



## A Time of Hope

by Marni Vyn



Marni Vyn

As we celebrated Passover this year, we experienced another year of Zoom seders. But unlike last year's Passover when Covid-19 was new and we were just figuring out how to unmute, we are now skilled at connecting with friends and family through technology. Last year, we were overwhelmed by the enormity of the emerging global pandemic. This year, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel as more and more people are vaccinated.

Passover is a time to reflect on where we were and look ahead to where we want to be. At the seders, we looked back and retold the Story of Passover when we were slaves in Egypt. We also looked to the future by concluding with "Next Year in Jerusalem!" – our hope and prayer for peace in the days to come.

The Hebrew word for Egypt is Mitzrayim and contains the word "metzar" meaning narrow or constriction. Egypt was a narrow place for the Jewish People, filled with hardship and persecution. The act of leaving Egypt, the Exodus, brought us from constriction to freedom.

This past year of living in a "Covid world" has brought restrictions and narrowed our lives by preventing travel, visiting friends and family in person, and following our normal routine. We have lost loved ones, experienced sickness, and struggled emotionally and financially.

Especially this year, I find the Pesach story so inspiring – not just historically, but also for the meaning we can find in it today. It is a powerful message of hope, strength, and possibility. It shows us what can be.

You recently received a mailing about the collaboration initiative that would bring Congregation Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel together on a shared site. The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids will also be housed on the shared campus. We are excited about this opportunity that will help to unite and strengthen our community while honoring our differences. The collaboration will build on our track record of successful partnership across organizations.

By coming together at one site, we can expand, centralize, and strengthen Jewish opportunities for our small community – socially, religiously, culturally, and educationally. Sharing a building also means that we can lower building operating and maintenance expenses, freeing up resources for more and better programming. The vision is to create a more cohesive, more energized, and more financially sustainable Jewish community.

As we celebrate Passover, we remember the past and look to the future. The Federation is here to inspire vibrant and flourishing Jewish life, now and for generations to come. Thank you for your continued, generous support.

Todah Rabbah,  
Marni Vyn  
Board Chair

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**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.

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**GOAL: \$500,000.00**  
**303 Donors**  
**\$477,000**

***We are \$23,000 away from our goal,  
please consider making a gift today!  
Thank you to all who have participated.***

*Chad Zagel*

Campaign 2020 Ends March 31, 2021 There is still time to make a gift! Campaign 2020 has raised just over \$474,000. We have received pledges from 303 donors. Our goal for this year's campaign is \$500,000. We hope you will consider making a pledge, or increasing your donation before our annual campaign closes on March 31, 2021. At that time, our Board of Directors will begin the allocation process to provide funds that make a difference for Jews right here in West Michigan and around the world.

Please complete and return the pledge card in the Shofar, you can make a donation on our website: www.JFGR.org. We accept all credit cards. If you prefer to make a pledge now and set up a payment plan, please email Nicole Katzman, Executive Director at nicole@JFGR.org

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**I'd like to support my community and make a gift to Campaign 2020!**

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## Community Collaboration:

### *Support for the Jewish Community Collaboration from Jewish community members*

*By Judy Joseph and Diane Rayor*

"I strongly support the Community Collaboration project at this time because Temple Emanuel and Congregation Ahavas Israel have a history of collaboration. The two congregations working together are stronger than each working separately.

The annual joint Scholar in Residence is the project that has the longest history. The Synagogue and Temple each had its own project for many years. As the years went on these programs became very expensive and hard to fund. Since 1999 the Scholar-in-Residence has been jointly funded by the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Temple Emanuel and Congregation Ahavas Israel. This has enabled the program to bring well known speakers to Grand Rapids and brought larger numbers of people to the sessions.

Since 2005 the United Jewish School has been funded jointly by the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Temple Emanuel and Congregation Ahavas Israel. We have been able to pool the teaching talents available in Grand Rapids, and enabled our students to meet and spend time with more Jewish children in our very Christian community.

At this time it makes sense to further cement the collaboration by housing Ahavas Israel, Temple Emanuel and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids in one building. We will be able to have more cooperative

programs and feel comfortable together in one facility. In the long run it will save money because there will be one building to maintain and keep secure. We all know that maintaining and securing a building is very expensive.

I believe that the Community Collaboration project will make the Jewish community stronger and attract more members to the congregations."

- Judith Joseph

"Ahavas Israel, a landlord by necessity, and its three good tenants, share a building with high upkeep costs. Now we [Ahavas Israel] have the opportunity to partner with Temple Emanuel, and with JFGR and UJS in one building. Think of the fruitful collaborations that will be possible with this expanded Jewish Community physically together!

My vision of the new entity includes a renovated Green building, a compact food garden, native plantings, expanded programming and social justice action, and far more fellowship. "Synagogue," an ancient Greek word, means "bring or gather together." Let us gather together for a stronger community!"

- Diane Rayor

### *Celebrate Spring with the Kosher Food Truck Sunday, April 25, 2021 at Noon*

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We look forward to seeing you there!  
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## Community Pen Pal Program

Would you like to have a pen pal? The Federation wants to bring people in the community together through letter writing. This is a unique way to connect with people and show them that you care. This program is open to all ages!

We hope you participate and make a new friend.

If you are interested in sending or receiving a letter,  
contact: julianna@jfg.org or call the Federation  
at (616) 942-5553.





## Women who make a Difference

### SUSANNE REMES

by Noah Krasman



**Susanne Remes**

Art Teacher &  
Community Educator

**MICHIGAN WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE**

*The story of Susanne Remes, collected by us here in Grand Rapids, from submissions by family and researched by Megan Yost and Peg Finkelstein. It was then sent to Jewish Historical Society of Michigan where it was completed for publication, in the Women Who Made A Difference Project!*

Although born and educated in Philadelphia, Susanne Sklar Remes made a name for herself and the small Jewish community in Grand Rapids—Michigan’s second largest city, and historically majority Christian. The tight-knit Jewish community that raised her served to teach her the importance of committing to the preservation of Jewish life, and to accept all walks of life in this lifelong endeavor.

Susanne went to school at Penn State University and the Tyler School of Art at Temple University before moving to Grand Rapids, where she would continue to learn at Michigan State University and Kalamazoo College before marrying her husband, William, who owned Remes Auto Parts.

Her first teachers were her parents, Rebecca (Goldberg) and Abraham Sklar, who were accepting and liberal, setting the stage for the kind of community member she would become in Grand Rapids—whether through teaching sculpture classes at the Frederik Meijer Gardens or welcoming students into her home to design and knit sweaters.

In the Grand Rapids Jewish community, today is comprised of a few hundred families, Susanne embodied resilience and freedom of expression—qualities that brought the community together. When she wasn’t working at Jacobson’s department store, she was speaking with community members and Christian audiences while participating in a “Panel of Americans” that visited business meetings and town halls. The panel discussed religion and Judaism, for which there was no shortage of questions and opinions. When prejudice arose, Susanne was unafraid to defend the dignity of Jewish people. She also was president of the Grand Rapids chapter of Hadassah, president of Congregation Ahavas Israel’s Sisterhood, and a board member of the local Jewish theater.

Just as her Jewish identity tied her to her formative years in Philadelphia’s Jewish community, so too did it tie her to the wellbeing and character of the community in Grand Rapids. There she always supported the “underdog,” looked for teachable moments, and demonstrated an attitude inspired by her parents and teachers: “open, loving, and respectful of others.”

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Judith Joseph’s great granddaughter,  
Beverly, playing with her new Torah toy.



## Preparing Your Pets in a Pandemic?

by Dr. Marc Leven

Your pet is also feeling the effects of the Covid pandemic and the changes it has brought to your family and his or her daily routine. As a veterinarian, we are seeing the manifestation of isolation, changes in family dynamics and routines and socialization on the family pet. Increased noise levels, activity and the presence of children, isolation from other animals, tension from financial stressors and confusion over routines has heightened the stress levels for everyone and increased the incidence of animal bites.

Being at home all day for months seems to be a good time to adopt a pet for a large number of individuals and families. Many who considered it have decided to add a puppy to their home, as a result many shelters and rescues are empty. Getting an appointment with a veterinarian, trainer or groomer can now take months instead of weeks. We recommend you research the breed you are considering adopting before you visit a breeder or shelter, when it can be easy to fall in love with a puppy before giving careful consideration to the special needs of the breed. Avoid adopting pets from sites on the internet, pet stores or from rendezvous in parking lots. Most of these puppies come from puppy mills, where they have not been socialized during the

critical first four to six weeks of their lives. Make sure the shelter you are considering has a housebreaking and socialization log that tells you your potential pet has been prepared for family life and is accustomed to living inside in a house with men, children and people in general.



Getting your puppy the critical training it needs during Covid can be a challenge. Most trainers are scheduling out months in advance and puppy classes are non-existent or limited. This may result in many pets being relinquished for behavioral problems, if care is not taken to plan for this in advance. Make sure your pet is kept on a routine and given a chance to socialize. Make sure your leash is at least six feet long to allow them to meet other dogs. Play dates in fenced in yards with other dogs is important, as well as exposure to different stimuli like common noises, vehicles, people and distractions. Let your puppy explore different smells and common household items like mobile trash carts, rewarding them with a treat for approaching it.

We are concerned that when things return to normal your pet may suffer from heightened vocalization and separation anxiety. Instead of holding them 24/7, allow them very short periods of time in their crate alone, first with the door open, gradually closing it for longer periods of time. Leave them home while you leave for a short time and give him or her a space of their own where no one is allowed to pet or approach them. They need their space, too.

Make sure to take your new friend to the veterinarian early and ask questions on how to acclimate him or her to their new environment during these challenging times.

*Marc Leven, DVM is a longtime resident of Grand Rapids and has been a practicing veterinarian for forty two years. He is the owner of Animal Medical Center of Wyoming where he practices with his son, Josh and daughter in law, Kelly, also veterinarians and five additional veterinarians. He attended East Grand Rapids High School, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Michigan State University and MSU School of Veterinary Medicine.*



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Rob Franciosi

## Remembering a Hero

by Rob Franciosi

This month we observe Yom Hashoah, the official day of Holocaust remembrance established by Israel in the 1950s. Early sentiment to commemorate both catastrophic loss and remarkable heroism naturally

drew attention to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, but because that 1943 revolt began on the eve of Passover, the commemoration was set between that celebration and the one for Israel Independence Day. Yom Hashoah's link to the various ghetto uprisings, however, remains encoded within the 1959 legislation that established an annual day to remember "the disaster which the Nazis and their collaborators brought upon the Jewish people" and to honor "the acts of heroism and revolt performed in those days."

Because the term "hero" has been used so often over the past year regarding frontline workers who are fighting the COVID pandemic, I thought a piece

about heroic resistance within the Warsaw Ghetto, one which moved beyond the figure of the armed fighter, would be especially appropriate. My first instinct was to write about either Janusz Korczak, the famous head of a ghetto orphanage, or Emanuel Ringelblum, the leader of the Oneg Shabbos secret archives. But as it was Women's History Month when I wrote this, and because I had just taught her memoir, *On Both Sides of the Wall*, my mind soon turned toward Vladka Meed.








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MICHIGAN  
SMILING**

**Mark L. Jesin, DDS**

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Born Feigele Peltel in Warsaw, she was not quite eighteen when Germany attacked Poland and started the Second World War. Active as a teenager in the Jewish Labor Bund, she was ready, despite her youth, to join the nascent Jewish resistance that formed after the occupation. But it was the establishment of the ghetto in November 1940 that first set this young woman on a heroic path.

Her father quickly succumbed to the horrific conditions, dying from pneumonia, and then in July 1942, her mother and younger brother were deported to Treblinka. A few weeks into the mass roundups she learned that the soup kitchen where her younger sister Henia worked was about to be raided. When Feigele approached her about going into hiding, the teen-ager replied, “I’m sorry, but I cannot leave my post.” She, too, perished in Treblinka’s gas chambers.

After the loss of her family, Feigele Peltel managed to survive the wave of deportations during July and August that swept away some 300,000 Jews. With her light brown hair, gray-green eyes, and perfect Polish, she soon began clandestine activities on the Aryan side of the wall,

assuming a new identity from an old passport, Wladyslawa Kowalska, and the nickname Vladka.

The heroic fighters of the Warsaw

Ghetto loom large in Holocaust history, but the efforts of women like Vladka Meed are less well known. She and the other women couriers secured the weapons and explosives that made the uprising possible. She also found shelter for children who had been smuggled out and, later, hiding places for the few fighters who escaped the burning ghetto through the sewers. And when the Poles of Warsaw staged their uprising against the Germans in August 1944, Vladka and her future husband, Benjamin Miedzyrzecki, were again on the front lines.

*On Both Sides of the Wall* is not the most literary of Holocaust memoirs, but it’s almost matter-of-fact tone reveals the calm determination of a person who did not let introspection overwhelm the need for action, habits which both Vladka and Benjamin Meed used to great effect in their post-war American lives. They

were instrumental in establishing the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, which today maintains the Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors, containing some 200,000 records. Vladka was also an early advocate for Holocaust education and created a training program for teachers that includes travel to sites in Poland and Israel.

Vladka Meed lost her final battle in 2012 to Alzheimer’s, that memory thief, but her selfless daring reminds me that sometimes during the darkest days unexpected heroes step into light.



*Rob Franciosi is a professor of English and Honors at GVSU where he teaches courses on the Holocaust and American Literature. Rob welcomes questions or comments about his article. You may contact him at [francior@gvsu.edu](mailto:francior@gvsu.edu)*

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## Financial Focus

# Time for Some Financial Spring Cleaning

By Chad Zagel, CFP®, AAMS®, JFGR Board Member

A short time ago, we experienced the vernal equinox – one of the two times in the year when the sun is exactly above the equator. Apart from this astronomical anomaly, though, the equinox is mostly known as the beginning of spring – a fresh beginning and the time to spruce things up. This year, as you tidy up your home and surroundings, why not also consider some *financial* spring cleaning?

Here are a few ideas for getting your financial house in order:

- **“De-clutter” your portfolio.** Over the years, many of us tend to pick up duplicate items that find their way into the nooks and crannies of our homes, gathering dust and remaining unused. Over time, your investment portfolio can also accumulate redundancies – that is, you might own several investments that are essentially similar. It might be appropriate to replace some of these and broaden your holdings.

- **Own your investments purposefully.** You own certain things for certain reasons – a broom to sweep the floors, a microwave to heat the food and so on. As an investor, you should be following a goal-based strategy that includes the matching of certain investments with certain objectives. For example, you might own stocks or mutual funds to eventually provide the capital appreciation potential you’ll need to retire comfortably. But you might also own other vehicles, such as bonds or other fixed-income investments, to provide you with a source of regular income.

- **“Dust off” your investment strategy.** Over a long winter, your windows can get dirty and grimy, so, when spring arrives, you may want to get out the

glass cleaner – and when you’re done, you’ll be able to see out more clearly. Over time, your investment strategy may get somewhat “dusty,” too, especially if you’ve experienced significant changes in your life, such as a new job, a new child or even a new plan for retirement. By periodically reviewing your investment strategy, you’ll be able to clarify your vision for the future.



Chad Zagel  
JFGR Board Member

- **Protect yourself from hidden dangers.** If you poke around your garage, shed or other storage area, you may well find some objects – gardening tools, paint thinners and engine fluids, leaning ladders and so on – that could be dangerous, either because they aren’t stored properly or they’re hard to see and can cause trips and falls. As part of your spring cleaning, you’d want to get these objects out of harm’s way to safeguard yourself and your family. But when you think of your financial situation, are you also exposing yourself and your loved ones to risk? If something were to happen to you, could your family members stay in their home? Could your children still go to college? To help keep their lifestyle intact if you weren’t around, you’ll need adequate life insurance. And to avoid burdening your grown children with potentially huge expenses should you ever need some type of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, you may want to talk to a financial advisor about protection strategies.

By taking some spring cleaning measures, you can brighten your living space for the seasons ahead. And by applying some of the same principles to your financial environment, you can help improve the prospects for meeting your important goals.

*Chad Zagel, CFP®, AAMS®, is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, a University of Michigan graduate, and in his free time, Chad enjoys spending time with his family and volunteering.*

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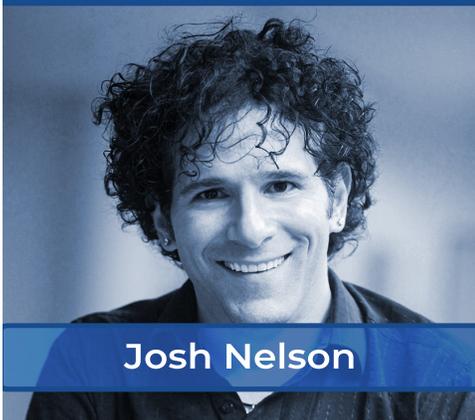
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Josh Nelson



Hadar and Sheldon



Chava Mirel

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### **Second Annual Yom Ha'atzmaut Across America**

*- A live-streaming concert event with communities across America*

In celebration of Israel's birthday, communities and households across America will come together to co-host and celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut with a live virtual concert experience benefitting the Covid-19 relief efforts of MAZON.

Following up on last year's success, which gathered 40 communities from coast to coast and raised \$12k for Feeding America and IsraAID, this year's concert includes full-band headlining performances by Hadar and Sheldon, Chava Mirel, and Josh Nelson, as well as appearances from special guests. Between fresh arrangements of some of the most recognizable and iconic songs in Israeli history, and the incredible stories behind the music, viewers will be able to interact live with the artists.

Proceeds after expenses benefit MAZON, A Jewish Response to Hunger.

JFGR will be sending the link to your email in the morning on April 11, 2021, which is the day of the event.

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Hadar and Sheldon biographies

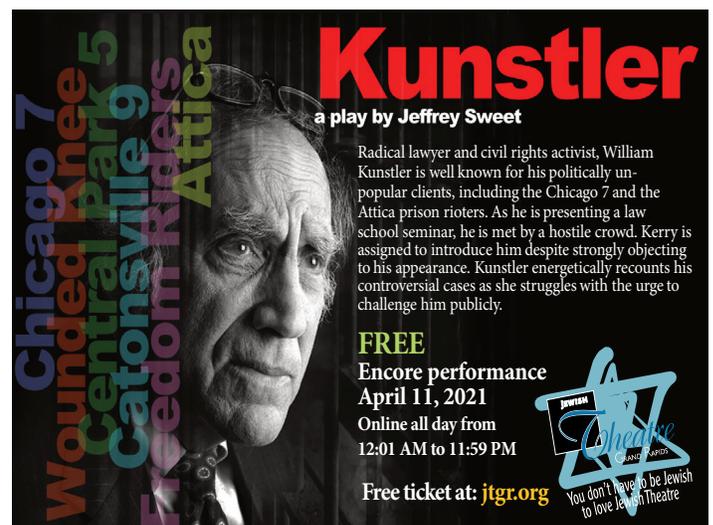
Growing up, Hadar was a popular performer in Israel, with appearances on Israeli TV, such as Kochav Nolad (Israeli Idol), and at major national and municipal events. Upon completing her mandatory Army service in the IDF as a nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare defense trainer, Hadar enrolled in the Rimon School of Jazz and Contemporary Music in Israel, studying with some of Israel's most renowned contemporary musicians. She then transferred to Berklee College of Music in Boston, where she studied professional music and voice and graduated with honors. Hadar serves as the cantorial soloist at Temple Israel and Temple Emanu-el of the City of New York where she recently performed for a series of events for Barack Obama, George W Bush, Bill Clinton, Ehud Barack, and Madeleine Albright to name a few. Those events inspired Hadar to record "It Never Was You," an album of standards from the Great American Songbook written by Jewish songwriters which has received international recognition and critical acclaim.

Sheldon Low continues to establish himself as a prominent voice in contemporary Jewish music, with 5 albums to his name and more as the highly acclaimed duo "Hadar and Sheldon." A self-proclaimed road warrior, Low performs in over 100 concerts, services, and workshops around North America each year. In addition to becoming a mainstay of congregational life, Sheldon's music has become the soundtrack of the lives of hundreds of thousands of children around the globe, thanks in part to PJ Library distributing two of his children's albums and featuring him on countless other compilation albums. Sheldon is also widely known for creating and hosting the innovative Jewish Songwriter podcast and Video Like a Boss video series.

The duo were married in Jaffa, Israel in 2015 and live together in Harlem, New York.



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**Kunstler**  
a play by Jeffrey Sweet

Radical lawyer and civil rights activist, William Kunstler is well known for his politically unpopular clients, including the Chicago 7 and the Attica prison rioters. As he is presenting a law school seminar, he is met by a hostile crowd. Kerry is assigned to introduce him despite strongly objecting to his appearance. Kunstler energetically recounts his controversial cases as she struggles with the urge to challenge him publicly.

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## **Save the Date!**

### **The Grand Rapids Jewish Film Festival & The Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival Announce:**

#### **The Grand Rapids Jewish Film Festival Living Room Series May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

We are honored and proud to introduce a unique partnership between our own *Grand Rapids Jewish Film Festival* and one of the largest Jewish film festivals in the Midwest: *The Lenore Marwil Detroit Jewish Film Festival*, which is a program of the Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit.

Thanks to this year's collaboration, we bring you a special festival within a festival - *The Grand Rapids Living Room Series*. The series includes five films the committee lovingly selected for our community. You will have the option to purchase tickets to each film individually or to buy a five-film pass as a package in the Premium Streaming experience. As part of our partnership, you can also choose to explore the roughly 30 other films (as individual tickets or full festival pass) as well as several free, live virtual events from the Detroit Film Festival.

All films will be accessible to ticket/pass-holders on Smart TVs, computers, tablets, etc. via a well-tested streaming platform (with tech support) throughout the Festival (May 2<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>).

Even though we cannot yet gather as a community in person, let's be together from our living rooms on both sides of Michigan to share and celebrate the stories, writers, directors, cinematographers and actors from around the Jewish world that will challenge, educate and entertain us!

Look for more details in the next issue.

Your Film Festival Committee:

*Jeff Bootzin, Allison Egrin, Sheila Frank, Karen Haight, Michele Kanig, Dafna Kaufman,  
Marisa Krishef, Beverly Niedelson, Michal Ravid, Daniel Rosen, Nancy Rosen,  
Suzanne Zack and Mort Zuckerman*



We are excited to announce a

## Collaborative Cookbook Project

with JFGR, Temple Emanuel, Congregation Ahavas Israel  
and Chabad House of Western Michigan.

Our committee will begin gathering recipes from all corners of our  
Grand Rapids Jewish community. Whether they are your favorite recipes,  
family recipes, or cherished recipes you would be willing to share, start  
thinking!

Consider submitting a recipe by visiting the JFGR website: [JFGR.org](http://JFGR.org)  
where you will find the recipe submission form. We are so excited for this  
community-wide project to kickoff.

**Happy Eating!**

Cookbook Committee: Judy Joseph, Nicole Katzman, Michal Ravid, Rhonda Reider,  
Karen Reifler, Evan Rossio, Kristin Siegel, Jim Siegel, Sandi Simms  
and Nechamy Weingarten.



## Stephanie Hurwitz Realtor<sup>®</sup>

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Stephanie's clients know that they are her top priority. She has lived in Ada and East Grand Rapids over the past 27 years and is your local expert willing to share her knowledge and expertise about the Greater Grand Rapids area. Her professionalism, attention to detail, and pride in her work ensures each client receives the height of service. Stephanie prides herself on being efficient, knowledgeable, and responsible while going above and beyond any expectations her clients have. She was selected as one of *Grand Rapids Magazine's REAL ESTATE ALL STARS* for 2019 which recognizes the top 5% of real estate agents in the greater Grand Rapids area. Stephanie helps both buyers and sellers achieve their real estate goals and specializes in everything from modest living spaces to luxury homes.

Call Stephanie today and let her help you make your real estate goals a reality.



# State of Hate Program with ADL Michigan

**When:** Thurs., April 22

**Time:** 7:00-8:00 pm ET

**Register Here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/3vdtmxr6>



Join us for a conversation with members of the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) Michigan regional office. They will provide an overview of ADL's regional and national work in "Stopping the defamation of the Jewish people and securing justice and fair treatment to all." This conversation will examine recent trends in antisemitism and hate, as well as resources so you can better respond to hate and bigotry in your community.



The Jewish Federation  
OF GRAND RAPIDS



TEMPLE  
EMANUEL



United Jewish School  
בית ספר ביחד





## Aunt Bea's Coffee Cake

My mother-in-law, Barb Remes, made this cake for years. She got the recipe from her friend Shelly Hammerslag, who got the original recipe from her Aunt Bea Weiss. It's likely that people have enjoyed this cake since the Roosevelt administration. It's my daughter's favorite cake, and I've been trying to make it taste just like Nana's, with varying degrees of success.



Evan Rossio

## Nana's Chocolate Chip Sour Cream Coffee Cake



Emily Rossio and her Nana (Barb Remes)

- ¼ lb unsalted butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 c sugar
- 2 c all-purpose flour
- 1 t baking powder
- ½ t baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 2 t vanilla
- 1 c sour cream
- 1 c chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream the butter, eggs and sugar. Sift flour, baking soda, baking powder, & salt. Whisk vanilla into sour cream. Add sifted ingredients to creamed ingredients, alternating with sour cream/vanilla. Fold in chocolate chips. Bake in an 8"x3" greased cake pan (bottom lined with parchment paper) or a greased tube pan. Bake @ 350 degrees for one hour.

*Evan D. Rossio is an attorney from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Married to wife and successful Realtor Julie for 32+ years, they have two children; son Jordan and daughter Emily. Evan's love for cooking began 30 years ago, when he discovered it was good stress relief after a day at work. He now splits his time between an estate planning practice and the occasional cooking gig. If not in the kitchen, he can be found in front of the TV cheering for his beloved Ohio State Buckeyes or perusing his vast cookbook collection.*

### Do You Need a Ride?

**Doctors appointment, grocery store or pharmacy? Let us take you where you want to go.**

Contact the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids at **616.942.5553** to schedule, all rides need 24 hour advance notice.

Hours of service: 8am to 8pm

Thank you to the generosity of the Ravitz Foundation for this service to the Grand Rapids Jewish community.



### Toast

Buy bread - any style

**BEWARE** – if fancy or homemade, pieces may require an additional step and knife to cut to fit into toaster slots

Select amount of toasting desired – you can always add additional time, you can't reduce burned bread

Remove butter from the refrigerator well in advance of preparation so that the butter can be easily spread over bread, probably with a knife used to cut to size.

Can make as many pieces as your loaf will provide.

Enjoy!

*This recipe has been tested many times, if it fails, don't invite me over for a meal.*



Claude Titche, JFGR Board, Treasurer



## CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

WEBSITE: [WWW.CHABADWM.COM](http://WWW.CHABADWM.COM) | FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM: @CHABADWM | PHONE: 616-957-0770  
EMAIL: [CHABADWESTERNMICHIGAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CHABADWESTERNMICHIGAN@GMAIL.COM)

All events are subject to change. Please stay safe and reach out if there is anything we can do for you.

**CHECK FACEBOOK @CHABADWM FOR VIRTUAL ZOOM LINKS AND PASSWORDS OR TEXT RIVKA AT 616.206.9654!**

The Jewish Women's Circle invites you to an evening featuring **THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES OF MARRIAGE**

Gain insights and tips into enhancing your most important relationship by learning about the different love languages featuring renowned speaker *Goldie Plotkin* from Toronto.

For Men and Women on **MONDAY, APRIL 26TH | 7:30 PM**

For more information or to RSVP Nechamy at [nechamy8@gmail.com](mailto:nechamy8@gmail.com)

### **JLI CLASSES - "THIS CAN HAPPEN"**

*A Credible Case for Feeling Good about the Future.*

For thousands of years, the prophecies of a "messianic age" stretched the imaginations of even the most fervent believers.

*Not anymore.*

Instant media, mass social movements and a global pandemic have shown us how suddenly and radically the world can be rewired by the actions of a few. *Why not for the good?*

Join us to demystify the Jewish idea of a perfect world and discover a practical path for reaching it in our lifetime.

**SIX WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: 7:30-9:00PM | BEGINNING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

**Fee: \$99 (textbook included) | \$180 Sponsor**

For more Info or to register please contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.2770 or [Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com](mailto:Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com)

### **LAG B'OMER BBO & BONFIRE CELEBRATION**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 30 | 4:00-6:00PM**

Celebrate Jewish Pride & Unity!

Outdoor Covid Safe

### **SHAVUOT**

**MONDAY, MAY 17 | 5:00PM**

Come hear the 10 Commandments and enjoy an Ice Cream Party!

### **GAN ISRAEL DAY CAMP**

*Sign your child up for A Jewish summer experience of a lifetime!*

Camp Gan Israel is designed to make your child's summer vacation fun, stimulating and entertaining!

The Camp Gan Israel experience is a unique combination of Jewish pride and fun!

**DATES: JUNE 21ST - JULY 2ND 2021 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM**

**Kiddy Camp:** Ages 3-5 | **Main Division:** Ages 6-10 | **Pre - Teen Division:** Ages 11-12

For more info, please contact Rivka at (616)206.9654 or email us at [campganisraelgr@gmail.com](mailto:campganisraelgr@gmail.com)

### **WEEKLY VIRTUAL TORAH & TEA**

For the connection we all need right now.

A Torah Study for ladies with Nechamy.

**MONDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM**

Meeting ID: 966 6623 3600 Password: jwc

### **JTEXT ~ JEWISH TRIVIA for Teens!**

**EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY AT 7:00PM.**

Be the 7th to answer correctly and win a \$20 AMAZON GIFT

CARD straight to your phone!

Are you a Jewish teen in grades 6-12 that lives in West Michigan and would like to join?! Text "CTEENGR" to 616-207-1218 to be let in on the fun!

### **JEWISH TRIVIA GAME FOR ADULTS IN WESTERN MICHIGAN!!**

It's fun, it's quick, it will stimulate your mind- and best part is? YOU ARE COMPETING TOGETHER WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS!

The 7th player to answer correctly will win a FREE bottle of Kosher wine delivered straight to your doorstep!

Every **SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY AT 7:00PM SHARP** you will receive a TRIVIA question via text message!

Reply with the number you think is correct. The 7th participant to answer correctly wins!

It is amazing watching our community unite together to play, connect, and learn.

**To Join: text "CHABADWM" to 616-207-1218!**

### **GAN YILADIM PRESCHOOL - KINDERGARTEN**

Gan Yiladim is a licensed preschool for Jewish children ages 2-5 open to the entire Jewish community, regardless of background or affiliation.

Gan Yiladim has been serving the Grand Rapids and nearby Jewish communities, offering a joyful and enriching educational experience to our students while fostering a love for their Jewish heritage.

We take the best of both worlds - secular and Judaic - and blend them into a program that is at once rich, fulfilling, and stimulating.

The Gan believes in nurturing children with the SPICES of life - focusing on their Social, Physical, Intellectual, Creative, Emotional and Spiritual development.

Our students are given tools to find expression in art, music, dance and drama. Through teamwork and friendship-building, the children learn skills for life as they explore and play in a loving and nurturing environment, guided by experienced and dedicated staff.

**For more information or to schedule a tour call Sarah at 616.375.9404.**



### **Ahavas Israel Weekly Service times:**

in-person, Shabbat mornings, 10:30 a.m.

Services in person and broadcast on our Boxcast, Periscope, and Youtube channels. Subscribe to our weekly email for direct links.

Weekdays, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m.

Minyan by Zoom. Contact Rabbi Krishef for the link.

### **Nurture your spiritual life through prayer:**

What better way to wake up than by expressing gratitude for the blessings of a new day and supporting those who need a minyan to say Kaddish? If you are awake at 8:00 a.m. any Monday - Friday and can spare 40 minutes, please consider joining us for our morning service.



You can join our online morning Zoom minyan, beginning at 8:00 a.m., by clicking here: <https://zoom.us/j/280892158>

From a mobile device, tap: +13126266799,,280892158#  
From a telephone, dial +1 312 626 6799 and when prompted, tap in the meeting ID: 280 892 158

#### Nurture your spiritual life through Torah study:

Join Rabbi Krishef for a Kos Kafeh v'Torah, Coffee break and Torah on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, at 2:00 p.m. - <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/490362529>

From a mobile device, tap: +13126266799,,490362529#  
From a telephone, dial +1 312 626 6799 and when prompted, tap in the meeting ID: 490 362 529

A small taste of Torah, about 1/2 hour, three times a week, at 2:00 p.m. Consider it a vaccine against spiritual malaise!

#### Ahavas Israel Book Group

We have changed our book selection for the next book group. On Thursday, May 20, we'll discuss *Not Our Kind* by Kitty Zeldis. From the Jewish Book Council:

In *Not Our Kind*, the post-World War II years of overt sexism and anti-Semitism are reflected in the lives of the two main characters who become deeply entangled in each other's profoundly different worlds. Jewish Eleanor Moskowitz and WASP Patricia Bellamy meet by chance when Eleanor takes a job to tutor Patricia's angry and despairing, polio-stricken daughter. The life struggles of Eleanor, who lives on working class Second Avenue, and Patricia, a product of privilege who lives the ideal Park Avenue existence, define much of the book's plot.



1715 Fulton Street East, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49

#### April Shabbat Services at Temple Emanuel

Throughout the month we will continue to transition back to in-person services. Our services begin at 6:00 PM each Friday. Those interested in joining us are asked to RSVP to the Temple office at 616-459-5976 or to Cat at [Cat@grtemple.org](mailto:Cat@grtemple.org). Our Shabbat Services will also continue to be live-streamed throughout the month.

Friday, April 2

We welcome Shabbat and the last day of Passover. Included in our service will be prayers for Yizkor as we remember our beloved departed.

Friday, April 9

Rabbi Lewis will lead services as we welcome Shabbat. This week our service will include special readings for Yom HaShoah as we remember the 6 million who lost their lives during the Holocaust.

Friday, April 16

We welcome Shabbat and we celebrate Israel's birthday. This week our service will include special readings for Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Friday, April 23

We welcome Shabbat with our Family Service. We celebrate April Birthdays and Anniversaries.

Friday, April 30

We celebrate the last Shabbat of the month with a special Torah reading for Lag Ba'Omer.

#### Rabbi's Book Club

Interested in reading a thought provoking book this month? How about meeting virtually over two evenings to share your thoughts? Based upon the recommendation of our member Julie Bernstein, Rabbi Schadick has decided to offer a special two night book discussion at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 20 and Tuesday, April 27.

The book to be discussed is entitled, "Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life in Judaism" written by Sarah Hurwitz. The book is divided into two parts. The first part will be discussed on the 20th and the second on the 27th.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89179600645?pwd=Z2dpYnF3QTgxdl1JSEwzQTNhSW5KQT09>

Meeting ID: 891 7960 0645

Passcode: 2021Book

### JFGR Campaign Director 20 hours/week

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is seeking a part-time Campaign Director to assist in the planning and implementation of the campaign. Responsibilities include database management, fundraising, campaign events, maintenance of donor databases, track matching grant pledges/ gifts and track endowments.

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-3:00pm with occasional evenings

Requirements:

- Excellent computer skills, including DonorPerfect or other databases, QuickBooks (preferred), Publisher (preferred), MailChimp or other online marketing programs, and social media (Facebook)
- Excellent written and verbal communication, including typing, proofreading, and editing
- Strong math skills and attention to detail with financial information
- Confidentiality with sensitive donor information
- Timely, accurate project coordination
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Bachelor degree or commensurate experience

Please submit a resume and cover letter to Nicole Katzman, Executive Director, at [Nicole@jfgr.org](mailto:Nicole@jfgr.org).



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## Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

**JFGR General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund**

**Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund**

**Louis & Louise Weiner Fund**

**Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund**

**Charles and Maxine Shapiro Endowment Fund**

**Woman of Valor Endowment Fund**

**Leven Family Endowment Fund**

**David & Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund**

**Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund**

**Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund**

**Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund**

**Fox Family Fund**

**The Finkelstein Brothers Fund**

*In memory of Ed Finkelstein*

*In honor of David Finkelstein and*

*Debra & Michael Wiegand*

Jackalynn & Robert Ross

Life cycle times, both happy and sad, are traditional times to make donations to Jewish causes. You can make a donation of \$10 or more to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids in honor or in memory of members of our community.

We then will acknowledge that donation with a card to that individual or family. This is a wonderful way to send your good wishes and be able to fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah.

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

**Woman of Valor Fund** To honor the women in our lives who have made a difference personally, locally or nationally.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund** To help ensure funding for Jewish arts, culture and history in Greater Grand Rapids.

**Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund** To support health services for Jewish community members not covered by other financial resources.

**Fox Family Fund** To provide educational and cultural programming for our Jewish community.

**The Finkelstein Brothers Fund** Mort, Raleigh and Edward's commitment to educate the residents of Michigan about the Jewish families that settled in West Michigan during the mid 1800s through community events and educational programs.

Make a tribute gift to  
Thank, Honor, Memorialize  
friends and loved ones.

### 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

A monthly publication issued 12 times a year.

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

2727 Michigan NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1240

Send article text to: info@JFGR.org

Phone: 616.942.5553

www.jewishgrandrapids.org

Email: info@JFGR.org

**Next Issue's Information Deadline:**

**April 15, 2021**

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Lenore Marwil  
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## Save the Date!

**Grand Rapids Jewish Film Festival**  
**May 2-8, 2021**

*Yes! I would like to be a Film Festival Sponsor*

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Film Festival Director (\$500)

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\_\_\_ Film Festival Actor (\$100)

\_\_\_ Film Festival Fan (Please indicate dollar amount)

\_\_\_ Flex Pass (\$36)

Mail this form and your check to:

**Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids | 2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**