



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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

TEVET / SHEVAT 5773 — JANUARY 2013 — WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

The Shofar

Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

The Jewish Cultural Council commenced its 2012-2013 *Spectrum Series* last month and continues with another program this month. I'd like to take this opportunity to talk about these programs with you and the value Cultural Council adds to our community.

The first event this season held during Chanukah brought us a solo violinist who proved to be engaging, not only for his performance but also his life story, both of which he shared with an overwhelmingly approving audience at East Grand Rapids High School. Yevgeny Kutik is a 27 year old Belarusian-American, born in Minsk, who came to America at the age of 5.

His family's story - enduring anti-Semitism and leaving everything behind in the quest for freedom - was both familiar and compelling. Last month on these pages I wrote about the 25th anniversary of the March on Washington to free Soviet Jews. Yevgeny and his family are an inspiring example of the results of that effort, in their case settling in western Massachusetts with the assistance of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Out of the family's travails stood in front of us a remarkable young man whose talent and composure on stage, as he shared his music and story, respectively, touched the audience. His performance drew many young people, including the musically inclined from outside the Jewish community. It was a wonderful evening.

This month the Jewish Cultural Council brings another Jewish story to be told in a very different manner. We turn to the refugee issue in the Middle East. Many of us follow the news regarding Israel and the surrounding Arab world, so we are well aware of the Palestinian refugees as part of the conversation regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Our awareness of the Palestinian refugees is no doubt due in large part to the attention the media pays to this issue.

Another group of refugees, Jewish refugees from Arab lands who settled in Israel, do not receive the media attention that their Palestinian counterparts do. Roughly in the same numbers as Palestinian refugees at the time the State of Israel was founded, the Jewish refugee story provides important context in understanding the overall refugee issue's impact on the Middle East conflict.

Continued 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
www.jfgr.org

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Campaign Update



286 Pledges
\$317,848

Your donation to JFGR is 100% tax deductible. Payments can be made by cash, check, credit card or stock.

Pay in full or set up installments. You can even pay on line at www.jewishgrandrapids.org

Note: any new gift or increase is matched dollar for dollar by a challenge grant
***Total does not include matching grants.**

Matching Grant

As mentioned in our last *Shofar*, the Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation has made a dollar-for-dollar matching grant commitment for all new gifts and increases in contributions. Since the last *Shofar*, the Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation made a similar matching grant commitment for new gifts and increases in contributions from donors under age 45 in order to encourage philanthropy in our next generation.

For example, we recently received a \$300 gift from a young teen, some of which he received for his Bar Mitzvah. A brand new donor, his \$300 gift is eligible for both grants, so to Federation, this results in a \$900 contribution. What an inspiration to encourage our children and grandchildren to donate! We deeply appreciate the matching grants from both the Padnos and Berkowitz families.



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

We are fortunate to bring to Grand Rapids a respected journalist to tell this story. Nathan Guttman is the Washington Bureau Chief for *The Jewish Daily Forward*. Having reported extensively on this issue, he is well qualified to inform and educate us about the history and current status of all Middle Eastern refugees. Please plan to join us at Temple Emanuel on Sunday morning, January 20 at 10 AM for this important program (for more information, please see page 6 in this *Shofar*).

I'd like to conclude with a word of appreciation about the Jewish Cultural Council's founding visionary. Following the Yevgeny Kutik concert, a question was asked, "What would Dora have thought about this program?" Dora was Dora Rosenzweig, whose legacy among many others was to help bring to our small Jewish community the vibrancy of Jewish cultural life. Along with her husband Leonard,

they were two dear friends of our community who, through the generosity of their Jewish Federation L'dor Vador endowment fund as well as the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation, have enabled their dream to remain a reality.

The value of Jewish cultural life in West Michigan cannot be understated, and along with the programs our congregations offer, as well as Jewish Theatre, the Shir Shalom Choir and others, I am personally grateful for their efforts and deeply appreciative for the Rosenzweig family's lasting support.

Oh, the answer to the question? No doubt, Dora was smiling down at us. So, to Sari and the Cultural Council committee, well done!

With warmest regards,

Mike
mike@jfgr.org

Seniors

Lunch Bunch

January 17, 2013



Shiraz Grille

2739 Breton Rd

11:30 am

Cost: \$8

RSVP by January 15 to

Ann 616-942-5553

Transportation also available by calling Ann

SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming Lunch Bunch Dates

February 14, 2013 - TBD

**March 21, 2013-Heritage
Restaurant -GRCC**

April 18, 2013- TBD

Thank You Jim Borst and the East Grand Rapids Madrigals !



This wonderful group of high school students performed beautifully for the Jewish Community Seniors Annual Chanukah Luncheon, held at Temple Emanuel. Also thank you Marla Tulett for preparing such a delicious lunch. And of course, this fun afternoon could not have been possible without help from our wonderful group of volunteers: Rhonda Reider, Cynthia Doniger, Gabe Vanderhoff, Cathy Winick, Sari Cohen, ...Thank you for all your hard work in making this party a success. *-Ann Berman*

Federation/Community

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS!

Do you know a child who plans to attend a Jewish summer camp? They may qualify to apply for a camp scholarship through the David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund. Applications are available on line at www.jewishgrandrapids.org or upon request, and are due by March 1, 2013. Please contact the Jewish Federation at 616-942-5553.

-Ann Berman, Director of Social Service Resources

Note: All applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Committee and held in the strictest confidence.

SHALOM GRAND RAPIDS!!!

A new program of the Jewish Federation

Would you like to become an ambassador to welcome people who are new to the Jewish community, or not currently involved?

To sign up or receive additional information about the program, contact Sari at the Federation office

616-942-5553 or Sari@jfgr.org

Additionally, if you know of someone new to the community, please let us know.

Jewish Women's Professional Network



February 6, 2013

12:00 PM

Olives

2162 Wealthy St. EGR

We meet monthly for networking, to share professional challenges and successes, exchange ideas, provide support, and give advice on how to better succeed in our work. 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.

It's a Laughing Matter

Our 2012-13 season of Comedies

JEWISH

Theatre
GRAND RAPIDS

2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids 49506

Season Tickets
NOW on Sale!

616.234.3595
www.jtgr.org

April 25-
May 5

The World of
Sholom Aleichem
by Arnold Perl

November 7-18

The Last
Laugh
by
Michael Hardstack

our 20th season

June 13-23

Oy!
by Rich Orloff

Business Forum

Save the Date!

January 17th



Jewish Community Business Forum
Time and Place has changed. We are working on a special program - Call JFGR 616-942-5553 or email info@jfgr.org for further information

Hadassah Book Club

Thank you Diane Broomberg for hosting the last meeting Book discussion.
Our next calendar of events is as follows:



January 9, 2013

Unorthodox by Deborah Feldman

At Sue Remes' home
3403 Burton Ridge RD SE
616-949-3505

Please call to RSVP!

March 13, 2013

Once We Were Brothers by Robert Balson

Host: Flory Silverstein

Looking forward to these two good winter reads with great discussion!

Books available at
SCHULERS BOOKS, 28th ST

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

Grand Rapids Lions

The Jewish Federations of North America hold an annual conference for women who donate a minimum of \$5,000 each year to the campaign of their local Federations. The International Lion of Judah Conference (ILOJC) is described on their website as “three inspiration-packed days learning and sharing with the world’s most passionate, philanthropic Jewish women.” This autumn’s conference was held in New York City in September. Four of our twelve Lions attended this year’s event— Susan Samrick, Sharyl Titcher, Karen Padnos, and Peg Padnos. Peg graciously agreed to share her experience for *The Shofar*:

My First Experience at the ILOJC

By Peg Padnos

I didn’t know what to expect when I signed up to attend my first *International Lion of Judah Conference* (ILOJC) of the Jewish Federations of North America. To be sure, I was delighted it would be in my hometown of New York City in late September, one of the nicest times of the year. The expected number of attendees was a little startling – more than 1,700! Oh well, I figured that my cousin Karen Padnos and our friend Sharyl Titcher would lead me, guide me if I had any troubles.

No troubles, I am glad to report, but a lot of inspiration, education, good food and fun. I will never forget the address given by Ann Rubenstein Tisch, founder/creator of a network of all-girls public schools. The lesson learned was that you don’t have to take on an entire system, i.e. The New York Public Schools. You can start with a single manageable project, which is what Ann did in founding the Young Woman’s Leadership School of East Harlem, which became the first single sex public school to open in more than thirty years. That school had phenomenal success with its first class – a graduation rate of 100 percent as well as an acceptance rate of 100 percent to four-year colleges. It has ignited the movement for single-sex-schools throughout the country.

Onward to an issue of more personal concern – Intermarriage in the Family. Led by Rabbi Kerry Olitzky of the Jewish Outreach Institute, the session explored options open to intermarrying couples and invited questions and discussions. Considering that there are now more intermarried households in the Jewish community than in-married ones, we must do better than just wring our hands. Afterward I was able to talk one-on-one to Rabbi Olitzky and he offered his help as a personal resource should the need arise. Another lesson learned: the approachability of the session leaders as well as the support of the women attending this particular workshop.

On the last morning of the conference, I nervously took my seat at the session on U.S., Israel and the Iran Question. Ambassador Mark D. Wallace, currently CEO of “United Against a Nuclear Iran” and his colleague Shlomi Kofman, Deputy Consul General of Israel, reviewed the policy options – diplomacy, sanctions, military actions. The tone of the discussion stayed calm, rational, reasonable and positive and gave me cause for hope as I reflect on this difficult subject.

The Conference ended with a gala dinner that included an Israeli rock star and her band. Everyone –everyone – rose from their seat and joined in dancing to “Hava Nagila,” rejoicing every step of the way.



Cultural Council of
The Jewish Federation
of Grand Rapids

2012-2013 Spectrum Series

Presents

NATHAN GUTTMAN

“Palestinian and Jewish Refugees”

Sunday, January 20, 2013

10:00 am

Temple Emanuel,
1715 East Fulton, Grand Rapids MI

TICKET PRICES: \$15.00 Adults

\$5.00 College Students

Free for ages 18 & younger

*For additional information and advanced tickets
contact 616-942-5553 or info@jfgf.org*



Nathan Guttman will discuss the history of the Palestinian and Jewish refugees since the founding of the State of Israel, along with a bipartisan bill presently under consideration by the U.S. Congress that addresses the plight of Palestinian refugees as well as Jews who fled from Arab countries.

Nathan Guttman is the Washington bureau chief for *The Forward* newspaper, America's leading independent Jewish publication and U.S. reporter for Israeli TV Channel 1, Israel's public TV network.

Since 2000, Nathan has been based in Washington DC where he has served as bureau chief for Israel's *Haaretz* newspaper and for the *Jerusalem Post*, before joining *The Forward* in 2006.

In Israel, Nathan served in several key positions, including chief editor of Channel 1 TV's evening news, feature editor at *Haaretz* and diplomatic correspondent for IDF Radio.

Nathan is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dessert reception to follow

This program has been made possible by the generous donations of the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation and private donors



At Habonim Dror Camp Tavor, children ages 9-16 experience a one-of-a-kind Jewish Youth community. Camp Tavor programming allows campers to build strong relationships while learning about leadership, social justice and stewarding the environment.



Taste of Tavor
Grand Rapids Community Session
August 1-5, 2013
Grades 2-5
\$595

This is an opportunity for first-time campers to have a wonderful short-term Jewish camp experience. Campers will swim and boat in our beautiful beach, help out in our organic farm, create beautiful arts and crafts projects participate in meaningful Jewish cultural activities, meet Jewish kids from all over the Midwest and more!

Please call for more information about any of our camp sessions



Brittany Abramowicz
 Outreach Manager
 (224)-619-5969
 registrar@camptavor.org
 www.camptavor.org

Campers who attend the August Taste of Tavor Session will get to experience Camp Tavor's meaningful Shabbat celebration. One-Way transportation available home from camp to Grand Rapids is included.

Jewish Cultural Council
Yevgeny Kutik violin concert
A wonderful performance!



Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
Spectrum Series 2012—2013 Membership Form

Please send me season tickets for Spectrum 2012-2013

- I/We would like to be an Underwriter: \$500+ (up to 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.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Enclosed is my Check for \$ _____

Payable to The Jewish Cultural Council

Please mail this form with your check to: **The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**
 2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Chanukah Bowling Ball!

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation, United Jewish School and the Chabad House.

A wonderful event with a lot of bowling,
tasty food, arts and crafts and music!



Thank you to Sarah Weingarten and the Chabad House for the food preparation, to Shalom Liberow for the wonderful Chanukah Menorah, to Shir Shalom for their performance and to all the people (200+) who joined us in the celebration.





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

Parents Corner

I began writing holiday cards to my kids' UJS teachers to wish them a Happy Hanukkah, and I was surprised as the list began to grow and grow.

As I added each name, I realized how many people are involved in my children's Jewish education... Sunday School Teachers, Assistant Teachers, Madrichim (Volunteer Aides), Hebrew Teachers, Midweek Teachers, the Rabbis, and of course Pam Rush (School Director) and Barb Duchemin (Curriculum Director).

I hadn't fully recognized how many caring, generous Jewish adults and teens in this community are making a direct impact on my children, teaching them the Jewish values, traditions, history, and language that are so important to me.

Thank you to all the teachers and leaders of UJS for sharing their Jewish knowledge and creating positive Jewish identities for our kids.

Marni

Calendar

- 1-2-13 No midweek - Winter Break
- 1-6-13 No school - Winter Break
- 1-13-13 UJS Open House
- 1-23-13 UJS Board Meeting
- 1-27-13 Marc Rossio/Tu B' shevat

School closings: Please tune in to WZZM 13 and WOOD TV 8 for UJS closings. It will be listed as United Jewish School. You may also check their websites.

Thank you! Religious school collected \$585 in tzedakah during the first semester. A donation was made by UJS to the "Miracle Field" project in memory of Nathan Hurwitz.

Plant Your Roots in Israel with trees for Tu B'shevat
On Tu'B'shevat we celebrate the New Year for trees. We eat wonderful fruits that grow in Israel and we pray for a fruitful year. Please join students all over the world by planting a tree in Israel through Jewish National Fund. Tzedakah monies at UJS for the month of January will be sent to Israel to plant trees. Go to www.jnf.org for more info.



Educating the community on the realities of poverty and how to respond.

UJS will participate in a poverty simulation workshop. This is facilitated through ACCESS of West Michigan <http://accessofwestmichigan.org>

POVERTY SIMULATION WORKSHOP

The poverty simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from week to week. It is a simulation, not a game. The object is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by low-income people.

UJS Donations – Marni & Scott Vyn
Happy Hanukah

Congregational

Chabad House

The Jewish Women's Circle presents

Women's Self Defense Course

This 1 1/2 hour introductory self defense lesson, taught by women, for women, will focus on promoting prevention, awareness, and avoidance

Sunday January 6 7:30 PM

At Big Dog Taekwondo

6504 28th Street SE

Cost \$5

For more info or to RSVP Contact Nechamy @

616 828 2340 or Nechamy8@gmail.com

Jewish Learning Institute classes

Living with Integrity

Grand Rapids: Six Tuesday Evenings, starting

Tuesday, January 29 | 7:30-9:00 PM **or**

Six Thursdays, starting

Thursday, January 31 | 11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Chabad House of W. Mi. 2615 Michigan St.

Kalamazoo: Six Tuesday Mornings, starting

Tuesday, January 29 | 11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Chabad House of Kalamazoo

504 Sprague Ave. | Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Fee: \$99 (textbooks included)

\$79 Early Bird Special ~ Register by January 21

\$180 Sponsor

For more information please call 269-340-0770

or e-mail rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com

Chabad Kids Club

Edible Fruit Trees- Jan 15

Celebrate the new year for trees tu b'shvat.

create your very own chocolate coated fruit tree!

4 - 6 PM | \$10 per session Chabad House at 2615

Michigan NE, Grand Rapids MI

For more info call Chana: 616-570-1742

Temple Emanuel

Springtime in January?

Not exactly!

Every year we connect ourselves to Israel with the celebration of Tu B'Shevat as we think about warmer days ahead. On Tu B'Shevat we give thanks for the trees and all the blessings of fruits of the Promised Land.

We also celebrate the holiday with special ceremony.

Temple Emanuel Invites the Jewish Community to join us for a Tu B'Shevat Seder on Saturday, January 26 at 6:00 PM

We will learn about the holiday, eat fruits that are indigenous to Israel, sing, and share a light meal of vegetable soups and bread, as well as some kid friendly foods.

This event is for all ages.

\$5 for Adults, \$3 for Children under 13

Contact the office at 616-459-5976 to RSVP no later than Wednesday, January 23.

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Schmooze 'n Shmear: Complements of the Religious Life Committee, you are invited to come to shul just a little bit early to enjoy coffee and a bagel before coming into the service. Breakfast will be available from 9:15-10:30 AM. Located in the Meeting Room, the library, or the small conference room - look for the sign.

Introduction to Judaism, beginning January 7

Monday evenings, 8:00 - 9:00 PM

Cost: \$50/members (Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel), \$75/non-members

A basic introduction to Jewish history, beliefs, rituals, holidays, and life cycle celebrations, taught by Rabbi Krishef. You may download the syllabus from AhavasIsraelGR.org under Adult Education Programs.

Home Havdalah Gathering

Please join us for a Home Havdalah Gathering on Saturday night, January 26 at 7 PM, sponsored by Religious Life. Contact the Synagogue for location and more information. 616-949-2840

Endowment

Life cycle times, both happy and sad, are traditional times to make donations to Jewish causes. You can make a donation of \$5 or more to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids in honor or in memory of members of our community. We then will acknowledge that donation with a card to that individual or family. This is a wonderful way to send your good wishes and be able to fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah.

Please be sure to indicate what the occasion is and who is to receive the card. Please specify which of the following funds you would like your donation to be credited to:

Woman of Valor Fund (\$10 minimum contribution). To honor the women in our lives who have made a difference personally, locally or nationally.

Federation General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund. To help ensure the continued work of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for now and the future.

Julian and Judith Joseph Fund. To provide for local programming and events through the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.

David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund. To provide scholarships to Jewish sleep away camps and experiences.

Chuck and Maxine Shapiro Fund. To help ensure long-term aid to Israel and Jews around the world.

Louis and Louise Weiner Fund. To help ensure local programming for seniors in the Grand Rapids Jewish Community.

Jerry and Judy Subar Fund. To help ensure funding for overseas Jewish communities' needs.

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

Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund. To support Jewish social services in Grand Rapids.

*Thank you for supporting the
Grand Rapids Jewish Community*

The JFGR General Endowment Fund

In memory of Dr. Richard Siegle
From James Siegel

The Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

To Bernice Weiner for a speedy recovery
From Toby Dolinka

The Women of Valor Endowment Fund

In honor of Jean Barkin's Special Birthday
From Mitchell, Karen and Louis Padnos



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:

January 15, 2013



Jewish Federation[®]
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THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

TODAH RABAH!

To all who donated to our annual Chanukah gift bag program. Thanks to you, JFGR was able to give 17 families a little extra “gelt” to celebrate the festivities of Chanukah with their loved ones.

