



**Executive Director's Letter**

Dear Friends,

*If it walks and quacks like a duck, someone may say it's a horse, but.....well, you know.*



It was somewhat startling to learn the U.S. Supreme Court recently was that "someone" when the Court ruled the Town of Greece, NY, was not violating the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States when its town council consistently opened their meetings with explicit, sectarian Christian prayers.

The majority of the Supreme Court reasoned this was okay because the town's *policy* is to allow other religions to participate in delivering the prayers. However, the facts were not in dispute, indicating their *practice* was to only have Christian prayers delivered monthly for more than a decade prior to the lawsuit being filed, with about two-thirds of those prayers invoking Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, the Court apparently created a new standard regarding the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Previously, the Court said government could not *endorse* a specific religion. Under this ruling, one religion's sectarian prayer is acceptable in a government setting as long as citizens are not directly coerced into participating in the prayer.

Imagine you attend your local town council meeting to request a building permit or zoning variance. A minister starts the meeting by telling all to stand, bow their heads and pray to 'our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.' No one says this is optional.

Of course, you can always pretend to go along and think about the Tigers baseball game that evening rather than pray. No big deal. Right?

Or, you can decide to not stand up, or to leave the room during the prayer. No one said you had to pray. No big deal. Right?

Well, no. If the town council decision is important to you, you are being coerced, however shrewdly, to go along with participating in the sectarian prayer, especially if all members of the council are. *The public arena should not be exclusive.*

*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  
616.942.5780 fax  
info@jfgr.org  
www.jfgr.org

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Bill Lewis, President  
  
Temple Emanuel  
Rabbi Michael Schadick  
Mitchell Kahn, President  
  
Chabad House  
Of Western Michigan  
Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

**JFGR 2013**  
**Campaign is complete!**  
**We would like to extend a big *THANK YOU* to each and every donor!**  
**We appreciate your generosity.**  
**\$408,273**  
**From 401 Donors**  
**\$26,007 Matching gifts**  
**\$434,280 Grand Total**

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids will be holding our **Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 7:00 PM** at the Federation office. All members of the Jewish community are welcome to attend.

**Our campaign would not have been a success without our Campaign Volunteers:**

David Alfonso	Mort Finkelstein	Julian Joseph	Julie Rossio	Susette Tauber
Heather Alfonso	Jeff Frank	Greg Kaufman	Meredith Rothouse	Lanny Thodey
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David Dennen	Melissa Hillman	Carol Present	Rick Stevens	Cathy Winick
Toby Dolinka	Dan Hurwitz	Mike Present	Judy Subar	Chad Zagel
Jessica Elin	Judith Joseph	Sue Remes	Audrey Sundstrom	

**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**



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

**Live Generously.**

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  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider a 10% increase



## Looking for the perfect gift?

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

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



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

Please see Page 11 for details, or phone or email [cathy@jfgr.org](mailto:cathy@jfgr.org).

*Continued from page 1*

It does not belong to one religious belief system. And, despite what many supporters of the Court decision have been saying, this sentiment dates back to our founding fathers, including Washington, Jefferson and Madison.

These founders understood that, to create a successful democracy, mutual respect by all citizens - balancing majority interests with individual and minority rights - was necessary. It is extremely disappointing that, while deciding the *Town of Greece* case, the Supreme Court's narrow, 5-4 majority did not seem to get that such values informed the foundation of our Constitution's Bill of Rights and its First Amendment's Establishment Clause.

It is noteworthy that all three Jewish justices on the Supreme Court dissented. One of them, Justice Elena Kagan, wrote an already highly regarded dissenting opinion, which includes, "The content of Greece's prayers is a big deal, to Christians and non-Christians alike. A person's response to the doctrine, language, and imagery contained in those invocations reveals a core aspect of identity - who that person is and how she faces the world....Contrary to the majority's apparent view, such sectarian prayers are not "part of our expressive idiom" or "part of our heritage and tradition," assuming the word "our" refers to all Americans."

I highly recommend you take the time to look over Justice Kagan's very readable dissent. You can find it along with the other case opinions on [SupremeCourt.gov](http://SupremeCourt.gov) by searching for the case name, *Town of Greece v Galloway*. If easier, please email me and I will send it to you. Should you Google the case name to learn more, you will find that many national Jewish organizations have spoken out against this Supreme Court decision.

Finally, I'd like to make a request of each of you as members of the Grand Rapids Jewish community. Let me know what you think of this case - big deal or no big deal? - and whether you feel our community should address this issue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Mike  
[mike@jfgr.org](mailto:mike@jfgr.org)

## LUNCH BUNCH

**Thursday, June 19....11:30 a.m.**

*The Green Well Gastro Pub*

924 Cherry Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Please call the JFGR office to make a reservation

by Tuesday June 17 616-942-5553



## LUNCH BUNCH SAVE THE DATE

July 17 - TBD

August will be our out-of-town  
mystery tour

Taking suggestions for places to eat:  
Call Ann at 616-942-5553



## Jewish Cultural Council ~ 2014 Spectrum Series

**Sunday, June 1, 2014 ~ 4:00 p.m.**

**Congregation Ahavas Israel**

2727 Michigan NE

**Join us for a Chinese reception and presentation**

**With Robyn Helzner**

# Kreplach & Dim Sum

## Yes, there are Jews in China!



Through a lively multi-media presentation, Robyn shares stories, photos, video and music to explore the extraordinary history of the Jewish communities in Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Kaifeng, and traces their emergence as the fastest growing Jewish region in the world today. Robyn Helzner officiated at the first Bar Mitzvah held in Beijing, China and served as the Cantor for the United Jewish Congregation in Hong Kong.

**Admission: \$15 for Adults, \$5 for college students Free for Children up to age 18**

**RSVP and additional information: 616-942-5553 [info@ifgr.org](mailto:info@ifgr.org) [www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)**

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



## The Shir Shalom Chorus

Sings again at Festival this year!



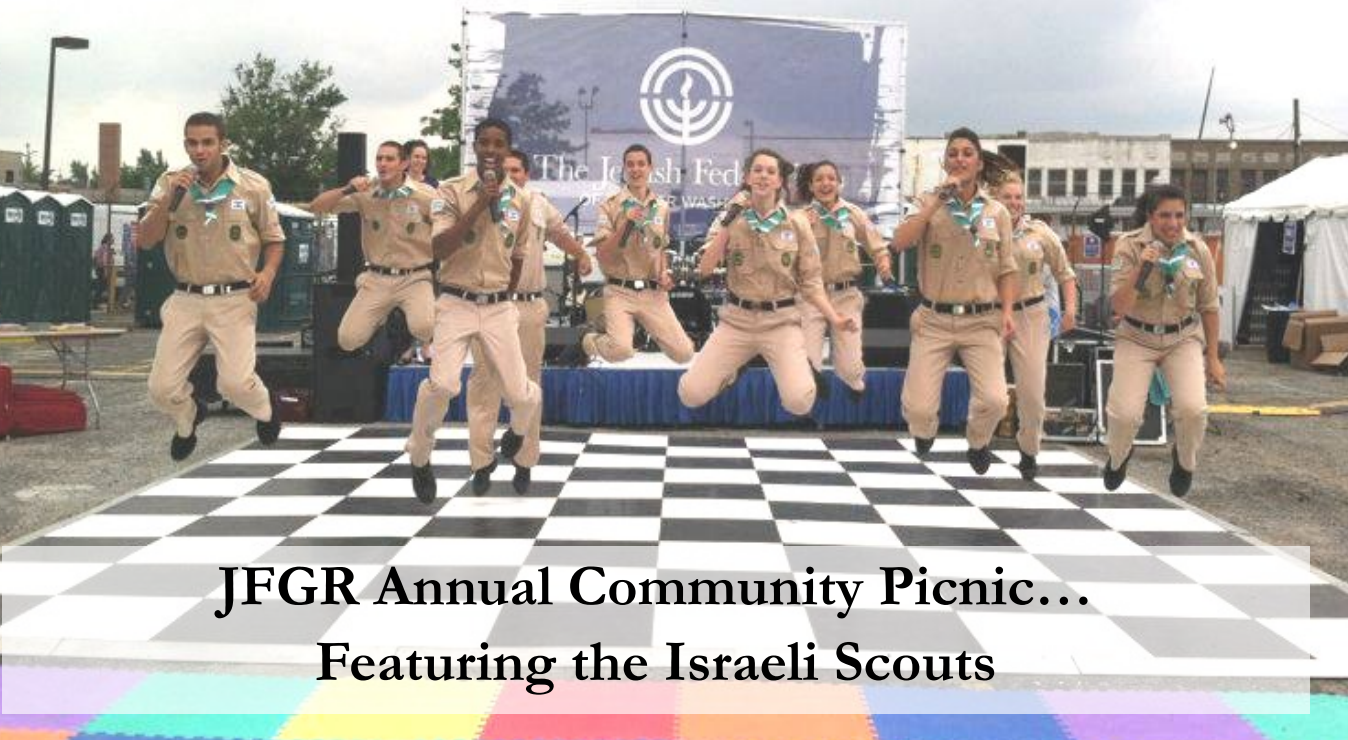
Save Sunday, June 8 at 1:30p.m. to come and hear our Shir Shalom Chorus of 29 years sing in the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) auditorium. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, it is always our pleasure to share our music with the entire Grand Rapids community. We look forward to singing to you at

Festival '14



# SAVE THE DATE

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2014



**JFGR Annual Community Picnic...**  
**Featuring the Israeli Scouts**



## 16th Annual Jewish Film Festival

*Another great Film Festival!*

*The Jewish Film Festival Committee would like to thank the following people for their generous contributions:*



### The Oscar

The Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation

### Director

Sherman-Hay Family • The Subar Family

### Producer

Dr. David & Heather Alfonso • Bill Boorstein  
Dr. Jeff & Sheila Frank • Dr. Sandra Last • Lanny Thodey

### Actor

Dorothy Armstrong • Thomas Fox • Thomas & Karen Haight • Mabelle Hammond  
Dr. Don & Bluma Herman • Lori Jacobs  
Mike & Roberta Jacobson • Dr. Julian & Judith Joseph • Dr. Madelon & Joel Krissoff  
Dr. Marc & Peggy Leven • Charles & Nancy Olender • Rhett & Jeralyn Pinsky  
Dr. David & Karen Reifler • James & Sheryl Siegel

Dr. Barbara & Gil Wyn

### Speakers & Special Guests

Harry Oesterreicher • The Matzah Ball Band (Elliot Beck, Ran Kampel and Jim Stevenson)

### Volunteers

Talia Atias • Ann Berman • \*David Bernstein • Jeff Bootzin • \*Sari Cohen • Sherri Faler • \*Sheila Frank  
\*Pam Goldberger • \*Karen Haight • Diane Hammerman • Alex Hay • \*Rick Hay • Colleen Hillard • Lori Jacobs  
Judith Joseph • \*Julian Joseph • \*Michele Kanig • Shirley Kleiman • Sheldon Kopperl • Sue Kopperl  
Lesley Mayer • Bev Niedelson • Karen Padnos • Marsha Plafkin • Mike Present • \*David Reifler • \*Sue Remes  
\*Mark Schwartz • Jon Subar • \*Judy Subar • Cathy Winick • \*Mort Zukerman

\* Film Festival Committee members

### RAFFLE DONORS

JIMMY JOHNS • SUBWAY • GRAND RAPIDS WOMEN'S CHORUS • JEWISH CULTURAL  
COUNCIL • JEWISH THEATRE GRAND RAPIDS  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHOCOLATE FACTORY  
KITCHEN 67 - RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL  
ELIZABETH AND MICHAEL MARGULUS PHOTOGRAPHY - THE CRUSHED GRAPE  
TACQUERIA EL RINCON MEXICANO - JON SUBAR/MODEL COVERALL

*2014 Film Festival  
Editor's Outtakes!  
Are you in one?*



**VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!**

Some members in our community need rides! They struggle to get groceries, go to a medical appointment or Jewish event. This difficulty can be a profound source of stress for some of them. If you might be willing to drive a senior on an 'as needed basis', please consider filling out our applications and getting on our call list. Chances are that you already know the person who needs your help! I am committed to ensuring the volunteer and senior citizen are comfortable with one another so that the experience is fulfilling for both parties!

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

**YAD**

(Young Adult Division for 21-35 year olds)

**Take Me Out to the Ballgame!**

YAD-GR will be volunteering as buddies with West Michigan Miracle League in Rockford. They will help children with physical and cognitive disabilities play baseball on **June 7 at 10am**. Lunch following the game, place TBD. RSVP by **May 30th** or for more information contact Lauren at [laurenevetter@gmail.com](mailto:laurenevetter@gmail.com).

**Jewish Women's Professional Network!**

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



**Our lunch meetings will be on hiatus until September!**  
**Enjoy your summer!**

**Jewish Community Business Forum**

**Thursday, June 19,**

**12:00 -1:00 p.m.**

**El Barrio....**

**545 Michigan NE**

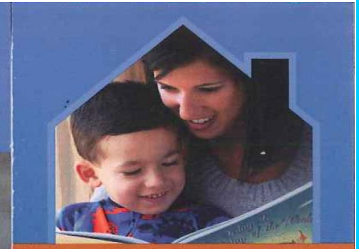
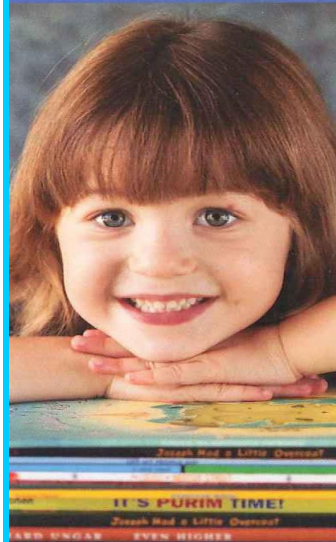


**Everyone is Welcome!** A good networking opportunity to discuss business principles and to stay aware of resources available in our community.

***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](http://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](http://www.PJLIBRARY.org)

A PROGRAM OF THE  
HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION

**Hadassah Book Club**

Wednesday, June 11 - 7:15 p.m.

**"Orphan Train"**

By Christina Baker Kline

**Host: Diane Broomberg**

2865 Lake Drive SE

East Grand Rapids

RSVP: 616-949-6084

Please call to let Diane know you will be coming for a count! Thank you for your courtesy!

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

As always, your faithful bookends,  
Sue Remes 616-949-3505  
Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766





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](mailto:pam@templemanuelgr.org) [www.unitedjewishschool.org](http://www.unitedjewishschool.org)



## School News

### NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

- May 1 – May 4 The 9<sup>th</sup> grade had a wonderful 4 days in the great city of New York. Look for pictures on the school bulletin boards at Temple and Ahavas.
- May 3 – May 4 The 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade class enjoyed an overnight in Chicago. They visited the Illinois Holocaust Museum, Spertus Museum and enjoyed an evening watching The Blue Man Group.
- May 4 - UJS enjoyed their afternoon class at Celebration Cinema for the Jewish Film Festival. The feature film was "The Zigzag Kid". All who attended had a great time watching the film and noshing on popcorn and soda

# UJS Opening Day!

## September 7, 2014

Congratulations to the UJS 9<sup>th</sup> grade class who participated in the New York Revlon Run/Walk for cancer 5-3-14. They raised over \$1000. Thank you to all that contributed.

Thanks so much to all our wonderful teachers and staff at UJS for a great year!

We bid farewell to the following teachers and thank them for all their dedication to UJS.

Tina Murua, Rikka Bos, Rachel Katz,  
Aaron Katz

Thank you also to Congregation Ahavas Israel, Temple Emanuel and Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. Without their spiritual and financial support our school would not be such a great success!

**UJS graduating  
senior  
Rachel Dennen  
George Washington  
University**

Please remember UJS in your contributions. We have a beautiful "*Tribute*" card that we can send to that special someone.

### UJS Contribution

**From Sue and Sheldon Kopperl in honor of  
the Temple Emanuel and Ahavas Israel  
2014 Confirmation class**

*Temple Emanuel*

**Rabbi Alber M. Lewis' Jewish Men's Book Club** is open to all men in the Jewish community. The next meeting will be on June 2, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Temple Emanuel in the Titche Family Multi-Purpose room. The book to be discussed will be Imagine: John Lennon and the Jews by Ze'ev Maghen. Please call or email the Temple Office to receive a list of discussion points.

**Sunday June 8** Temple Emanuel will hold its annual meeting at 11:00 a.m. A New Orleans Jazz brunch will begin at 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, June 14** we will hold Shabbat morning Service at 10:00 a.m. at the Manhattan Recreation Area pavilion in East Grand Rapids. Please join us for Shabbat Al Fresco!

**Sunday, June 22** at 6:00 p.m. the Beer City Pub Crawl will continue at Perrin Brewing Company located at 5910 Comstock Park Dr. NW, Comstock Park, MI 49321 (Take Alpine to 7 mile Rd. and go east 1/2 mile to the industrial park). Perrin's tap room features 14 different beers and a full food menu. RSVP to Cathrin at the Temple Office by June 20th so we know how large of a table to reserve!

*Congregation Ahavas Israel***Pre-Shabbat Happy Hour/Kabbalat Shabbat**

The religious Life committee is hosting Pre-Shabbat Family Happy Hours (hors d'oeuvres and snacks wine, beer, and soft drinks) on the third Shabbat of each month -- June 20, July 18 and August 15 at 7:00 p.m., followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:45 p.m. To sponsor a happy hour (\$54), contact the synagogue office.

**Corners of the Field Community Garden**

The Ahavas Israel gardeners can use your help. Preparations and planing for this year's garden have begun. Last year, the garden produced over 400 pounds of produce donated to the Temple Emanuel and the Baxter Street Food Pantries.

Work has begun with the planting of onions, collard greens, turnip greens, and beets. A young man from ASCC working on a garden project to complete the requirements toward becoming an Eagle Scout may be helping with a project to protect the garden from woodchucks.

For more information, contact Allyson Strauss, [allysoncolestraus@gmail.com](mailto:allysoncolestraus@gmail.com) or [616-406-6536](tel:616-406-6536).

**Learner's Minyan (June 21, July 19, and August 16), 10:00 am**

Interested in learning more about traditional services? Rabbi Krishef will unlock the secrets to understanding the Shabbat morning service at Ahavas Israel

*Chabad House***Gan Israel Day Camp!**

Dates June 16, 2014 to July 3, 2014

Ages 3 - 12

To register or for more info please call Chana At 616-570-1742 or email [WeingartenChana@gmail.com](mailto:WeingartenChana@gmail.com)  
A Jewish summer experience of a lifetime!

**"Caffeine for the Soul"** This summer give your week a Jewish boost and join other women for learning & inspiration. Enjoy coffee and delicious pastries Wednesday mornings at 9:30 beginning June 18. For more information please contact Nechamy at 616-828-2340 or [Nechamy8@gmail.com](mailto:Nechamy8@gmail.com). A project of the Jewish Women Circle.

**Gan Yiladim Preschool-Kindergarten**

Registration is now open for the fall of 2014. Gan Yiladim is a Jewish preschool where we offer a stimulating and warm environment. Our children learn the "specialness" of being Jewish through stories and discussions, the precious legacy of their uniqueness as Jews is transmitted. Gan Yiladim School takes the best of both worlds - secular and Judaic - and blends them into a program that is at once rich, fulfilling and stimulating.

For Children ages 2 - 6

For more information about our program, Please feel free to contact us at 616-957-0770

Life cycles, 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 anyone. We will acknowledge your donation with a card to that individual or family and the recognition will be noted in *The Shofar*. 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 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*

### The JFGR General Endowment Fund

In memory of Malca Muskin  
From Gloria Stark

### The Women of Valor Endowment Fund

In honor of Dr. Polly Panitz  
From Julian and Judith Joseph  
In honor of Dr. Mary Njegovan  
From Julian and Judith Joseph  
In honor of Ms. Elisa Joseph Anders  
From Julian and Judith Joseph

### The Leven Family Endowment Fund

In memory of Malca Muskin  
From Marilyn and Norm Leven



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed or credit card# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Send card to City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ **Send your donation and this form to:**  
 Please do NOT print in *The Shofar* my name \_\_\_\_\_ **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](mailto:Ann@jfgr.org)  
Phone: 616.942.5553  
Fax: 616.942.5780  
[www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)  
Email: [info@jfgr.org](mailto:info@jfgr.org)

**Next Issue's Information Deadline:**  
**JUNE 13, 2014**



**Jewish Federation**<sup>®</sup>  
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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

**JFGR Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 11, 2014**  
**7:00 p.m.**

