

Beit Sefer B'yahad, the Chabad House  
and the Jewish Federation

*Invites the entire Jewish community*

# CHANUKAH ON ICE

Sunday, December 13th

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Patterson Ice Arena

2550 Patterson SE

*Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah come light the menorah.  
Let's have a party and we will all dance the hora!*

*Enjoy skating, arts & crafts and lunch.*



Cost: \$3.00 skate

\$2.00 lunch

\$20.00 max. /family

**Beit Sefer B'yahad students – FREE**

Transportation provided for students  
from Sunday school.

There is no age limit for this fun filled  
community Chanukah party!

*Don't miss the Sufganiyot!*



RSVP by Dec. 10  
to the Jewish Federation -  
942-5553

This program is made possible by  
The Rosenzweig-Coopersmith  
Foundation

# FROM GUEST COLUMNIST MAXINE SHAPIRO . . .



In October, I attended the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) Board of Governors meeting in Israel.

As always, a trip to Israel is exciting even if it only for a few days. The streets, hotels, and restaurants were the busiest I have seen in a long time!

I want to share with you some updates on the work of JAFI.

The Youth Futures program was started in 2005 as a pilot program in six municipalities in order to provide opportunities and advancement for Israeli youth at risk. Today, the program encompasses communities with emphasis on the Negev and the Galilee and reaches over 6,500 children teenagers, and families. The program has partners in the communities who are mentoring, tutoring and also helping to fund this program.

Last month, 38 young doctors from the former Soviet Union (FSU) made Aliyah. They will participate on a year-long fast track program, with an intense Hebrew Ulpan and will attend a preparation course for licensing exams so they can practice medicine in Israel. In recent years, the Ministry of Absorption, together with the Jewish Agency, have developed special programs for absorbing doctors from various countries, particularly from the FSU and Latin America. The goal of these programs is to assist Olim doctors in passing Government exams successfully and integrating into Israeli society and its health-care system. It is hoped that these new doctors will help answer the severe shortage of doctors in Israel.

After the collapse of the Argentinean economy and the upswing of anti-Semitism in 2001 and the resulting disintegration of the Jewish education system in Argentina, Jewish Federations in the rest of the world came to the aid of the Jews in Argentina. Millions of dollars were raised in special campaigns to allow JAFI to establish programs to address these needs. JAFI has, in the last few years, with the improvement of the economy in Argentina, sought to engage the local community in a partnership to insure the stability of Jewish educational system in Argentina. In August 2009, JAFI reached an agreement with the central organization for the Jewish community of Argentina to take over the responsibility of educational programs. JAFI had funded over \$1 million a year for these programs since 2001. JAFI will now only allocate \$250,000 per year for the next 3 years. This is a true case of a community being able to take back the responsibility of their own funding.

The assembled delegates had a briefing on the implications of Goldstone Report, which accuses Israel of war

crimes in Gaza. One of the major points was the funding behind Human Rights Watch and why this group continues to focus on Israel. Of the NGOs which helped to underwrite the report, 48 are financed by Arab resources. Humans Rights Watch has a budget of \$40 M, Amnesty International's budget is \$230 M, and Oxfam (which is overtly anti-Israel) has a budget of \$528 M. Saudi Arabia has been a major funder of these organizations.

JAFI's committee on the Unity of the Jewish People issued a resolution which supports the Government of Israel's efforts to establish a more positive and welcoming approach to the conversion process. The resolution also expressed concern that any legislation that would restrict conversion would do serious damage to unity of the Jewish people, aliyah and to the commitment of Diaspora Jews to Israel.

The budget of JAFI, due to the world wide economic downturn, has been reduced this year by over \$16 M. What does this mean in real terms...among others...2000 less campers attending camps in the FSU; 8,000 less young people going on Birthright Israel trips; reduction in programs for youth at risk; reduced funds to the Lone Soldier programs; reduced funds for Ethiopian absorption...cuts in all departments.

*Maxine Shapiro  
sccashapir@aol.com*

### OUR MISSION

*Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids supports cultural, social and financial needs of Jews locally, in the State of Israel, and around the world.*

*This mission is accomplished by providing services to the community and through fundraising and allocation efforts.*

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# CAMPAIGN NEWS . . .

As I reflect upon my time here in Grand Rapids and our place in the world, I feel extremely fortunate. Fortunate for the opportunities that I continue to have. And fortunate to be introduced to others with completely different perspectives on life. The recent campaign event shared a story of a unique individual's hope and ongoing trials.



The story was about an individual who studied Torah and dreamed of one day being in the Land of Israel. Suddenly, when the opportunity arose to go to the Promised Land, her life changed completely. Upon her arrival, the reality of life set in and questions began to arise. What makes someone a Jew? Is it where they are born, where they live now? Is it the study of Torah occasionally throughout the year? Is it how you treat other Jews?

These are similar questions that I have asked myself. Being raised in Grand Rapids and Bar Mitzvah'd in this community certainly helped to set a foundation for my belief. But as my life experiences continued to open my eyes to the world, I longed for a connection back to our community. There are a few times per year when I truly feel connected to our community here as well as to Jews across the world. Campaign is one of them. This is my chance to give. This is my chance to perform a Mitzvah. This is my chance to truly have an impact in the lives of other Jews.

As you reflect upon what makes you a Jew, please remember the same things that I have. Being Jewish is about helping others. There are many ways to support our community. The items noted here may give you an idea

that you may not have previously thought of, but regardless of how you support, please participate in the campaign. Your support will impact lives both here and abroad. This will allow you to be connected to our community as a whole.

**Cash contribution** – This allows our programs to operate and continue to help us build a better community. This amount is usually tax deductible and has the most immediate impact.

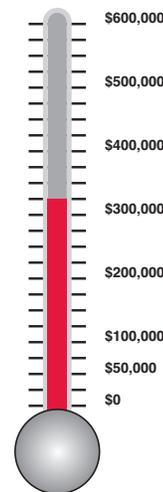
**Appreciated stock** – If you donate stock, it may be to your advantage to give the shares that have appreciated the most in value and would carry the highest tax if you sold them. The non-profit status of the Federation allows them to avoid the taxes.

**IRA distribution** – If you are older than age 70½, your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) was not required in 2009, but will return in 2010. You can contribute an IRA distribution of up to \$100,000 to the Federation and exclude the amount from income.

**Endowment** – Consider leaving a legacy in the community by including the Federation in your Estate Plan. Generations for years to come will know of your commitment to our community.

**Donor Advised Funds** – This option can potentially provide immediate tax deductions while spreading a charitable gift to multiple organizations within our community over multiple years. These can typically be done without changing existing wills or trust documents.

*Chad Zagel, Associate Campaign Chair*



## ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2009

**Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**  
 4127 Embassy Dr SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
 (616) 942-5553 email: info@jfgr.org  
 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

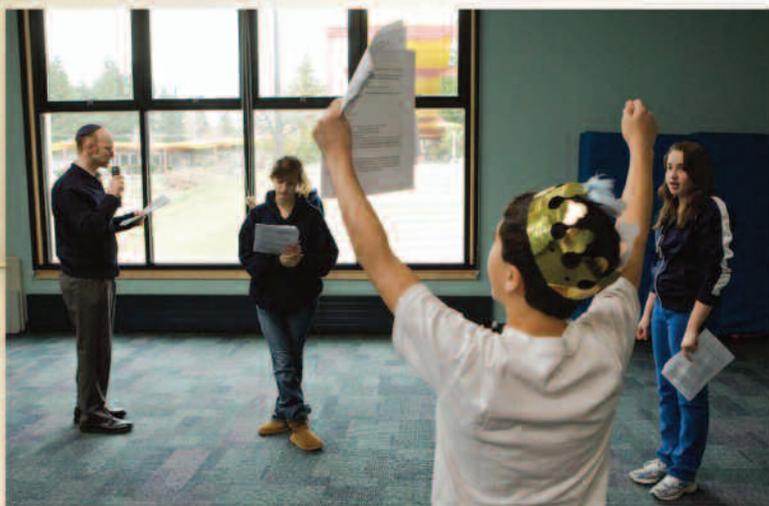
Please charge my:  Mastercard  Visa

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

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

## CELEBRATE.

**WE SEE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR JEWISH LIFE  
HERE AT HOME, IN ISRAEL, AND AROUND  
THE WORLD.**



Even during these difficult economic times, when the highest priority is helping people in need and in crisis, Jewish Federation continues to ensure that the programs and institutions that strengthen, enrich and celebrate Jewish life remain strong.

**Please help. To donate, or for more information,  
go to [www.jfgr.org](http://www.jfgr.org) or call 616-942-5553.**

## *Pictured at our 2009 Campaign Event*

*(Left - Right)*

*Andrew Samrick, Sheryl Siegel,  
Guest Speaker Shlomit Daniel and Dan Hurwitz*



## *Maimonides Program on November 8, 2009*

*(L-R)*

*Guest speaker, Dr. Herbert Hochhauser,  
Heather and Dr. David Alfonso,  
program chair and hosts.*

## **Shir Shalom Chanukah Concert**

**A Chanukah concert  
in Grand Rapids?  
You bet!**



Shir Shalom will present its  
Chanukah concert at  
Schuler's Books and Music  
on 28th Street, SE.

Please mark your calendar,  
join us on Tuesday evening,  
**December 15, at 7:00 PM,**  
and enjoy Hanukah music--  
contemporary and traditional--  
to brighten the holiday.

## **United Way**

**Many of us make a  
workplace donation to the  
United Way.....**

**Are you aware that you can  
designate your United Way gift  
to the Jewish Federation  
of Grand Rapids?**

**Your gifts should be considered  
plus dollars and not in lieu of your  
annual campaign gift.**

**In the end, we all benefit by  
having our Federation better  
positioned to continue to provide  
quality programs and services.**

# SENIOR PROGRAMMING . . .



## JFGR Chanukah Luncheon

Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

at 12 p.m.

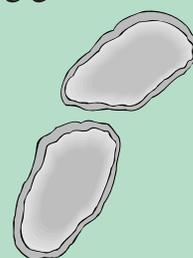
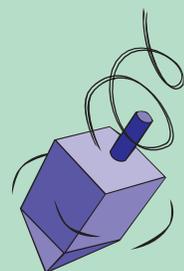
*Temple Emanuel*

*Featuring fish or vegetarian entrée choice  
and entertainment provided by  
Gan Yiladim preschool class!*

RSVP with your entrée choice to Liz at 942-5553, ext. 206

Cost: \$8.00

*Transportation is available*



## LUNCH BUNCH!

Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

11:30 a.m.

# FIRST WOK

2301 44th St. S.E.

Cost: \$8.00

Please RSVP to Liz at 942-5553 ext. 206

Transportation is available!

## Mitzvah Specialists!

*Here is your schedule through March 2010!*

**Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.**

December 22

January 19

February 16

March 16

*Call Liz at 942-5553 ext. 206 with any  
questions or to request transportation*

*Join your friends for Cirque Dreams  
Through Broadway Grand Rapids!*

This amazing spectacle  
features over 20 aerialists,  
acrobats, and dancers.

*The story takes place to  
the sounds of jazz,  
ballroom, and pop in the  
city of Illumination...*

*The New York Daily News  
called it, "Dazzling!"*



**Sunday, January 31st**

**De Vos Performance Hall**

**Cost: \$25**

\*Taxis will depart from Temple Emanuel at  
2:15pm. The performance is at 3pm.

\*ALL seats are wheelchair accessible.

\*Only 15 tickets are available.

Please RSVP to Liz at 942-5553 ext. 206.

*Transportation to and from  
Temple Emanuel is available.*

## Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

### TOVA MORDECHAI

spoke on Sunday,  
November 15th



*Pictured Left to Right*

*Rabbi Yosef Weingarten, Sarah Weingarten,  
Guest Speaker Tova Mordechai,  
Mort Zukerman, Talia Atias and Mario Atias.*

Over 75 were in attendance to hear Tova talk about her painful ordeal and transition from Christian asceticism to Jewish observance.

~ Save The Date ~

## LAUREL KADOURI Oriental Dance Show

Saturday,  
January 23,  
2010

7:30 p.m.

Temple Emanuel  
1715 East Fulton



Laurel Kadouri's Oriental Dance Show is gorgeous, exciting, creative and inspiring; featuring beautiful costumes, authentic movements, and a sense of spirituality and tradition.

Laurel's performance will be accompanied by a drummer.

***Be ready to enjoy a wonderful  
show and learn belly dancing  
moves all in one night!***

*Dessert reception to follow.*

### Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Spectrum Series 2009 – 2010 Membership Form

Please send me season tickets for **Spectrum 2009 – 2010**

I/We would like to be an Underwriter – \$500 and up

I/We would like to be a Patron – \$250 – \$499

I/We would like to be a Sponsor – \$125 – \$249

I/We would like a Family membership – \$75

I would like a Single membership – \$50

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  
Spectrum 2009 – 2010**

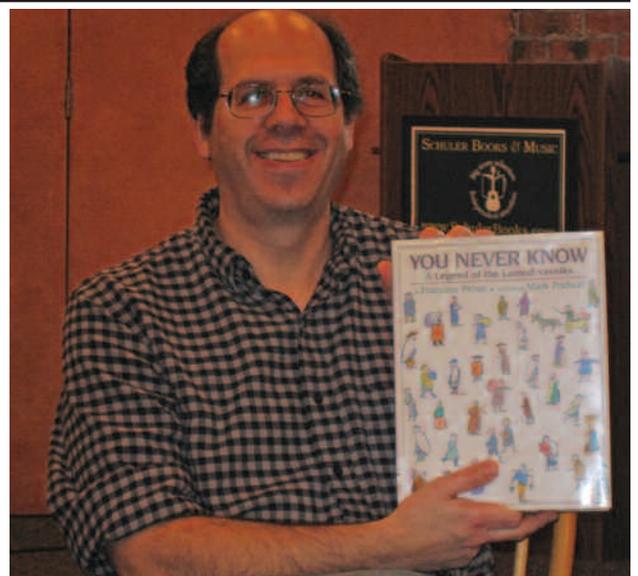
4127 Embassy Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

## Jewish Book Month Events a great success!

### BOOK FAIR



### Story Readers at Schuler Books





## Beit Sefer B'yahad/ United Jewish School

pam@templemanuelgr.org 459-5976 x3

# Chanukah on Ice



**Sunday, December 13 12:30 to 2:30**  
**Patterson Ice Arena 2550 Patterson SE**

All religious school students will be bussed to Patterson Ice Arena (leaving school at 12 noon) for a wonderful Chanukah celebration **free of charge**. They will have lunch, activities, skate rental and ice time.

UJS students – Free of charge

All others - \$2.00 lunch/\$3.00 – skate rental (pay at door)

UJS will also host a “Mitzvah Mall” operated by 7th – 10th grades

All are welcome to participate. This is a community event.

All UJS students are expected to participate!



**Bring gloves and wear socks for skating.**

Call 459-5976 x3 for more details.

This program is made possible by the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation!!

December we will be collecting newly purchased or gently used gloves, mittens, etc. that will be distributed to “In the Image” and “Women’s Domestic Crisis Center”. Look for the collection bin in the school hallway at Temple Emanuel and Ahavas Israel.

### **UJS upcoming calendar:**

- November 22** – UJS Open House 10:00-12:30pm
- November 25** – No midweek – Thanksgiving
- November 29** – No Sunday School – Thanksgiving
- December 5/6** – 11th/12th grade trip to Chicago
- December 13** – Chanukah Celebration/Patterson Ice Arena

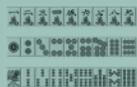
### **UJS Contributions:**

**In Honor** Susan Schadick, speedy recovery by Elaine and Bob Lipshutz  
Ilse Jacoby, speedy recovery by Elaine and Bob Lipshutz  
Marc and Marisa Singer wedding by Ben and Eleanor Kleiman  
Jerry Subar 80th birthday by Roger and Marcia Beutner

**UJS Board  
Meeting  
December 23  
Temple Emanuel  
7:00pm**

# YOUNG ADULT DIVISION . . .

*YAD invites you to play -  
or learn to play!*



## **Mah Jong**

**Tuesday, December 8 • 7:00 pm**

The home of Michele Young  
4683 Oakwright Dr. NE, Ada



*Beginners welcome!* 東南西北

*No experience necessary.*

RSVP by Monday, December 7 to  
youngml@comcast.net or 828-4806

*~ Hold the Date! ~*

**Saturday Night, January 23, 2010 – 7:00pm**

*Wine and Cheese reception at Temple Emanuel*

With Laurel Kadouri, Oriental Bellydancer,  
Prior to her Cultural Council performance.

## **YAD Poker Night**

**Tuesday, December 22, 2009 • 7:00pm**

*Home of Chad Zagel*

1705 Hiawatha Drive, SE, G.R.

RSVP to the Federation office – 942-5553



***SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!***

**Tuesday, December 29, 2009**

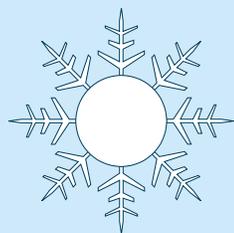
**WINTER BREAK FUN DAY AT**

**Chuck E Cheese**

**Lunch at 11:30**

\$5.00 per person (over the age of 2)

max \$20.00 per family



***Price includes: Lunch, Drink, Dessert and Tokens.***

RSVP by December 28th to Cathy@jfgr.org

**Making the Most of your Campaign 2009 Dollars**

### **Young Leadership Challenge Grant**

If you are under 40 years of age, any new gift or increase to last year's gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000, thanks to the generosity of the Hurwitz and Thodey families through the Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation.

### **The Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation Challenge Grant**

Any new gift and any increase up to \$2,500 to last year's gift will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$27,500.

Please help us meet our goals and raise this additional \$37,500 in challenge grants.

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS . . .

## Congregation Ahavas Israel

All events and services are open to all who are interested.

### Sanctuary Shabbat Speaker - December 5 - David Mayo, Grand Rapids Press Sportswriter

"From the Other Side of Addiction: Forgiveness, Repentance, and Personal Redemption."

**Se'udah Shelisheet** - Please join us late each Shabbat afternoon in December at 4:45 p.m. for the Shabbat afternoon service (mincha), a light supper, the evening service (ma'ariv), and havdalah.

### Tot Shabbat Service - December 19, 10:45 a.m.

designed for children ages 2 - 5 (approximately) and their parents.

### Hanukkah Dinner, Wednesday, December 16, 6:00 p.m.

Call the office for reservations and more information.

## Chabad Kids Club

**Tuesday, December 15**

An afternoon full of fun, for Jewish children ages 6-9 years old.



### Chocolate Menorahs

Spread the light of Chanukah! Make yummy chocolate Menorahs for yourself and for local Jewish seniors.

4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

At the Chabad House 2615 Michigan St

Cost \$7 (includes a light dinner)

For more info or to R.S.V.P. please call Chayale at 616-706-8019

Back by Popular Demand

# Camp Gan Israel

## WINTER CAMP



Wednesday, December 23rd & Thursday, December 24th  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
\$30 per day or \$50 for both days.  
Chabad House 2615 Michigan St.



For more information please call Chaya'le 616-706-8019

Two days packed with Gan Izzy Spirit and fun winter activities.

Children Ages 4-11

Hot Delicious Lunches

Arts & Crafts

## **Position Available ...**

The Jewish Federation is seeking a Director of Social Services. This position is part-time (20 hours per week), and based out of the Federation office. Some driving in the course of work is required. An MSW or related degree is preferred.

### **Responsibilities Include:**

- **Coordination of all Senior Programming**
- **Provision of social services to clients and families, including case management and professional collaboration with other organizations.**
- **Administration of annual programs, such as the Chanukah Adopt-a-Family, Samrick Camp Scholarship, and Indigent Burial Programs.**

*Please submit a cover letter and resume to the attention of*

**Jeff Slotnick, Executive Director  
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids  
4127 Embassy Drive, SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
jeff@jfgr.org**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Some senior citizens in our community no longer drive their cars. They struggle to get their groceries and run necessary errands.

This difficulty is a profound source of stress for some of these individuals.

If you might be willing to take a senior shopping once a month or more, please let me know!

Chances are that you already know the person who needs your help!

I am committed to ensuring the experience is fulfilling for both parties!

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

## **JFGR's Annual Chanukah Adopt-a-Family Program**

Please begin to consider whether you can volunteer to sponsor a family/individual or make a monetary donation towards this important cause.

In addition, JFGR would like to identify members of our community who could benefit from this extra support.

This program will begin in early October, and gifts will be delivered by Friday, December 11th – the day before Chanukah begins.

**For more information or to sign up, please contact Liz at 942-5553 ext. 206 or [liz@jfgr.org](mailto:liz@jfgr.org).**

*Donors and recipients are matched anonymously.*

*Confidentiality is strictly upheld.*

## **On the second Tuesday of every month, families depend on food donations from the Food Bank at Temple Emanuel.**

Drop off food donations between 10am - 2pm Monday through Friday at Temple Emanuel

**or mail checks payable to Temple Emanuel and specify the donation is for the Food Bank.**

Temple's Address:  
1715 E. Fulton,  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

## Office Relocation Update

*The offices of the Jewish Federation are relocating into Congregation Ahavas Israel*

Around the middle of  
January 2010.

**New Address:**  
Jewish Federation  
of Grand Rapids  
2727 Michigan, NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
616-942-5553

## HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

### December 9



at the home of Sue Remes  
3404 Burton Ridge Road, S.E.  
Phone: 616-949-3305

Book to read:

*“The Madonnas of Leningrad”*  
by Debra Dean

Available at Schuler’s Books on 28th St.  
Facilitator: Sylvia Krissoff

### Next Meeting: February 10

at Flory Silverstein’s home

Book to read:

*“Ten Green Bottles”*  
by Vivian Jeanette Kaplan



*We are your loyal “Book Ends”*

Sue Remes – 949-3505  
Flory Silverstein – 949-5766

## A Patient Advocate Designation...

allows you to select a Patient Advocate who can have access to your medical records and represent your wishes for medical care in case you are too sick to do so.

\*Please note that spouses do not automatically become one another’s Patient Advocate.

To receive a FREE Patient Advocate Designation, please contact Liz Scheibe, Director of Social Services, at 942-5553.

## In the unthinkable event of your hospitalization or death... Would a loved one be able to locate the following?

- Insurance documents, including health insurance policies
- Social security number
- Wishes regarding extraordinary medical measures
- Important documents, including birth certificate, power of attorney, physician’s directive, vehicle title
- Names and phone numbers of relatives and friends
- Will/Living Trust
- Estate executor, attorney, accountant or financial planner
- Outstanding loans or debt owed
- Income sources
- Bank/investment accounts, valuable asset information
- Safety deposit box location and key
- Wishes regarding funeral arrangements

**If you need assistance preparing for any of the above, please contact Liz for community referrals.**

\*This list was developed in collaboration with Chad Zagel of Edward Jones.

## The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee



From Steve Schwager, Chief Executive Officer  
November 17, 2009  
Dear Board Member,

Russell Wolkind, a Senior International Relations Associate in our JDC-Israel office, just returned from seeing our work in Lithuania and participating in Limmud Poland. He shared the following reflections:

I opened my eyes and looked around. Then I opened them wider and looked again.

Last week I stood with hundreds of Jewish brothers and sisters—in Warsaw—singing “Am Yisrael Chai.” This was not a group of Israelis or Diaspora Jews who had come to Poland to learn about and witness the unimaginable atrocities our people faced in this country. I was standing with approximately 500 Polish Jews with whom I had shared an entire Shabbat of learning at a Limmud Conference. We had just recited the Havdalah prayer and were about to break into Jewish and Israeli dancing. The words Am Yisrael Chai are as relevant—and even more poignant—when sung by Polish Jewry itself.

Limmud was filled with a diversity of age, Jewish expression, and interest. With the extensive choice of sessions, you could see people struggling to decide where they wanted to go (it was easier for me since there was only one session in English each time!) The hallways and the rooms were filled with men and women learning how to express their Judaism and taking time to explore what being a Jew means to them. After the Shoah and decades of Communist rule, there now exists an atmosphere of freedom, enjoyment of religion, and a community beginning to form, breaking through the cracks of its past. This was a miracle happening right before my eyes.

Remembering the past is important—a responsibility—but not more so than supporting the future. And without a doubt there is a future. I saw so many young people: babies, children, and youth. They will not grow up in the shadow of the past where “Jewishness” was to be hidden. Rather they will be raised as proud members of their Jewish community who never knew how to be anything but proud, and who thrive in this new dynamic.

In Vilnius, Lithuania I was also inspired, but in a very different way. I was deeply touched by a community which has successfully organized itself to be the central agent of change in determining their own future.

I was amazed at the level of commitment and activism shown by so many of the community’s older citizens—“young at heart” men and women committed to renewal and the rebuilding of a community. They were proud of their role as volunteers and gave of themselves willingly and eagerly.

Even more amazing was the professional head of the community—a young man less than 30 years old. He, along with so many other young professionals I met, embodies the future we are all working toward. And I saw their future—in the school, the kindergarten, the counselors, and the JCC.

And yet, despite all the impressive work I saw in our renewal programming, I left Lithuania with a feeling of concern about the future. That concern must be a motivation for us to work even harder to support this community. Because I also met elderly JDC welfare clients and others in need—the families and the children who rely on us for their most basic needs: food, warmth, medicine, and someone to care. I understood that there were so many others we have yet to reach and so many needs

yet to be fulfilled.

I heard firsthand about the rising levels of a State-supported “dilution” of the Shoah and its relevance in their country. I met the heroic Partisan from the Vilna Ghetto who was almost tried as a war criminal. I saw the economic collapse all around me in the streets and the shops.

The challenges are enormous and we must help the community care for those in need and preserve, even advance, the major strides we have supported in building their future. JDC’s longstanding role as the community’s partner, guide, consultant, and friend is now more critical than ever.

I share one final thought that occurred to me at the beginning of the Poland trip and seemed as relevant when I left Lithuania. Across the Jewish world there must be hundreds of millions of dollars invested in Jewish programming to keep our next generation within the community. These are important programs which play a critical role in building Jewish identity and preventing assimilation. Many represent a last effort to keep people connected and it is their success which prevents so many more walking out the exit door from our People.

In Poland and Lithuania, there was something excitingly fresh about JDC’s programs with the community. The lens of my perception was turned 180 degrees in my understanding the programs’ rationale and agenda. These programs are not part of an exit; they are positioned at the front door as a welcome into the community. They are about creating the first strands of a connection and an active participation in the story of our People. And these strands are today being woven together before our eyes. It is an honor and privilege to work in this way.

Before I arrived in Poland and Lithuania I knew I would be impressed by what I saw; I always am when I visit JDC in action in the field. But I had ignorantly presumed I would see small, “grey,” and struggling communities. When I arrived I opened my eyes and looked around. Then I opened them wider and looked again. I saw color, I saw numbers, and I saw hope. I leave believing in the future and with deeper pride that JDC has helped create that dream and is central to its fulfillment.

The rebirth of Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe is nothing short of miraculous. Irv and I always talk about how important it is for Board members, donors, and friends to visit our programs first-hand; but as you see from this report, JDC’s professionals are equally touched and invigorated by the revival of Jewish communities and the possibilities the future holds for the Jewish People.

Until next time,

### DID YOU KNOW

During the early 1920s in Poland, JDC worked closely with local communities and then with the Federation of Orphans' Care Societies (CENTOS), which later extended its aid to all children, from infancy to adolescence. Today, JDC is helping to ensure that young Jews in Poland can live healthfully within the community by providing them vital welfare services such as medical care and food, and supporting Jewish renewal activities including youth clubs and local winter and summer camps.



*Children and teachers in the JDC-supported orphanage on Pushkinskaya Street, Brisk (Brest-Litovsk), Poland, 1921. Photo: JDC Archives.*

For more information about the world of JDC, please go to  
[www.jdc.org](http://www.jdc.org).

## Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Endowments

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:

- **The Woman of Valor Fund** - (\$10 minimum contribution). To honor the women in our lives who have made a difference personally, locally, or nationally.
- **The 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.
- **The Julian and Judith Joseph Fund** - To provide for local programming and events through the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.
- **The David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund** - To provide scholarships to Jewish sleep away camps and experiences.
- **The Chuck and Maxine Shapiro Fund** - To help ensure long-term aid to Israel and Jews around the world.
- **The Louis and Louise Weiner Fund** - To help ensure local programming for seniors in the Grand Rapids Jewish Community.
- **The Jerry and Judy Subar Fund** - To help ensure funding for overseas Jewish communities' needs.

*Thank you for supporting the  
Grand Rapids Jewish Community*

### The JFGR General Endowment Fund

In memory of Abe Glaser, who is missed by his family, friends and all the people whose lives were touched by his work

From Hal, Ellen, and Todd Lieberman

To Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Samrick, congratulations on your marriage

From Sue Remes

To Jerry Subar in honor of his special birthday

From Darrel Rosen

In honor of Liz and Andrew Samrick

From Karen Padnos

In honor of Jeff Rush

From Karen Padnos

### The Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

In memory of our son, Nikolay Rapeyko

From Lidiya and Vilen Rapeyko

In honor of the marriage of Liz Scheibe and Andrew Samrick

From Eleanor Rush Kleiman

In honor of the marriage of Liz Scheibe and Andrew Samrick  
From Marilyn Roth Kleiman

### The Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund

To Jerry Subar in honor of his Special Birthday

From many friends: Leon & Myrna Kirschner, Bernice Weiner, Marty & Enid Packard, Flory Silverstein, Joseph & Joan Lubner, Sari & Boaz Cohen, Susan Remes, Gloria Stark, Bud & Barbara Lucas, Agnes Mossman, Marilyn & Norm Leven, Toby Weiner Dolinka, Elaine Lipshutz, Mike & Roberta Jacobson, Jeff Slotnick, Mort Finkelstein, Bluma & Don Herman

### The Charles & Maxine Shapiro Endowment Fund

To Maxine Shapiro in honor of her Special Birthday

From her dear friends: Jean Barkin & Stuart Padnos, Shirley & Morris Kleiman, Zelma Kramer, Edith Rashewski

### The Women of Valor Endowment Fund

In honor of Liz Scheibe's marriage  
From Evelin Rider

## Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Endowment Fund Donation Form

**Donation From:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor Of:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory Of:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Card To:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Fund** (please pick from list): \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor Of:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory Of:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Card To:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Fund** (please pick from list): \_\_\_\_\_

Send your donation to:

**The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids  
4127 Embassy Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-2418**

# Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Social Services Program

*The Federation is available to support members of the community when the need arises. Families and individuals of any age are eligible for assistance.*

## Services available:

### Assessment and Referral

Through conversation by phone or in-person, each community member's needs are assessed, and social services to alleviate specific concerns or stressors are identified.

### Emergency Loans

Members of our Jewish community in Grand Rapids are eligible for an Emergency Loan when conditions are appropriate. The loan is interest free, and the repayment schedule is very flexible.

### Advocacy

Assistance with navigating complicated systems, such as special education programs in schools or the health care industry is available, so that the community member's needs and wishes are addressed.

**Please contact Liz, Director of Social Services, for more information.**

**Liz can be reached by phone at (616) 942-5553 or by email at [liz@jfgr.org](mailto:liz@jfgr.org).**

\*Communication is always confidential.

**The Shofar**

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids  
4127 Embassy Drive SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-2418  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Send articles to: 4127 Embassy Dr., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546-2418  
Phone: (616) 942-5553  
Fax: (616) 942-5780  
E-Mail: [Info@JFGR.org](mailto:Info@JFGR.org)  
[www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)  
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