



# Jewish Federation® OF GRAND RAPIDS

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



Dear Friends,

I'd like to share a story with you this month, based on a social service case management client who, for privacy reasons, I will refer to as Aleph.

Aleph contacted our Federation office a little over six months ago at the suggestion of another member of our community. A non-life threatening health issue had caused Aleph to stop working. Living alone without family support, Aleph needed some help.

Ann Berman, JFGR's Director of Social Services Resources, met with Aleph to see how best we might be of assistance. Having fallen behind in her rent and utilities payments, the first step was to help Aleph catch up with her bills from Federation's case management budget. Of note, the funding for these and similar social services, including Ann's salary, is provided by you, our community, through our annual campaign as well as various Federation endowment funds designated for this purpose.

In addition, Ann assisted Aleph with sorting out and organizing her mounting pile of medical invoices. Ann helped her place calls to various billing offices to figure out how to get them paid, since being unemployed, Aleph's insurance had run out. Ann also helped her to apply for funding through the hospitals which offer assistance to people with limited personal finances.

Furthermore, Ann assisted Aleph in applying for Medicaid and other benefits from the U.S. Department of Human Services (DHS) and for Social Security Disability. (DHS requires one to apply online before getting an appointment, including uploading all pertinent documents. Only then is a caseworker assigned). As Aleph does not own a computer and cannot do these tasks on her own, Ann stepped in here as well so that Aleph would not have to ask a complete stranger at a public library to help her with such sensitive information. Such help with DHS is becoming more common for Ann to provide due to these computer requirements. A single application can take 2 to 4 hours of Ann's time.

*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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The Shofar

TAMMUZ / AV 5773 - JULY 2013 - WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

**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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Rabbi Michael Schadick  
Mitchell Kahn, President

Chabad House  
Of Western Michigan  
Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

*Continued from Page 1:*

Let me pause in the story for a moment. As I hope you can see, our community is very fortunate to have Ann in our community providing these services. Many of you would recognize her efforts as something that might be handled within the family for those of us fortunate to have close family and sufficient financial resources. Not all of our local Jewish community is so fortunate, so you – our community – steps in to provide the resources which enable Ann to provide the caring she does so effectively, as demonstrated in this and many other cases.

Ann has also helped to arrange rides for Aleph’s medical appointments, sometimes escorting her in order to be a “second set of ears” in a doctor’s office. Most recently, Aleph has required some additional surgery. Ann helped to arrange for some hours of home health care, paid as well by Federation’s case management budget, to help Aleph recover from these surgeries. Ann continues to help Aleph with paperwork relating to her illness and financial situation.

As mentioned at the outset, this story is based on a true case management client. I should emphasize that, due to understandable concerns for the client’s privacy, we did not use her name nor more detail than covered in this article. Aleph also gave permission to tell her story.

The story of Aleph touches on many of the social services that our community offers through Federation. While it is a story we do not tell often, I am very proud of Ann and you, who support her with your generosity, to offer vital services to our community members in need. Therefore, on behalf of Ann, the Federation staff and board, let me simply conclude by saying – Thank you.

Best regards,

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



## Volunteers Needed for the Senior Technology Café on

Thursday, July 11, 10:00—3:30 PM

To help Seniors tame their technology fears with hands-on instruction. Are you comfortable using Ipads, tablets, Kindles, smart phones or laptops? If so, we could use an hour or two of your time.

Lunch will be provided.

Contact Ann by July 9th for more information: [Ann@jfgr](mailto:Ann@jfgr) or 616-942-5553.

\*\*\*This opportunity qualifies as community service hours for high school students\*\*\*

# 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?

\* If you know about somebody new to the Grand Rapids community, please let us know. "Shalom Grand Rapids" would like to welcome them.

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

616-942-5553 or [Sari@jfgr.org](mailto:Sari@jfgr.org)

# WELCOME

The Jewish Federation invites you to

## PLAY GROUP & SCHMOOZE



Thursday, July 25

10 AM – 12 NOON

Congregation Ahavas Israel

2727 Michigan NE

Enjoy Starbucks coffee and bagels, catch up with friends, and meet new parents while your children play (outdoors or indoors).

**Baby sitter provided!**

**No cost to participate –RSVP to**

[Cathy@jfgr.org](mailto:Cathy@jfgr.org) or 616-942-5553

## Seniors



July's Lunch Bunch:

## Senior's Technology Café @ Ahavas Israel

Thursday, July 11 from 10 AM—3:30 PM

**FREE PROGRAM!**

**Tame your technology fears with hands-on instruction!**

**Learn to use your electronic device ... or ours! Come in to learn and/or also join us for lunch (11:30-1 PM). RSVP for Lunch REQUIRED to Ann 616-942-5553**

**August Lunch Bunch will be Thursday August 8 at Osta's in EGR.**

**September Lunch Bunch will be Thursday September 12 place TBD**



## Governor Snyder in Israel for Trade Mission

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder was in Israel during the week of June 17 on an investment mission that included meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Naftali Bennett, Economy and Commerce Minister of Israel; Nir Barkat, Mayor of Jerusalem, and other officials and business executives. Minister Bennett and Gov. Snyder signed a letter of intent between the state of Michigan and the state of Israel to establish bilateral cooperation in industrial research and development that will create the framework for future cooperation between companies from Michigan and Israel. Snyder also met with high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss mutual

areas of interest between the United States and Israel.

Consul General of Israel Roey Gilad has been accompanying Gov. Snyder on his trip. Gov. Snyder visited an early childhood program in Netanya and attended the celebration of Israel's President Shimon Peres' 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The trip was organized in part by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and by the Michigan Israel Business Bridge (MIBB), a nonprofit organization based in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, that promotes business ties between Michigan and Israel. [Ed. Note: JFGR is a member of MIBB]

The Governor's scheduled nine-day trip was cut short because of pending legislation in his state. Gov. Snyder returned to Michigan on Thursday, June 20.

Source: Midwest Consul General Office of Israel, Chicago

### Internship Opportunity

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is looking for an intern (30-50 hours of mostly flex time in July-August) to work on a **communications and social media research project**. The intern chosen for this project will be -

- **Proficient in marketing communications and social media**
- **Creative and entrepreneurial**
- **Organized and self-directed**
- **Available to meet in person with professionals, volunteers, and community members**

If you are interested in applying for this internship, or know someone who may be a good fit, please contact Mike at either [mike@ifgr.org](mailto:mike@ifgr.org) or 616-942-5553.

### Jewish Women's Professional Network

We meet monthly to network. All women are invited. For more information, please email [marnivyn@yahoo.com](mailto:marnivyn@yahoo.com) or phone 616-774-8644.



July 3 @ 12:00 PM

Olives

2162 Wealthy St. EGR

### Jewish Community Business Forum

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



July 18, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

El Barrio

545 Michigan Street NE

### Hadassah Book Club

Wednesday, July 17 - 7:15 PM

*INCIDENT AT MONTEBELLO* By *Patty Moed*

Host: Karen Haight's Home @ 130 Maryland NE

616-454-9910, Please call Karen to RSVP!

This will be a special night where the author will review the book.

The book will be available for sale the same night (the book will NOT be available at Schulers)

Sue Remes 616-949-3505 and Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Lunch (kosher hot dogs, veggie dogs, chips, soda and other tasty picnic nosh)
- \$5 per person
- \$15 max per family
- Games for all ages
- **CAMP TAVOR** counselors will provide an afternoon of fun, filled with games, Israeli dancing, art & crafts and music for children and adults.
- Or just enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the shade with members of the Jewish Community

Date: Sunday  
July 14, 2013

# Community Picnic

Time: 12:00 to 2:00 PM

Location : Manhattan Park Pavilion, 430 Manhattan SE  
Turn onto Manhattan Rd off of Cascade Road.

### NEW!!! Arts & Crafts Bazaar

If you have or make something special and would like to sell it at the picnic, please call the office (616-942-5553) to sign up.

For additional information and RSVP call 616-942-5553 or email: [info@jfg.org](mailto:info@jfg.org)

## Congregation Ahavas Israel

Join us at Congregation Ahavas Israel on Wednesday, July 24, 7:00 PM for a FREE program, "A Musical Salute to Molly Picon, Star of the Yiddish Theatre!"

**Dr. Diane Cypkin** tells the life story of this exciting First Lady of the Yiddish Stage through the countless songs she sang - and often wrote - during her many, many years on the Yiddish stage. Indeed, the concert is a cornucopia, a beautiful bouquet, of tangos, waltzes, and fox-trots, that will have you humming for days. In sum, the concert is a tribute to a legend! Dr. Cypkin is presently Professor of Media, Communication, and Visual Arts at Pace University in New York. She has appeared in many Yiddish language musical productions spanning more than two decades.

## Chabad House

### Gan Yiladim Preschool-Kindergarten

#### Ages 2-6

#### Registration is now open for the Fall of 2013

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 more information about our program please feel free to contact us at 616-957-0770 .

## Temple Emanuel

**Summer Shabbatluck Supper:** Join us for a Summer Supper-sign up to bring a non-dairy and nut-free salad, dessert or other side dish. We will provide the barbecued chicken, grilled Portobello mushrooms, challah, and lemonade. Feel free to bring wine or beer for yourself or to share with your table. Adults \$5 and Kids \$3. RSVP to the Temple office by July 15 at 616-459-5976 or to [Cathrin@templeemanuelgr.org](mailto:Cathrin@templeemanuelgr.org).

**Temple Day at Millenium Park:** Pack your picnic & lawn games on Sunday, July 21 and come to Grand Rapids' Millenium Park Beach for a day of fun as we play in the squirt park, lounge on the beach, go fishing, play lawn games, and celebrate summer, beginning at 10:00 AM. Look for the blue and silver balloons.

**Social Hour Jazz:** Our social hour begins at 5:30 every week with wine, cheese and conversation prior to the start of Shabbat services. On July 19 Justion Dore on Electric guitar and Todd Wilkie on keyboard will entertain us with jazz standards in the Temple Emanuel Auditorium. Free of charge, no RSVP necessary.

**GR Modern: Home Architecture 1945-1970:** Thursday, July 25, 7:00 PM there will be a lecture as part of the **GR Reads 2013** series of events for the Grand Rapids Public Library. Architects and developers solved the post-WWII Grand Rapids housing shortage with a new vision, using innovative materials and building techniques. They reshaped and expanded the city, developing new neighborhoods and creating stunning modern designs. Join Pamela VanderPloeg, architectural researcher at West Michigan Modern, for a photographic journey into the heart of Grand Rapids' mid-century modern architecture, 1945-1970. This program will be presented at Temple Emmanuel, designed by internationally renowned modern architect Eric Mendelsohn and built in 1953. This event is free and open to the public.



Taste of Tavor

### Grand Rapids Community Session

August 1-5, 2013

Grades 2-5

\$595

Please call for more information about any of our camp sessions



Brittany Abramowicz  
Outreach Manager  
(224)-619-5969  
[registrar@camptavor.org](mailto:registrar@camptavor.org)  
[www.camptavor.org](http://www.camptavor.org)

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.



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!

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.

# 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.

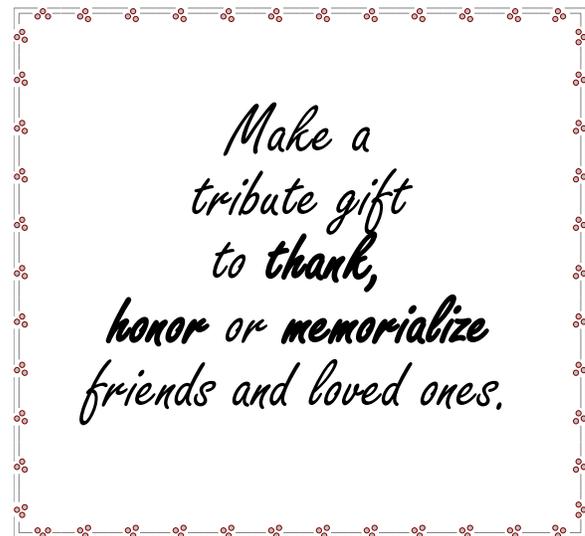
**Leven Family Fund**. To establish and provide Jewish facilities, and support for cooperative programming among the congregations that support Jewish education for our youth.

**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 Women of Valor Endowment Fund

In honor of Cynthia Doniger  
From Margit Sarne



### 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 15, 2013**



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

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



Annual Community  
Picnic  
See page 5 for details