



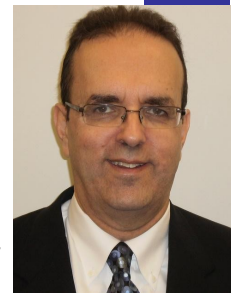
TAMMUZ / AV 5772  
JULY 2012  
WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GRAND RAPIDS

# The Shofar

## Federation News

Executive Director's Letter



Dear Friends,

I'd like to return to the subject of Iran's nuclear ambitions this month. As always with current events, it's a bit risky to write a week or two before publishing, so if these comments are out-of-date as you read them, please accept my apologies.

As I write, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council – the U.S., Great Britain, France, Russia and China – along with Germany and the European Union, are meeting with Iran for talks in Moscow to see if an agreement can be reached to curb Iran's uranium enrichment activities. Should no agreement be reached in this round of talks, an EU oil embargo, as well as more stringent sanctions from the U.S. directed at Iran's central bank, are due to go into effect at the end of June.

There are many supporters of Israel – myself included – who are skeptical, to say the least, that a serious agreement with the current Iranian regime is possible. Nonetheless, I do support such efforts since, without them, it would be impossible to know how strong a coalition of countries aligned against Iran's nuclear efforts can be.

Why is this important? While much attention in the media and elsewhere is directed at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it's my view that when it comes to Israel, and the safety and security of our Jewish brethren there, the more vital matter, indeed the potential existential question, is Iran's drive for nuclear weapons.

A nuclear armed Iran also has critical security questions for us. Iran is well known for exporting weapons to terrorist organizations, e.g. Hezbollah, and small nuclear weapons in the hands of such people makes this world more dangerous. In addition, if the Shia in Iran have nuclear weapons, how long will it be until the Sunni in Saudi Arabia or Egypt demand nuclear capabilities? And finally, of course, is the oil supply matter, and how that will impact the world economy.

*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.

### One Community

**Federation is now on Facebook!**

Become a fan of Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

### Inside this issue:

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# Federation News

**Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**  
 2727 Michigan NE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
 616.942.5553  
 616.942.5780 fax  
 www.jfgr.org

**Officers**

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*Vice Chairs*  
 David Alfonso  
 Judith Joseph  
 Karen Padnos  
 Andrew Samrick  
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*Past Chair*  
 Dan Hurwitz  
*Executive Director*  
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 Mabelle Hammond  
 Norm Kravitz  
 Marisa Krishef  
 Audrey Sundstrom  
 Lanny Thodey  
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 Marni Vyn, President  
 Temple Emanuel  
 Rabbi Michael Schadick  
 David Fishman, President  
 Chabad House  
 Of Western Michigan  
 Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

*JFGR's 2011 Campaign is complete!*

*We'd like to extend a big*

## Thank You

*to each and every donor!*

*We appreciate your generosity.*

**2011 Campaign Totals:**

**\$419,995**

**From 458 Donors**

**+\$25,000 matching gifts**

**\$444,995 Grand Total**



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

David Alfonso	Mabelle Hammond	Barb Kravitz	Karen Reifler	Susette Tauber
Mario Atias	Melissa Hillman	Norm Kravitz	Sue Remes	Lanny Thodey
Glen Barkan	Dan Hurwitz	Marisa Krishef	Julie Rossio	Claude Titché
Ann Berman	Judith Joseph	Bill Lewis	Andrew Samrick	Wayne Titché
Stuart Berman	Julian Joseph	Amy Noyes	Jim Siegel	Marni Vyn
Sari Cohen	Greg Kaufman	Karen Padnos	Ron Sigal	Barbara Wepman
Davida Dennen	Shirley Kleiman	Melissa Popour	Rick Stevens	Cathy Winick
Mort Finkelstein	Moe Kleiman	Carol Present	Judy Subar	John Wofford
Jeff Frank	Beverly Knopp	Mike Present	Audrey Sundstrom	Chad Zigel



## 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number  
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider a 10% increase

Continued from page 1...

*The Jewish Federation Film Festival would like to thank the following individuals who made contributions in memory of Darrel Rosen:*

- James and Sheryl Siegel
- Beverly Knopp
- David Bernstein
- Sheila Frank
- Pam Goldberger
- Michele Kanig
- Mort Zukerman
- Sue Remes
- Karen Haight
- Sari Cohen

What happens if no agreement with Iran is reached? That's a very difficult question to answer. I'm sure most of you are well aware of the rampant speculation that Israel is planning to attack the Iranian nuclear facilities if Iran does not stop their efforts to develop nuclear weapons. The new coalition government in Israel, formed when the centrist Kadima party joined with Prime Minister Netanyahu and his Likud party, among others, creates a strong political base for any defensive measures taken by the Israeli government.

Of note, there are Israelis who question the advisability of a military attack, and not for pacifist reasons. Many former Israeli military and intelligence officials have been public with their views that such an attack would be a mistake in judgment since it would be ineffective, and its consequences would make the situation worse. For example, Meir Dagan, the recently retired head of Mossad, believes an attack would expedite Iran's nuclear development. Dagan, certainly no dove, believes the sanctions mentioned earlier, in combination with sabotage, are the best options to destabilize the current Iranian regime.

A key role of Jewish Federations is to help bring our Jewish community together when difficult challenges arise. In regard to the Iran nuclear situation, it seems to me that none of us have enough information to know the best course of action. Furthermore, realizing the diverse views in our community, we will not have one voice. However, I do believe we can come together to urge our government's leaders, along with their Israeli counterparts, to remain strong yet deliberate as we face this threat. And we can pray that our leaders will have the wisdom of Solomon.

As usual, I'd like to hear your views. Please feel free to call or email me – or stop by the office – at your convenience.

Best regards,  
 Mike Presant  
 (616) 942-5553  
[mike@ifgr.org](mailto:mike@ifgr.org)



**Save the Date!**  
**Next**  
**Lunch Bunch**  
**Thursday**  
**August 23**  
**Location TBA**

## Senior News

### **Lunch Bunch Road Trip to Grand Haven, Thursday July 26:**

We will dine at Snug Harbor, then enjoy some free time to shop or stroll the boardwalk. Cost: \$10.00

10:45 AM, Leave Ahavas Israel ... 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Lunch  
 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Free Time.....Return to Ahavas by 4 PM

**Space is limited....RSVP required to Ann at 616-942-5553 by July 19**



**\* This trip is sponsored by Sentinel Pointe\***



Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids invites the entire community

# Fun Day Picnic



**Time: 12:00 PM to 2:30 PM**

**Date: Sunday, July 1, 2012**

**Place: Manhattan Park Pavilion**

In East Grand Rapids., turn on to Manhattan Road off of Cascade Road.  
The Pavilion will be on your left.

**Lunch (hot dogs & or veggie dogs,  
salads, cookies, fruit)**

**\$5 per person**

**\$15 max per family**

Staff members from  
CAMP TAVOR  
will provide an afternoon of fun,  
filled with games, Israeli dancing,  
arts and crafts, and  
music for children and adults.

Or you can just come and relax in the shade  
with other members of the  
Jewish Community.

To RSVP or for more information contact  
JFGR at 616-942-5553 or email [Cathy@jfgr.org](mailto:Cathy@jfgr.org)



Summer Step up Fundraiser



A Camp Scholarship fund raising opportunity will be there too!! The Michigan Blood Bank will give the JFGR Camp Scholarship Fund \$10 for every donor we get that day! Our goal is 15 pints minimum. The blood bus will be there from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Contact Ann for more information or to preregister (preferred): 616-942-5553





**Grand Rapids**  
**Brand New Day and Overnight**  
**Summer Camp Experience**  
**ONE WEEK CAMPING EXPERIENCE**  
**JULY 9-15**



**July 9-11 Day Camp in Grand Rapids (Congregation Ahavas Israel)**

**July 12-15 Mini Overnight at Camp Tavor (Three Rivers, MI)**

**July 15 Pick up and family day at Camp Tavor**

Children entering Grades 1-5 in the fall of 2012 are invited to be a part of this exciting short term Jewish camp experience. Campers will experience three days of Day Camp in Grand Rapids and will have fun building community, participating in Tikkun Olam (Social Action) projects, and developing Jewish identity. On Thursday, campers will head to beautiful Habonim Dror Camp Tavor. There they will swim, boat, play sports, do arts and crafts, and sing songs. They will also spend an exciting and meaningful Shabbat at Camp Tavor. This is offered as one complete experience for 2nd - 5th graders.

**1st graders can participate in the day camp portion only.**

**Fees:** 2nd - 5th grade - \$595. Includes: 3 days of Day camp, 3 days and nights of overnight camp, one-way transportation to Habonim Dror Camp Tavor.

1st Grade Day Camp only - \$295



## Two Awesome Summer Camp Programs for Jewish Teens:

### **Be a Counselor in Training**

This summer Camp Tavor is offering a special day and overnight camp program to the Grand Rapids community. We are looking for energetic, responsible, and fun 9th, 10th and 11th graders to be CITs. The beginning of the week will be day camp in Grand Rapids. CITs will help facilitate activities and look after the children. On Thursday July 11, the group will head to Camp Tavor in Three Rivers, MI. At Camp Tavor the CITs will be integrated with the teen programming. CITs will learn valuable activity planning and child care skills. They will also participate in fun outdoor and Jewish activities. Counselor in Training program - \$95

**OR:**

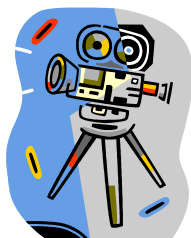


### **“Lights, Camera, Action!” Teen Film Camp**

**July 8-15, 2012**



We invite teens entering grades 9, 10, and 11 to be a part of this unique one-week film camp for teens. In addition to being a part of the wonderful Jewish culture at Camp Tavor, campers will learn about filmmaking and they will actually create a short film using specialized equipment. Campers will learn from Marc Morgan who has created short films, advertising pieces, and documentaries. All experience levels are welcome! Teen Film Camp - \$595



For more information call Brittany at 224-619-5969 or email [registrar@camptavor.org](mailto:registrar@camptavor.org)

Details about all of our great summer programs can be found at [www.camptavor.org](http://www.camptavor.org)

Habonim Dror Camp Tavor 59884 Arthur L. Jones Rd., Three Rivers, MI 49093

## Congregational and Community News

### Chabad House



#### Gan Yiladim Preschool-Kindergarten Registration is now open for Fall of 2012

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.

### Hadassah Book Club

Our Book Club met on May 9 at Sue Remes' home. Our "Snow Birds" are flying back to Grand Rapids! We had a full gathering! Our next meeting will be...

July 11, 2012

Cynthia Doniger's home (new member)

6570 Glaston Ct. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

616-241-8475

Please, Please RSVP...Thank you!



**BOOK TO READ:**  
*Where Ever You Go*  
Written by Joan Leegant

#### HAVE A GREAT SUMMER READING AND PLAYING!

As always, your faithful bookends,

Sue Remes 616-949-3505

Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766

### Congregation Ahavas Israel

#### Family Pre-Shabbat Happy Hour/Kabbalat Shabbat

The religious Life committee is hosting Pre-Shabbat Happy Hours (Music, drinks, hors d'oeuvres; snacks and drinks for the kids) on the last Shabbat of each month, July 20 and August 17 at 7:00 PM, followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:45 PM.

#### Minha/Shabbat game night

Please join us on July 14 and August 11 at 7:00 PM for Minha followed by game night and snacks. The evening will conclude with Havdalah. Note that games need to be Shabbat appropriate - please no games that require writing or drawing, and no electronic games. Have a question about whether a game is appropriate - ask Rabbi Krishef

#### JFGR Emergency Loan Program

Jews in our community may be eligible to receive an emergency loan if the circumstances for a request are appropriate. Often loans are requested to pay utility bills, rent, or an unexpected expense.

To apply, a confidential interview is conducted and this information is presented to a committee which determines eligibility. This loan is interest free, and the repayment schedule is very flexible. Please contact Ann for a confidential consultation: 616-942-5553, ext. 206



#### ATTENTION.....

If you are not receiving occasional email notices from JFGR, it may be because we do not have your current email address. If you would like to receive information between newsletters, please send an email to [info@jfgr.org](mailto:info@jfgr.org) and we will add you to our contact list.

### Business Forum

The Jewish Community Business Forum is a good networking opportunity to discuss business principles and to stay aware of resources available within our community.



**Thursday, July 19  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

**El Barrio**

545 Michigan NE

Everyone Welcome

### YAD Summer Play Group

Bring your children and have some casual fun. Join us on selected Friday mornings at 10:00 AM during the summer at Manhattan Park, off Cascade Road, near the East Beltline. We meet by the pavilion, off Manhattan Road:

July 20

August 3 & 17

Please contact the Federation office for details, or if you have questions, 616-942-5553 or [Cathy@jfgr.org](mailto:Cathy@jfgr.org)

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 to the following for supporting the endowment funds through tribute gifts:

### The JFGR General Endowment Fund

To the Padnos Family in memory of Stuart Padnos

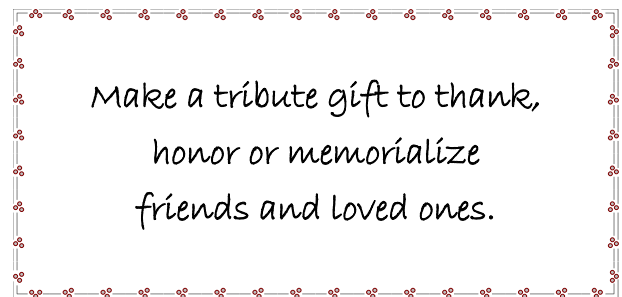
From Carol and Mike Present

To the Kaufman Family in memory of Greg's uncle, Jesse Cohen

From Carol and Mike Present

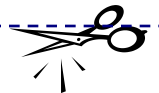
To Rosalie and Bob Stein in honor of the wedding of their son Jeffrey to Kiera

From Carol and Mike Present



לדור ודור  
L'Dor Vador  
From Generation to Generation

## 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](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:**

**July 16, 2012**



# One Community



## Annual Community Picnic

is

**Sunday July 1, 2012**

(see page 4 for details)