murua

Kindergarten – Hasia Monselise

1st grade – Linda Zizos

2nd grade – Melissa Popour

3rd grade – Ally Stein

4th grade – Hilary Selznick

5th/6th grade – Ellen Wease

7th grade – Rabbi Krishef, Rabbi Schadick, Rick Rinzler

8th grade – Ann Berman, Rikka Bos

9th/10th grade – Josh Wease, Sheila Bates

11th/12th grade – Susie and Zach Ziegler

Hebrew – Helen Shibley, Shoshana Jackson, Elisabeth and Emily Rosewall, Susan Schadick

Music – Marc Rossio

Teaching Assistants – Aleks Sherman-Hay, Melinda Frank

Library Resources – Kris Siegel

Curriculum Director – Barbara Duchemin

School Director – Pam Rush

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Interested in Reading Psalms for Spiritual Development and Meditation Reflection?

Join Rabbi Krishef on Mondays, 7:00pm, beginning October 19. We'll read and study one or two Psalms a week. Students will be encouraged to choose a passage and write a brief reflection to be shared in class the following week.

Rabbi Krishef's study groups:

- Thursday Tanakh study, 1:00 - 2:00pm, Schuler Books and Music, 28th St. (either in the back of the store or in the café). We are starting the book of *I Samuel*. Exciting narrative! Intrigue! Politics! Backstabbing! Join us.
- Jewish mysticism/Zohar study group, Mondays, 12:00 - 1:00pm, Ahavas Israel library. We are reading through Daniel Matt's translation and commentary of the Zohar. Currently, we are finishing Parashat *Hayyei Sarah*.

Temple Emanuel

The next Beer City Pub Crawl will be on

Sunday, October 4th. We will be pedaling the **Great Lakes Pub Cruiser**, the 15-person bike. We will meet at The Cottage Bar at 6:00pm for a quick drink at a classic GR watering hole and then starting at 6:30pm we will pedal the bike through some of the ArtPrize high points and end up at Rockwell's for another quick drink before pedaling back! RSVP to Cathrin at the Temple office 459-5976—Space is limited to the first 15 to RSVP, only 10 seats have pedals, so if you want to sit back and be taken for a ride, you can do that!

Detroit Lions Trip!

Join us for a road trip to the Detroit Lions' home game with the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday, October 11th. Our coach will depart from the Temple parking lot at 12:30pm for the trip to Ford Field in Detroit. Kick-off is at 4:05pm. After the game our bus will return us to the Temple parking lot at approximately 8:30pm, depending on how long the game lasts. \$50 per person for members, \$90 for non-members, includes your lower level end zone ticket to the game and round-trip transportation. Space is limited to the first 28 people to RSVP. Tickets must be paid for by 5pm on Thursday, October 1st. We thank the Tom & Mickie Fox Family Fund for underwriting this excursion!

Chabad House

Cteen Jr.

Take off for our journey of flying around the world to make a difference!

Cteen Jr. Kickoff event

Thursday, October 22nd

6th-8th Grade

For More info. call Chana 616-570-1742

Kids Club

Chabad Kids Club presents...

J.A.Z.

The Jewish Art Zone

October 13th - Gap Give-A-Penny

Hey Kids,

You can be part of the newest, hottest, coolest club in town.

This new club is JAZ – the Jewish Art Zone. We will be learning about Jewish Holidays and ideas. We will also create awesome art projects to go along with each theme.

Express your creativity and have a really fun time. At the end of the session, you will have your very own Jewish art collection to show!

Join Today!

Location: Chabad of W Michigan -2615 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI

Boys & Girls Ages 5-11

Time: 4:00pm-6:00pm

\$10 per session (includes light dinner). For more info or to reserve a spot call: 616-957-0770

Cteen

October 25th

Teens for Israel

With the situation in the Middle East it is important to empower ourselves to be able to articulate the situation in Israel and understand the role YOU PLAY on behalf of our brothers & sisters in the Holy Land!

Time: 4:00pm-6:00pm

For more info or to RSVP

call Chana 616-570-1742

The Jewish Women's Circle - Join us as we

explore the meaning and magic of Shabbat candles.

Design a stunning candle tray and enjoy a great night

out with the JWC! Monday October 19, 7:30pm at

the home of Naryhara Schwartz, Flowers Crossing.

Cover charge \$10. For more information or to RSVP

please contact Nechamy at 616-828-2340 or

nechamy8@gmail.com

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.

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.

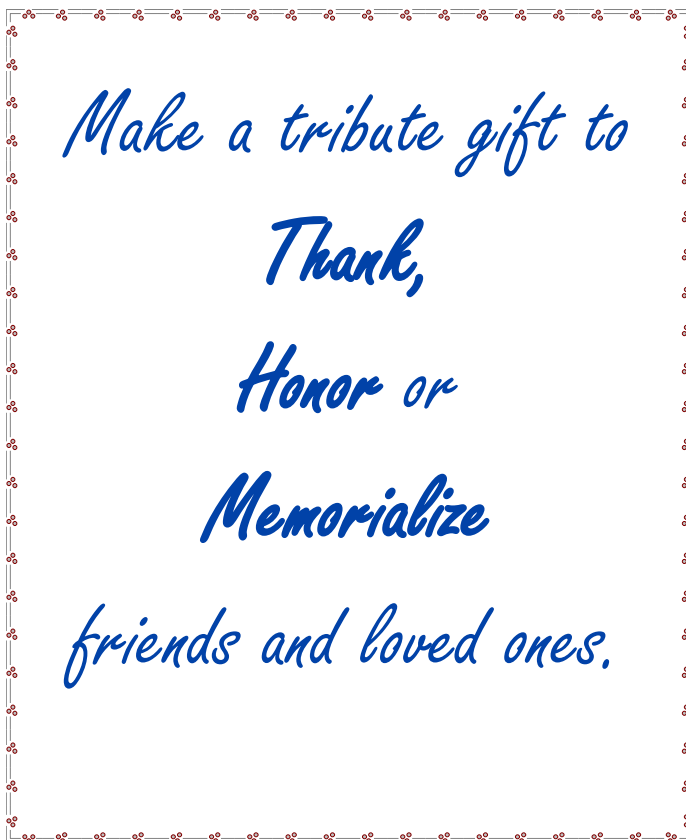
Leven Family Fund To establish and provide Jewish facilities, and support for cooperative programming among the congregations that support Jewish education for our youth.

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*



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:

OCTOBER 15, 2015



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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



WOMAN IN GOLD COMMUNITY EVENT

October 8th

See page 3 for more details

