



Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

Why is it illegal to cry 'Fire!' in a crowded theatre when there is none?

Of course, it's dangerous. The free speech right of the person yelling is outweighed by the public safety concern.

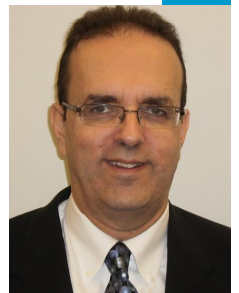
I raise this question due to the troubling decision by the Metropolitan Opera in New York City to stage this month *The Death of Klinghoffer*, a portrayal of the brutal murder of a Jewish man in a wheelchair on a Mediterranean cruise ship hijacked by Palestinian terrorists in the mid-1980s. Of note, this opera has been staged at lesser locations for more than 20 years, so its message is well known.

While I have not seen the opera, various reports make clear its composer is somehow seeking to create a moral equivalency between terrorists and innocent, and in this case, defenseless civilians. I will not repeat the language used in the opera (just Google its title to readily find it). Suffice it to say *Klinghoffer* romanticizes and offers justifications for the terrorists' murder, and leaves the audience with an ambiguous message so they may consider, under the guise of free speech in the arts, whether Jews are responsible for their own murders.

That's absurd! Of course, this is not the first time the arts have been used to attack Jews. While Nazi Germany, a leading center for the arts prior to the Holocaust, is perhaps the most extreme example, most of us are also aware of the history of passion plays, staged for centuries on Good Friday, then followed by violence against Jews prior to Easter. Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* from a decade ago was the most recent, prominent use of this story to inflame anti-Semitic passions

As written on these pages in prior months, I've been concerned about the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe. The *Klinghoffer* opera, to my knowledge, is the first time an iconic cultural institution like the Met has decided to bring such a message to the U.S., and in the heart of New York City, no less. We can often ignore anti-Semitism on the fringes of society. No doubt anti-Semitism will always be among us in one way, shape or form. However, there is no way to think about the Metropolitan Opera as a fringe institution.

Continued on page 2



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

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www.jfgr.org

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Of Western Michigan
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I picked up the phone to call Peter Gelb, the Met's managing director, to express my outrage. Please consider doing the same by calling (212) 799-3100 or emailing pgelb@metopera.org.

Let me be clear. I am not suggesting our free speech laws be amended to address this issue. Our First Amendment must be treated with care. Rather, I believe it is incumbent upon our leading institutions, whether cultural such as the Met, or educational such as colleges or universities of which I have written previously, to especially act responsibly when exercising their organizations' free speech rights. The leaders of these institutions cannot ignore the fact that both encouraging and/or excusing violence against Jews is a disturbing pattern in the history of the arts. In this instance, my view is the Met failed and is, however unfortunate, playing with fire.

I'd like to wish each and every one of you a happy Jewish holiday season and a healthy 5775. Also, you should have received by now our Campaign 2014 letter and pledge card in the mail. I hope you can take a few minutes to consider your support of Federation and the important work and support your Federation provides to our Jewish community locally and around the world. I thank you in advance for your campaign contribution this year.

L'shanah Tovah!

Mike

mike@jfgr.org



The 2014 General Assembly will bring together thousands of influential decision makers from communities across the United States, Canada, Israel and around the world. We want you to be one of them.
November 9 – 11, 2014.
Contact the Federation office at 616-942-5553 or info@jfgr.org should you have an interest in attending.

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 Admin: 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: _____





Lunch Bunch & A Tribute to Benny Goodman Concert



Tuesday October 28, 2014

Lunch at **Manna Café** 820 Forest Hill Ave SE
at 11:30 then over to Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Cost is \$15 for Lunch and the concert

**MUST RSVP to Ann by October 23rd by calling
616-942-5553**



SAVE THESE DATES
For Future Lunch Bunches & Concerts...
November 20 - TBD *
December 18 - Chanukah Luncheon



JFGR Supports Israel's Ongoing Humanitarian Needs.

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is raising money to assist with the large and ongoing humanitarian needs in Israel due to the conflict with Hamas. We ask all of our community members to consider making a tax deductible donation to this emergency effort. To do so, send a check payable to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids and note *Stop the Sirens* on the check. Or, visit our website at www.jfgr.org and click on the *Stop the Sirens* banner to contribute by credit card.

Thank you.

If you have any questions, please contact our office:
616-942-5553 or info@jfgr.org

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



Looking for the perfect gift?
Consider making a tax-deductible donation to a Jewish community endowment 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 7 for details, or phone or email cathy@ifgr.org.

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



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, November 5

12:00 p.m.

Olives 2162 Wealthy Street SE



Jewish Community Business Forum

Thursday, October 23

12:00 -1:00 p.m.

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.



2014 West Michigan Academic Consortium Conference:

Does Religion Have A Future?

Featuring William Schweiker, Ph.D.

University of Chicago Divinity School

Cornerstone University

1001 East Beltline Avenue NE,

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

More Info: <http://www.gvsu.edu/interfaith..>

The 40th Annual Great Lakes History Conference

October 10 & 11, 2014

Robert C. Pew Campus, Grand Rapids, Michigan

"Why Does It Happen?: Complicity and Resistance to Genocide in World History" Both keynote speakers - - Stephen Feinberg and Jan Gross - - are well-known experts on the Holocaust. Mr. Feinberg's expertise is Holocaust pedagogy and Dr. Gross is a well-known scholar on Poland during the Holocaust, and is currently a Professor at Princeton University. To register for the conference, go to www.gvsu.edu/history and click on the Great Lakes History Conference link.

The Shtetl in the Museum: Depicting Jews in the Soviet Union and in Russia Today

October 26, 2014
10:00 am

Temple Emanuel
1715 East Fulton
Grand Rapids, MI
49503

616-459-5976

templemanuelgr.org



MLSA JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL
CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

734-763-9047
JudaicStudies@umich.edu
www.fsa.umich.edu/judaic

Deborah Yalen

Louis and Helen Padnos
Visiting Professor of Judaic Studies,
Colorado State University



This lecture considers two major museum exhibits devoted to Jews, one organized in the Soviet Union on the eve of World War II, and the other established in 2012 in the Russian Federation. Though conceived in radically different political circumstances, each of these exhibits conveys a significant message about the place of Jews in Soviet and post-Soviet society. How have the political stakes of putting Jews "on display" changed over time?

Hadassah Book Club

Wednesday, November 12 at 7:15pm
"GOLEM and JINNI"

By Helene Wecker Host: Sue Remes,
3404 Burton Ridge Rd SE

RSVP: 616-949-3505 or sutheNan@aol.com

Facilitator: Flory Silverstein

Books available at SCHULER BOOKS, As always, your faithful bookends,

Sue Remes 616-949-3505

Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766



Calling All Singers---Calling All Singers

Here is your chance to shine! You don't have to be an opera singer to join **Shir Shalom Chorus**. If you can carry a tune, we want you! Come sing with us on Tuesday evenings as we prepare for an important Chanukah concert at Meijer Gardens on December 7th. Call Toby Dolinka - 616-949-6528 to let her know that you'll be on board.





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

Calendar

October 5 - Blessing of the Pets 9:30am Marc Rossio & Sukkah Decorating
October 12 - UJS Open House
October 19 - Mitzvah Day

UJS Donation to Scholarship Fund.
In memory of Gerturde Greenberg.
In honor of her many years as a
Sunday school teacher. By Tracy,
Joe, Sam, Miriam and Aaron
Chrenka

September 7, 2014 Opening Day for UJS!

It was very exciting to see the 150 eager faces coming into the classrooms to begin the 2014-2015 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.

1st mitzvah project for the year The ALS Challenge Barb Duchemin, Rabbi Krishef, Rabbi Schadick, Pam Rush. We collected over \$500 for ALS

UJS enrollment is at 150 students ranging from Gan Katan (2-4 year olds) to 11th/12th grade. We have a staff of 26 teachers and 12 high school madrichim (aides). On Sunday, school is located at Temple Emanuel while the Wednesday midweek Hebrew program is housed at Congregation Ahavas Israel. There is an additional location for our midweek Hebrew program in Holland, MI.

The UJS general operations and special programs would not be possible without the financial and spiritual support from Congregation Ahavas Israel, Temple Emanuel and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids along with a grant received from the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation. We are currently building an endowment fund to support most of our special programs in the future.

Chabad House

Sukkot

A fun Sukkot celebration for the entire family!

- Hot Dog Dinner
- Shake the Lulav & Etrog
- Exciting Booths
- Games
- Moon Walk
- Face Painting
- Lively Music

Sunday, October 12th

5:00-7:00pm

At Chabad House: 2615 Michigan St NE,
Admission \$5

Chabad Kids Club Jewish Heroes, 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!

October 21st - Noah

Noah reminds us that you don't have to be fearless to be a hero. Learn how we can show our love to others and stop bullying! Let's be like Noah and do the right thing. Location: Chabad of W. Michigan: 2615 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids. Boys & Girls ages 5-12, Time:4pm -6pm. Cost: \$10 per session (includes light dinner). To book of for more info call Chana: 616-570-1742

Cteen October 19 - #Outofthebox

Personal development. To find out more or to RSVP Today to Louise: 616-818-8300 or CteengrLeaders@gmail.com

The Jewish Women's Circle of Grand Rapids is an ever-growing group of women who came together to socialize, learn and discover the power of Jewish femininity in today's world. Join us!

The Jewish Women's Circle presents " The Soul of the Scroll"

Uncover the power and purpose of the mezuzah and it's protective influence on your home. Decorate a beautiful mezuzah case for yourself or a friend.

Monday November 3, 7:30 pm at the home of Liat Okanim 2640 Boston Rd SE

\$10 cover charge

To RSVP or for more info contact Nechamy at 616-828-2340 or Nechamy8@gmail.com

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Junior Congregation is about creating a community in which you look forward to hanging out and having fun with your friends while learning and doing prayer, studying and arguing about Torah, and reinforcing Hebrew skills.

The UJS has adopted a new Hebrew program, but the simple truth is that the more often one engages with Hebrew, the more fluency one will develop. Therefore Junior Congregation this year will include elements of Hebrew and Torah educational program, as well as retaining elements of a Junior congregation Shabbat service. It will incorporate a Torah discussion, some Hebrew prayer reading practice combined with learning about the prayers and the service itself.

Junior Congregation will be led by Marisa Krishef, Marni Vyn and Esther Katz, usually meeting on the first and third Shabbat of the month at 11:00 am in the chapel or classroom 6. We'll be learning new tunes and helping the grown-ups by leading end-of-service prayers in the sanctuary. Come join us!

Junior Congregation is primarily aimed at students who are reading, but younger students, with parental assistance, are welcome. There has been some interest expressed in a monthly "Tot Shabbat" service for younger children. Interested? Contact Marisa Krishef at MarisaRBK@gmail.com or 616-459-4627.

Because of the start of the holidays, note the day and time changes in October: JCong will meet on October 4 (11:30am, Yom Kippur) and Saturday, October 18.

Temple Emanuel

Intro to Judaism Rabbi Schadick will begin Intro to Judaism classes on October 21st. Classes will be held in the Temple Library on Tuesdays at 7:00pm. If you are interested in learning more about our culture and heritage, please contact the Temple Office to join the roster! Classes are free of charge for Temple Members and only \$125 for non-members.

Sunday School for Adults All programs begin at 10:00am and are held in the Lewis Social Hall unless otherwise noted. All programs are free of charge, but a head count is appreciated, so please make reservations at the Temple Office 616-459-5976 or Cathrin@templemanuelgr.org

Temple Emanuel continued

October 5 - Please join Rabbi Al Lewis to discuss the need for and creation of **Ethical Living Wills**.

October 12 - We are pleased to present Darius Colquitt in his one man show **Till the World Blow Up**. Darius will share his observations on how our geography, genealogy and general life experiences shape the personal worlds in which we live.

October 19 - Argue, Banter & Compromise mediated by Jim Siegel. Explore opinions and insights on current events and issues that affect our local, regional and global Jewish community.

Men's Book Club The Jewish Men's Book club will meet on Thursday, October 23rd at 7:00pm to discuss the novel **The Free World** by David Bezmozgis.

October 26 - The 2014 Padnos Visiting Scholar will be Deborah Yalen from Colorado State University presenting her lecture **The Shetl in the Museum: Depicting Jews in the Soviet Union and in Russia Today**. She will examine two different exhibits and the messages that they convey about the place of Jews in a Soviet and post-Soviet society.



Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids

is pleased to announce our 2014-15 season. We have three great shows scheduled for our 22nd season, and we hope that you will join us! Our first production will be **ONE NIGHT WITH FANNY BRICE** by Chip Deffaa, in January 2015 in Spectrum Theater's Black Box. Our second production will be **DEATH OF A SALESMAN**, by Arthur Miller, on the main stage in April 2015. We will close our season in June 2015 on the main stage with **THE TRIANGLE FACTORY FIRE PROJECT**, by Christopher Piehler, in collaboration with Scott Adam Evans. *Mark your calendars! Visit us at www.jtgr.org.*
SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW! EARLY BIRD SPECIAL THROUGH NOVEMBER 1

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

Woman of Valor Endowment Fund

In Memory of Nancy Reider

From Anne Wepman

In Memory of Nancy Reider

From Barbara Wepman

Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund

In Honor of Julian and Judith Joseph

From Elisa, Steve, Brett, Jenna, & Jacqui

Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

In Memory of Sol Bach

From Toby Weiner Dolinka

Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund

In Memory of Gunther Jacoby

From Julian & Judith Joseph

In Memory of Nancy Reider

From Julian & Judith Joseph



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: JFGR**

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 14, 2014



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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

CAMPAIGN 2014

Together we do extraordinary things.

It's easy to pledge your support.

See page 2 inside, or visit our website at

www.jfgr.org