



## An Update from Nicole Katzman

*JFGR Executive Director*



Nicole Katzman

Growing up my parents would say to me "Count your blessings and be thankful for all that you have." These are words that I live by and have taught to my own children. I share these words with you because as a community, we have so much to be grateful for. June 30, 2022 was a historic day for our Grand Rapids Jewish community. Together 400 Jewish and secular community members along with dignitaries gathered at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park to unveil the new Holocaust memorial, *Ways to Say Goodbye* by Ariel Schlesinger. The ribbon cutting was the culmination of two and half years of inspiring work that entailed engaging community partners and building strong relationships.

The idea for a Holocaust memorial for West Michigan was born out of a casual lunch that Linda Pestka and I shared almost three years ago. The need for a Holocaust memorial in memory of Henry Pestka, and the millions of Jews who perished, was immediately apparent to me. With growing momentum, companion projects to the sculpture memorial at Meijer Gardens developed. Through the tireless efforts of Peg Finkelstein and Rob Franciosi, and the generosity of the Finkelstein Family, a Holocaust memorial website detailing the lives of West Michigan survivors was created.

With the unwavering support of our Board Chair, David Alfonso, former Board Chair, Marni Vyn, and dozens of others, the initial idea three years ago became a reality. It all culminated with the dedication of the magnificent memorial.

So now this stage of the journey is done. We are embarking on perhaps an even harder effort to use the memorial and website to educate the entire West Michigan community to the horrors of the Holocaust and the triumph of those like Henry Pestka who survived. Holocaust deniers need to be silenced by the truth. Anti-Semitism in all of its ugly forms needs to be fought every day through education, and awareness of the evils it has produced.

My heartfelt thanks again to Linda, Steve, and the entire Pestka family for their generosity and vision, and to the entire community both Jewish and non-Jewish who have supported this project so strongly.

I hope you can join me on August 18 at Manhattan Park for the Annual Finkelstein & Leven Family Picnic, and on Thursday, September 15 as we kick off Campaign 2022 at Cascade Country Club. I thank all of you in advance for your continued support of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.

L'Shalom,

**Like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram at [jewishgrandrapids](#) and on Twitter @JewishFedGR**

**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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## IMAGINE. Campaign 2022

The ability to imagine is an essential part of our lives. Its absence creates a void. To imagine means to nourish our soul, our goals, our future.

Throughout the millennia, the Jewish people have imagined a better life, a strong and enduring future. Our theme for this year's Campaign, *Imagine.*, is a state of mind. It is purposeful, deliberate.

Imagine if we had the funds to expand social services for seniors. Imagine if we could meet the transportation needs of our community members who cannot drive. Imagine if we were able to provide additional Jewish programming for our young people. Imagine if we were able to increase our support to Jewish communities around the world, and in Israel.

Now that the Holocaust memorial, *Ways to Say Goodbye*, is in its permanent location, imagine that we can create a gathering place for our community and implement a Holocaust educational curriculum.

Imagine that we can sustain the Jewish people, enhance Jewish life, and guarantee a strong Jewish future.

Join us at our Campaign Kickoff event at Cascade Country Club on September 15th at 6:30 pm. We will be honoring Susan and David (z"l) Samrick, and featuring a presentation from Carolyn Normandin of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

Pledge cards will be mailed in August. Together we can do extraordinary things.

Help us Imagine in 2022.

Linda Pestka  
Campaign Chair 2022

Evan D. Rossio  
Campaign Director

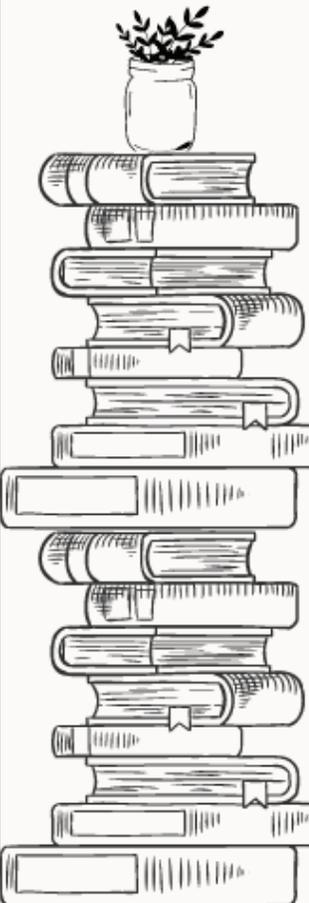
The Jewish Federation is excited to announce that Linda Pestka, JFGR Board Member and Pomegranate, has decided to remain our Campaign Chair for 2022. Linda is a lifelong member of the Grand Rapids Jewish community. Philanthropy is not new to Linda or the Pestka Family, they have always been strong supporters and leaders in our Jewish community. Linda chaired an incredibly successful Campaign in 2021, exceeding our goal by more than \$9000.

Linda is the daughter of Beatrice and Henry Pestka. Her father Henry was a Holocaust survivor, and the sole survivor of his family. Linda is passionate about Holocaust awareness and protecting our community against anti-semitism. The recently dedicated sculpture *Ways to Say Goodbye*, by Ariel Schlesinger, was made possible by a generous donation from the Pestka Family in memory of their father, Henry, and is a permanent exhibit at Meijer Gardens that will be an excellent teaching tool for educators both locally and nationally to address the Holocaust and its legacy.

Linda, a former teacher and counselor at the Grand Rapids Public Schools, is the mother of two adult daughters, and five adorable grandchildren. She is an avid dog lover, enjoys walking and traveling the world.



Linda Pestka

# SAVE THE DATE

## BABKA BOOK CLUB

New to Federation!  
Come for the babka; stay for the book.

FIRST MEETING:  
**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**  
4:30 - 6:00PM

More details coming soon.



*Thank you*

for your generosity!

We apologize for errors that were printed incorrectly in the July 2022 Shofar for Campaign 2021 and the Henry Pestka Endowment Fund:

GENERAL CAMPAIGN  
**\$10,000 - \$25,000**  
David & Susan Samrick Family Foundation

ENDOWMENT  
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# *Save the Date*

## Campaign Kickoff 2022

Join us for a celebration of the Jewish Community

September 15, 2022 at 6:30 PM

## Honoring

Susan & David (77) Samrick

Featuring Keynote Speaker: Carolyn Normandin,  
Michigan Regional Director of ADL

## Cascade Country Club

3725 Cascade Rd SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546



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The PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids now has 120 children enrolled with 83 families.

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



## Cantor Rachel Gottlieb Kalmowitz

I grew up in East Grand Rapids, as one of only a couple of Jews in my public school class each year. My family belonged to Temple Emanuel, and I always felt that although there were not a lot of us, I had a tightly-knit Jewish community surrounding and supporting me. Despite the fact that I am now the cantor of Temple Beth El, a large congregation in an area of Metro Detroit with a much higher Jewish population, that sense of being a part of the GR Jewish community returned full-force on June 30, when I came home to participate in the dedication of a Holocaust Memorial sculpture at the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. With 400 people in attendance at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, I sang the American and Israeli national anthems, followed by speeches by a string of luminaries, including Senator Debbie Stabenow, GR Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Welch, and Congressman Peter Meijer, whose presence as the grandson of Frederick Meijer had particular impact.

The sculpture being dedicated, Ways to Say Goodbye by Israeli artist Ariel Schlesinger, who also spoke at the event, is a twenty-two foot cast of a tree. Trees have many layers of meaning within our tradition, and the Torah, our most sacred text, is also known as a “tree of life.” In the Talmud, Taanit 23a, there is a story about Honi, the circle-maker, who saw a man planting a carob tree. When Honi commented that the man was not likely to see the fruits of his labors within his lifetime, the man said that he himself had found a world full of carob trees. “Just as my ancestors planted for me, so too am I planting for my descendants.”

When you look up to see the bulk of this massive sculpture, you can see reflections of the surrounding sky. Glass shards are embedded in the branches, meant to remind us of Kristallnacht, the night of the broken glass, which effectively began the Holocaust. If, however, you do not look up, it is possible to walk by without the full impact of the piece. It is possible to go through life without seeing what is terribly wrong with the world, if we close our eyes to it. And yet, this important work will

draw people’s eyes upward to be an instrument of learning and growth, as it will be used to educate people about the Holocaust, at a time when we are losing the last of the remaining survivors.

The sculpture is a gift from the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids made possible by a donation by Linda and Steve Pestka, in memory of their father Henry Pestka, a Holocaust survivor. Linda’s daughter, Alissa VanderKooi, is a member of Temple Beth El, and it was so wonderful to be there supporting her, as well as the entire Grand Rapids Jewish community. Alissa also spoke eloquently at the ceremony, emphasizing the idea of *l’dor vador*, from generation to generation. This image was brought to life as her husband, Steven, and their children, Henry, Ella, and Goldie, joined the rest of the Pestka family to cut the ribbon in front of the sculpture. Just like the man in Honi’s story, Henry Pestka is not here to see the culmination of this project, which honors his memory and all of those lost in the Holocaust, but his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were all present to celebrate this great man, and to continue to share his legacy.



*Cantor Rachel Gottlieb Kalmowitz is honored to have served Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, since 2004. She grew up as part of the Grand Rapids theatre community, with roles in countless productions here, and won a Grand Award for the role of Clara in Passion. She received degrees from Interlochen Arts Academy, Eastman School of Music, University of Michigan, and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She was a District Winner in The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and has had a career filled with music of many genres. She is active in the Reform movement nationally, serving on the Executive Board of the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) as the chair of their Israel Commission. She is also involved with AIPAC and spoke at its national policy conference in 2019. Her essential goal is to create sacred moments and holy relationships, and she shares her life with her husband, Carey, and daughter, Ilana.*

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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.





SAVE THE DATE FOR THE

# ***JFGR ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC***

**Thursday, August 18, 2022, 6pm**  
**Manhattan Park Pavilion, East Grand Rapids**

**Sponsored by the Finkelstein and Leven families.**  
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## Financial Focus

# Crypto: Investment or speculation?

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



Chad Zagel JFGR  
Board Member

With cryptocurrencies so much in the news, you might be wondering if you should invest in them. But “invest” may not be the right word – because, in many ways, cryptocurrencies, or “crypto” for short, are more speculation than investment.

But what’s really the difference between a speculator and an investor? Probably the main factor is the differing views of *time*. A true investor is in it for the long term, building a portfolio that, over many years, can eventually provide the financial resources to achieve important goals, such as a comfortable retirement. But speculators want to see results, in the form of big gains, *right now* – and they’re often willing to take big risks to achieve these outcomes.

There’s also the difference in *knowledge*. Investors know that they’re buying shares of stock in a company that manufactures products or provides services. But many speculators in cryptocurrency don’t fully comprehend what they’re buying – because crypto just isn’t that easy to understand. Cryptocurrency is a digital asset, and cryptocurrency transactions only exist as digital entries on a blockchain, with the “block” essentially being just a collection of information, or digital ledgers. But even knowing this doesn’t necessarily provide a clear picture to many of those entering the crypto world.

In addition to time and understanding, two other elements help define cryptocurrency’s speculative nature:

- **Volatility** – Cryptocurrencies are subject to truly astonishing price swings, with big gains followed by

enormous losses – sometimes within a matter of hours.

What’s behind this type of volatility? Actually, several factors are involved. For one thing, the price of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies depends heavily on supply and demand – and the demand can skyrocket when media outlets and crypto “celebrities” tout a particular offering. Furthermore, speculators will bet on crypto prices moving up or down, and these bets can trigger a rush on buying and selling, again leading to the rapid price movements. And many purchasers of crypto, especially young people, want to see big profits quickly, so when they lose large amounts, which is common, they often simply quit the market, contributing to the volatility.

- **Lack of regulation** – When you invest in the traditional financial markets, your transactions are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the firms with which you invest are typically overseen by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Other agencies are also involved in regulating various investments. These regulating bodies work to ensure the basic fairness of the financial markets and to prevent and investigate fraud. But cryptocurrency exchanges are essentially unregulated, and this lack of oversight has contributed to the growth of “scam” exchanges, crypto market manipulation, excessive trading fees and other predatory practices. This “Wild West” scenario should be of concern to anyone putting money in crypto.

The cryptocurrency market is still relatively new, and it’s certainly possible that, in the future, crypto can become more of an investment and less of a speculation. In fact, Congress is actively considering ways to regulate the cryptocurrency market. But for now, *caveat emptor* – “let the buyer beware.”

*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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## Henry Pestka Memorial Evening Words for My Grandfather

By Alissa VanderKooi

On June 30th, 2022, at the Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Alissa VanderKooi, daughter of Linda Pestka, gave a speech in honor of her grandfather, Henry Pestka. Alissa's words are powerful and capture the essence of the intent of the memorial, *Ways to Say Goodbye* by Ariel Schlesinger. Meijer Gardens and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids envision the memorial as a gathering place for the Jewish community of West Michigan. The sculpture will be an excellent teaching tool for educators both locally and nationally to address the Holocaust and its legacy.

*Being Jewish is more than practicing a religion. It's also our traditions, our values, and our history. For those of us who have spent time in a synagogue or a temple, we've heard the Hebrew words: L'dor Vador. In English this means from generation to generation. We have a responsibility, as Jews, to our ancestors, and also to our future generations, to pass down these things that make us Jewish.*

*While L'dor Vador often encompasses celebratory events, like the bris or baby naming of an infant, a bar or bat mitzvah, or the breaking of a glass at a wedding, it also encompasses the tragic parts of our history, like the Holocaust.*

*I distinctly remember the first time my Mom told me about the Holocaust. I was about seven years old. It was during that same conversation I learned that my Grandfather was a survivor of the Holocaust – the sole survivor of his immediate family, both of his parents*

*and all three of his siblings were tragically killed. I also learned my Grandfather had been imprisoned in several concentration camps, including Auschwitz.*

*None of this made sense in the picturesque suburban world I had become accustomed to growing up in Grand Rapids. Learning that this type of evil exists changes the lens through which a child views the world. Everything is a little darker, a little less trustworthy, and you're a little more on edge as you move through your life – especially when you know that your family members were the victims of such atrocities. But as difficult as it was for my Mom to share her Father's tragic history with me, it was necessary. As we all know, history, the good and the bad, has a way of repeating itself. And it is our responsibility, not just as Jews but as a society, to educate ourselves about the bad in order to prevent it from being repeated or denied.*

*The most defining part of my Grandfather's history was his unlikely survival of the Holocaust but it's the thing he spoke about the least. Growing up it was a very rare occasion that he would speak of his past. During these rare occasions, my ears would perk up, hoping to soak in a piece of his history, to help put together the puzzle of who he was. And on the rare occasion that he would speak of this dark period of his life, his focus was never on the darkness but always on the light.*

*I remember him telling me about being a prisoner at Auschwitz. He was given a job there to be a painter, which helped him stay alive while so many around him were killed. Along with a Nazi guard, he would take regular trips to a store to pick up paint. Each time my Grandfather entered the store, a woman who worked there would ask the guard if she could give the prisoner a piece of bread. Some guards would allow this but others would not. Receiving an occasional extra piece of bread was extremely important to him, as he was just barely surviving each day. But during one of these trips to the store, when the woman asked the guard if she could give a piece of bread to my grandfather, the guard threatened to kill her. From that day forward, the woman and my grandfather created a secret language. Every time he came into the store, he would make a gesture based on the guard accompanying him, that would signal to the woman if it was safe for her to offer a piece of bread or not. This memory, that my grandfather chose to share with me, was one of the kindness of a stranger during the darkest of times. His*



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Alissa VanderKooi

*ability to see light through the darkness is something that we pass on from generation to generation – L'dor Vador.*

*After surviving the Holocaust, my Grandfather spent a short period of time in Paris before joining his only living relatives, his Aunt and Uncle, who had moved to New York City before the War. He was from a small town in Poland and quickly learned that the big city was not for him. But he didn't have a home anymore and going back to Poland was not an option.*

*When my Grandfather was growing up in Poland, he was responsible for taking the mail to and from the post office for his family. His father had a friend named Sam Wiseman, who had moved from Poland to America before the War and ended up here in Grand Rapids. My great grandfather and Sam stayed in touch as people did back then by writing letters. During those trips to the post office, my Grandfather memorized Sam's address. So after spending some time in New York, my Grandfather wrote a letter to the address in Grand Rapids that he had seen so many times before as a child, explaining that he was the sole survivor of his family and asking if there was any work for him in Grand Rapids. Having assumed the demise of the entire family, Sam was overjoyed to learn of my Grandfather's survival and assured him that he could make a living in Grand Rapids.*

*So, my Grandfather moved to Grand Rapids, where he found work, initially at a gas station, and where he found*

*a pseudo family which became a real family, as he married Sam's niece Beatrice, my Grandmother. Upon moving to Grand Rapids, the Grand Rapids Press wrote an article about him, a Holocaust survivor living amongst the community. He told me that after the article was written, people would recognize him on the street and shake his hand. He felt embraced by the people here and found the sense of community he so desired. When he would speak of this period of his life, he never spoke of the hardship of learning a new language or being an outsider. Instead, he always spoke of the warm embrace that he received from this community and the opportunities made available to him. His perseverance to start over here in Grand Rapids is something we pass on from generation to generation – L'dor Vador.*

*While we honor my Grandfather's positive outlook on life despite living through the worst of times and his perseverance, we also remember the atrocities that were committed upon him, his family, and the 6 million Jews and 5 million non-Jews that were murdered during the Holocaust. My Grandfather passed away in 2013 at the age of 93. There are very few survivors still alive today. So it is our duty as the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of survivors to tell their stories. Just like my Mom shared my Grandfather's past with me when I was young, in anticipation of tonight, I recently shared my Grandfather's past with my eldest child, my son who is named Henry, and is with us here tonight along with my daughters, Ella and Goldie, and my sister's children Ben and Mila. And Ledor Vador, from generation to generation, we will continue to tell the stories of survivors, who are no longer able to do so, not only to honor their survival but to prevent this terrible part of our history from being repeated or denied.*

*The Grand Rapids community gave so much to my Grandfather. It gave him a new start, opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. So, it only makes sense for us to honor him here, to honor his life, and the lives of 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. And this powerful sculpture, created by the talented Ariel Schlesinger and graciously housed by the beautiful Meijer Gardens, is the perfect way for us to share a difficult piece of history with future generations.*

*As I said when I started speaking tonight, as Jews we have a responsibility to pass down our religion, traditions, values, and history, the good and the bad, the celebratory and the painful, from generation to generation – L'dor Vador.*

*Thank you all for being a part of this tradition with us.*



An Evening of Remembrance & Celebration  
at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park  
Honoring the Pestka Family  
June 30, 2022





Celebration  
Sculpture Park  
Family





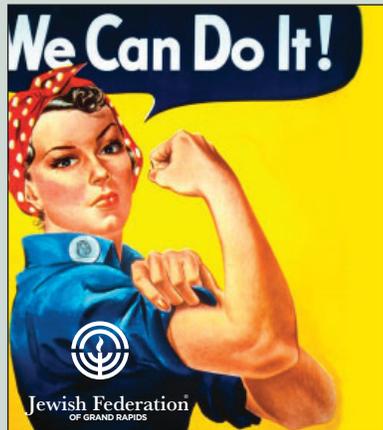
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## Vitaly's Thoughts

by Helayne Sherman

What an amazing event that took place last night. Our grandson Vitaly was in awe of the sculpture. We have had several discussions about the significance of the artwork. He was particularly intrigued by the pieces of glass. Attached is his drawing of the sculpture with "ways to say a goodbye" written across the top.

Vitaly is 5 years old and loves to draw. He gets up at 6 am every morning and draws for an hour.

He also enjoys creating 3-D robots and railroad crossings. He has a dog named Angie, lots of fish and two plecots named Paul Klee and Chihuly! Meijer Gardens Sculpture Park (and the Children's Garden) are his favorite places to visit. He also loves going to zoos. Vitaly was in awe of the sculpture by Ariel Schlesinger.

The next morning he was up early drawing his renditions of the artwork.

Vitaly's description of his artwork: "It kind of looks like a skeleton and it frightens me. The pieces of glass are

sharp and shiny like a diamond, with the sun shining off of them. This makes me happy."

– Helayne



Picture drawn by Vitaly, age 5.

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Bridal



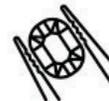
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All hikes start at 6pm.

**Aug 1 - East Town Walk**  
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**Aug 8 - Roselle Park - 1010 Grand River Dr. NE,**  
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**Aug 22 - Peace Park -**  
8900 Grand River Ave. SE, Ada, MI 49301

**Aug 29 - Rockford Dam -**  
215 N Main St, Rockford, MI 49341

**Sept 5 - Labor Day**

**Sept 12 - Provin Trail - 2900 4 Mile Rd NE,**  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525. Dogs are welcome.

**Sept 19 - Reeds Lake - Sidewalk outside Roses**

**Sept 26 - Knapp Trail - 4255 Knapp Valley Dr NE,**  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525. Meet behind Knapp  
Forest Elementary. Parking is at the end of  
Alcott Ave. Dogs are welcome.



## Stephanie Hurwitz Realtor®

stephanie.hurwitz@gmail.com  
cell 616.443.9559  
office 616.575.0118  
1555 Arboretum Dr. SE,  
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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.



## 6 Questions to Ask Yourself When Pursuing Your Dreams

By Coach John Robinson

I recently led a conversation about six questions that you can ask yourself in pursuit of your dreams. I would like to share those questions with you here.

1. What's your highest priority in this lifetime?
2. Is this your dream, or someone else's?
3. Are you setting for less than?
4. What will you feel like when you reach your dream?
5. What steps can you take today toward your dream?
6. Are you telling yourself: "I can't have my dream?"

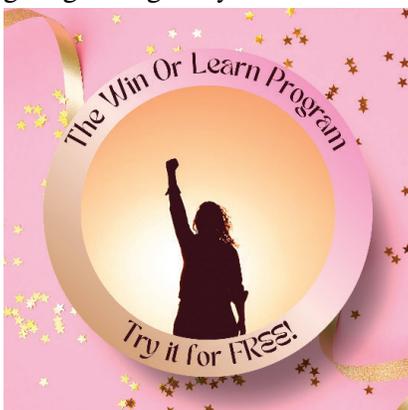
If you'd like a high quality printable file of these questions, you can get it here: <https://snip.ly/420xhx>

While the questions are from a licensed source, I'd like to share my thoughts about them.

The first question will help you align with your inner passion, giving your intentions the power to make your dream a reality. Another way of thinking of this one is thinking about your why. Knowing your why makes your efforts much more powerful. Take the time to write this out.

The second question will help you determine how much you are being true to yourself in your pursuit of your dreams. It is easy for us to be caught up in the dreams other people have for us. Many of us grow up with parents and friends giving their opinions of where we should lead our lives. However well intentioned those thoughts are, we can suffer if those aren't in alignment with who we truly are.

The third question will help you gauge if you are giving enough to your dreams. It is easy for us to sell



ourselves short. We can easily believe that a lesser form of our dream is all that we can accomplish. Sometimes that is fear speaking. Thus we should work to let go of fear and let our true nature come forth.

The fourth question will help you with motivation for your dream. In addition to writing out your dream, it can be powerful to also put down what it would feel like to fulfill your dream. Let yourself feel those positive emotions not just once but often. These feelings can help fuel your efforts to make your dream a reality.

The fifth question will help you take action! Think to yourself, what is the one thing that I most need to do right now to achieve my dream? This can sometimes be something you quickly accomplish and then pick your next one thing. Often, however, this is your focus for a week or longer.

The sixth question will help you with your limiting beliefs. Sometimes our minds, our egos, can feed us negative thoughts. Know this, and start feeding yourself positive thoughts. Learn to love yourself and believe in yourself.

If you have any questions about this, or are stuck on any particular aspect of pursuing your dreams, send me an email at [info@CoachJohn.help](mailto:info@CoachJohn.help). I'll be happy to provide you with some personal feedback. I'm rooting for you!

Coach John

Your Executive & Personal Leadership Coach



Coach John Robinson

*Feeling stuck? Want to improve your health, wealth or relationships? Coach John serves as an Executive & Personal Leadership Coach. He takes a stand for passionate people with a dream, to help them feel supercharged and ready to launch to the next phase, even when they feel lost or unsure. Your dreams absolutely can come true! Reach out at [info@CoachJohn.help](mailto:info@CoachJohn.help) with questions or comments.*

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## Tomato Basil Galettes

By Evan Rossio, Campaign Director, JFGR



Evan Rossio

From time to time we like to feature recipes from members of our community. Rob Franciosi, is a professor of English and Honors at GVSU where he teaches courses on the Holocaust and American Literature, entered this tasty recipe in a Grand Rapids Press cooking contest sometime last century, and won an Honorable Mention in the appetizer category. Please submit a picture of your results to [evan@jfgr.org](mailto:evan@jfgr.org), and we will post them to The Nosh this Fall when it goes live.

### Tomato Basil Galettes



- 1 ½ cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ teaspoon dry mustard
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 tablespoons minced sun-dried tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh basil
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter, melted

Heat oven to 375°

Toss together cheese, flour, mustard and pepper. Mix in butter. Work mixture with hands to form dough. Add tomato and basil. Add 1 tablespoon of water if dough feels dry. Wrap and refrigerate for two hours.

On a floured surface, roll out half the dough to a thickness between 1/8 and 1/4 of an inch. Cut out with cookie cutters. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Repeat with remaining dough.

Alternative: shape dough into a log before refrigerating, wrap tightly, then use sharp knife to cut disks.

Bake at 375° for 10 to 12 minutes until lightly browned on bottom. Remove and cool.

Variations: Instead of tomato and basil add 2 tablespoons pesto to dough.



## Download the JFGR App Today!

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is excited to introduce our new app. Now you can stay connected and up-to-date on everything Federation from your iPhone or iPad. Programming, news, social services, and volunteering opportunities are now just a click away.

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Arad Okanin

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## Beit Sefer B'yahad United Jewish School

1715 Fulton St E | Grand Rapids MI 49503  
616.459.5976

Starting August 1st, The United Jewish School (UJS) is open for registration! We are looking forward for another exciting year of Jewish learning, growing, and fun! In addition to an engaging curriculum that examines prayers, holidays, Jewish art, Hebrew, Jewish culture, Israel, and Jewish philosophy, this year will also feature Israeli dancing, Jewish cooking, Jewish Mindfulness, Jewish meditation, Jewish Yoga, and much more! UJS believes in creating an interactive and participatory environment where children are not being lectured “at,” but are “in conversation” with teachers about how personally learn and how best they can be engaged. UJS is focused on creating a learning environment where every child is seen, loved, and celebrated. We are proud to be creating the next generation of Jews in Grand Rapids. Please join us in this exciting educational and communal journey, beginning on September 11th! Please go to [UnitedJewishSchool.org](http://UnitedJewishSchool.org) and click on 2022-2023 to register your child. Families who register during the month of August get a free gift!

P.S. Please keep an eye out for our exciting announcement about a new program for our 8th-12th graders called “**Mitzvah Core**”, where our teenagers will explore Jewish education through charitable service projects, leadership opportunities, community building, exploring creative ways to experience Jewish life, and deep conversation in Jewish values and philosophy.

## CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

### 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!**

### 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

### VIRTUAL TORAH CLASSES

**TUESDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 7:30PM**

For more Info or for zoom information, please contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.2770 or [Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com](mailto:Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com)

### FALAFEL TUESDAY'S

**TUESDAY EVENINGS | 5:00-7:00PM**

Throughout the Summer the Kosher Falafel Truck is at Chabad on Tuesday evenings!

Gan Yiladim Preschool Presents:

### A TASTE OF SHABBAT

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup> | 4:00-5:00PM**

Enjoy a Taste of Shabbat with your children!

Make and Braid Challah, Shabbat songs & family fun!

For families with children ages 0-10.

At Chabad | No charge | Sponsorship Welcome

### SHOFAR FACTORY & HIGH HOLIDAY HANDS ON EXPERIENCE

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> - 12:00PM**

Come have a BLAST at the Shofer Factory!

Craft your very own Shofer to take home!

Gain new insights into the significance of the shofar in celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

At the Chabad House | \$8 per person

### ROSH HASHANAH DINNER & SHOFER BLOWING SERVICE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> - 6:30PM

Chabad House of Western Michigan warmly invites the entire Jewish community to join us for *Shofer Blowing Service and Rosh Hashanah Dinner*

Enjoy the tastes and traditions with family and friends. Our delicious Rosh Hashanah dinner is spiced with great food, song and meaningful holiday insights.

At Chabad | No charge | Sponsorship opportunities available  
Kindly RSVP by September 18th | 616-206-9654 or [chabadwesternmichigan@gmail.com](mailto:chabadwesternmichigan@gmail.com)

### 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



**PLEASE JOIN AHAVAS ISRAEL FOR A COMMEMORATION OF TISHA B'AV:**

Tisha b'Av -- A day of Lamentations, mourning, and fasting for the destruction of the Temple and subsequent exiles of the Jewish people.

Saturday night, August 6, at 10:00 p.m., for Ma'ariv and the reading of the Biblical book of *Eikha* (Lamentations); Sunday morning, August 7, 9:00 a.m. for morning minyan with special inclusions for Tisha B'Av. (Fast ends at approximately 9:38 p.m.)

**PRAY-GATHER-LEARN-EAT!**

**Saturday, August 20**

Enjoy a light Shabbat lunch following services in the Social Hall or on the back patio alongside the pollinator garden. Contact Rabbi Krishef if you are able to help him prepare the lunch, either on Thursday evening or Friday, Rabbi@AhavasIsraelGR.org or 616-949-2840.

**EAT-SCHMOOZE!**

Rabbi Krishef is cooking dinner for you on Monday August 15. You are cordially invited to join for dinner and light Jewish conversation and learning, at 6:00. Want to help cook? Contact Rabbi Krishef and let him know. **RSVP deadline, Friday, August 12, noon, to Rabbi@AhavasIsraelGR.org or 616-949-2840.**



Temple Emanuel was founded in 1857. We are the 5<sup>th</sup> oldest Reform synagogue in the United States. Our congregation welcomes all those who are seeking a contemporary approach to Jewish worship, study, and community. Join us for Shabbat Services this summer.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 5**

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM  
Torah will be read

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 12**

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM  
Celebrating August Birthdays and Anniversaries

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 19**

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 26**

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM

**ELUL-Eat/Learn/Understand/Listen**

The first day of Elul is Sunday, August 28. Elul begins our journey toward the High Holy Days. Our clergy team is offering a wonderful opportunity to eat together, reflect and study during this month. Twice each week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12 Noon, bring a bag lunch and meet in the Titcher Family Multi-Purpose Room. Rabbi Michael Schadick and Cantor David Fair will teach, offer participants a chance to share, and together take the time to prepare for coming Days of Awe. Participants are encouraged to purchase Jeff Bernhardt's book, "For Every Season: An introspective guide to renewing ourselves during the High Holidays and throughout the Jewish Year. It is available on Amazon. Please contact the Temple office at [Cathy@grtemple.org](mailto:Cathy@grtemple.org) to sign up.

We invite the community to join us for a very special evening on Saturday, September 17 at 6:00 PM as we formally kick-off the Holiday Season. We will honor David Ronis, the man who was our wonderful High Holiday soloist, for decades. David will join with Cantor David Fair and Rabbi Schadick, leading a meaningful Selichot Service. Delicious Asian-inspired cuisine will follow. Come and hear two beautiful voices sing together. Please contact the Temple office at [Cathy@grtemple.org](mailto:Cathy@grtemple.org) to let us know you will be joining us.

Our High Holy Day services are filled with incredible music. Our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur worship is meaningful and moving. The Yamim Noraim re-ignite our Jewish souls. We would love to welcome those who are unaffiliated with a congregation to join our community. Contact our Temple office at [Cathy@grtemple.org](mailto:Cathy@grtemple.org) or at 616-459-5976 and let us know of your interest. We look forward to talking with you about becoming a member of our vibrant synagogue.



**Volunteers Needed!**

**Interested in Joining us?**

Email [Julianna@ifgr.org](mailto:Julianna@ifgr.org)  
Or call (616) 942-5553  
ext. 206

**Looking forward to your help!**



**We Need Help With:**

- Driving community members to appointments.
- Delivering items to those in need.
- Assisting with in-person programs.

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## Countryside Havdalah

**AUGUST 20**

**IT'S A POTLUCK**

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End Shabbat in nature with other  
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We'll play games, eat food, chat,  
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outdoors, just like at Summer camp.



7 PM at Alix & Sharla's House  
Cedar Springs, RSVP for Address  
Contact Shelby at 616-914-7728 or  
[shelby.denhof@gmail.com](mailto:shelby.denhof@gmail.com) to RSVP



## Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

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

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**Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund**

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*In Memory of Sue Remes*

Linda Pestka

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 ensure that the PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, for children ages 6 weeks- 12 years old, remains in the Western Michigan community and to provide high-quality educational children's programs.

**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.

**Henry Pestka Holocaust Memorial Fund** To make certain that the Holocaust is an essential part of the human story forever through educational programs and events that teach awareness, compassion and to ensure these inhumane acts against humanity never happen again.

### JFGR Endowment Fund Donation Form

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In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

## The Shofar

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