



Website Under Siege

JFGR Executive Director



Nicole Katzman

There have been over 48,000 attempts to infiltrate and permanently take down the West Michigan Holocaust website, generously donated by the Finkelstein Brothers, that went live on June 30, 2022 at the *Ways to Say Goodbye* ribbon cutting ceremony at the Frederik Meijer Garden & Sculpture Park. The sculpture is dedicated to the memory of Henry Pestka and the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and serves to promote peace. The sculpture was generously donated by the Pestka Family. There have been more attempts to destroy the Holocaust website than people who have visited the site.

48,000 is a number that makes me sad, frustrated and disappointed. It's the number that reminds me that anti-Semitism is rampant in West Michigan and the world. The ADL reports that in 2021 there was an uptick in anti-Semitic crimes nationally and in Michigan there was a 21 percent increase. These numbers are on the rise and are alarming. The list of hate crimes locally and nationally is exhaustive.

In recent weeks, Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, cast a spotlight on anti-Semitism with his offensive words inspiring other demonstrations of hate directed at the Jewish community. Although many sponsors dropped Ye, his words sparked insightful action: Jewish synagogues, museums and agencies have been flooded with hateful and threatening messages. Anti-Semitic incidents have hit an all time high in the U.S., and anti-Semitic rhetoric is increasingly pervasive in many areas of politics and public discourse.

Frankly, it is an unsettling time to be Jewish; however, we need to speak out and let our community leaders know that the relentless attacks on Jewish people are not OK. We are a minority and are the highest targeted religious group for hate crimes in the country. This needs to be taken seriously. *Ways to Say Goodbye*, the Holocaust memorial website and the Henry Pestka Art and Poetry Contest, are small steps at educating future generations on eradicating anti-Semitism and all forms of racial hate. While recently visiting The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History Detroit with the Israeli Delegation, the docent, gave an incredibly detailed account of the slave trade and the hideous suffering black people endured while travelling from Africa to America. Those fortunate enough to survive the boat, then were emotionally and physically broken, and sold into a life of slavery. The docent's words hit home, "No matter your skin color or religious beliefs, we are all human beings, we are all the same."

So how do we stop the hate? We need to change the narrative by promoting education, getting involved with community organizations and speaking out. As generations before us, we must continue to fight and remain strong.

Wishing you a happy and Healthy Hanukkah
Chag Hanukkah Sameach

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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**Jewish Federation of
Grand Rapids**

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Please cut out this pledge card, fill it in and send it to the Federation office.



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

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 942-5553 email: info@jfgr.org
www.jfgr.org

I HEREBY PLEDGE A GIFT TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY IN
THE SUM OF: \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Donor's Signature _____

Method of Payment: Check Stock (Please Identify)

Please charge my: Mastercard Visa
 Discover American Express

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Security Code _____



IMAGINE. Campaign 2022 Update



We have great news to report this month. As of publication date, Campaign 2022 “Imagine” has reached \$403,885 in pledges and gifts, inching closer to our goal of \$510,000. We are thankful for the generosity of our community members, and look forward to seeing more progress towards our goal in the months ahead. I ask those of you who are able and have not yet supported Federation help us achieve our goal by making your gift.

We are also pleased to report that the Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation has increased its matching grant from \$25,000 to \$40,000. This means that any amount you increase your gift and any new pledges will be matched by the Foundation. The

leadership and financial support of the Padnos family has long enabled Federation to provide services to those in need in our own community and secure and maintain vibrant Jewish life in West Michigan and beyond, and for that we are humbled and grateful.

Please keep this matching opportunity in mind as you make your gifts and pledges, as well as the match from the Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation for new or increased gifts from those under 50 years of age. Please consider increasing your gift to Federation, and include us in your tax planning as we near the end of the year. If you have any questions about donating, please contact Nicole or Evan at the Federation office.



Linda Pestka
Campaign Chair

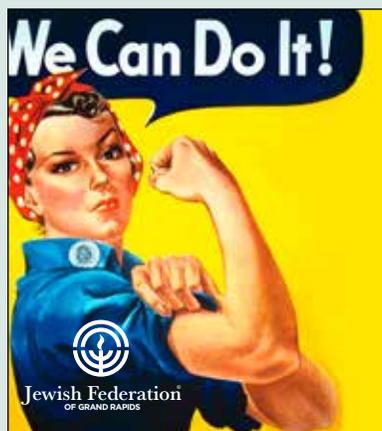
Women’s Philanthropy: Your place to inspire, help and connect.

WHO WE ARE

Women philanthropists are the change makers and community shapers of the world. We are sisters and daughters, mothers and friends, compassionate and committed women at every stage of life and career. Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy engages Jewish women in the fulfilling work of making the world a better place. In every community, we are building and supporting Jewish life for today and for generations to come.

WOMEN IN ACTION

Through our donations and our hands-on community service, we fight domestic violence, improve women’s health and nutrition, provide shelter to vulnerable children, protect at-risk seniors and so much more. During the COVID crisis, **we’ve helped meet increased needs in our communities.** We support Israel with our dollars and our presence. Federation inspires and empowers women to become leaders and decision-makers. Our collective philanthropy enriches our own lives while improving the lives of others.



We welcome you to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Women’s Philanthropy. There’s a place for you here, no matter where life and career have taken you. Add your voice to this amazing community of women. Our collective philanthropy is purposeful and effective.

For more information, contact Evan Rossio, Campaign Director at evan@jfgr.org



Hanukkah-Adopt-A-Family

Hanukkah Begins on
Sunday, December 18, 2022

Send in your gift by December 10, 2022

In our tradition of *tzedakah*, the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is here to help local families have a meaningful and Happy Hanukkah. This year the need in our community is as great as ever. The Federation is asking individual and corporate donors to make donations that will be used toward the purchase of gift cards, which will be distributed to families. Each year around 25-30 individuals and families receive gifts through this initiative.

The Hanukkah-Adopt-A-Family program remains critical even when basic needs are met and allows for local families to have a festive Hanukkah celebration with less stress and worry.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.



Making a gift is simple, cut out the attached form, mail it back to the Federation or call 616-942-5553 to make your gift.

I'd like to Adopt-A-Family for Hanukkah



The Jewish Federation
OF GRAND RAPIDS

2727 Michigan St NE | Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 942-5553 email: info@jfgr.org www.jfgr.org

I hereby pledge a gift to support Hanukkah Adopt A Family in

THE SUM OF: \$ _____

Donor's Signature

Method of Payment: Check
 Credit (Please Identify)

Mastercard Visa Discover American Express

Card Number

Exp. Date

Security Code

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Happy Hanukkah

*Wishing your family
peace and light
this holiday season.*



The Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS



Image created by Lindsey Katzman.

 Join us on January 12, 2023
for
Senior Lunch Bunch
(age 65 and older)
11:45 am

Mikado Suski
3971 28th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI

\$10.00 per person
pay at the door

Lunch Bunch will be meeting every other month!
RSVP to Evan at evan@jfg.org or call 616.942.5553 x 205


Jewish Federation
OF GRAND RAPIDS

Light Up the Night

DECEMBER 17, 2022

7 PM at Tom & Ashley's house, RSVP for address

Join GR Area Jews in their 20s, 30s, and 40s for an early Hanukkah celebration! We'll play games, eat food, exchange white elephant gifts, and talk Judaism.

Vegetarian Potluck
Bring a Hanukkah food to share!

White Elephant Gift Exchange
Bring a gift to play! Let's be sustainable, bring something fun anybody could use.

RSVP to Shelby at shelby@grtemple.org

 Wear your Hanukkah sweater!



Mandylicious Challah Program

Mandy Silverman and her husband Danny (licious!) visited from Sharon, MA and facilitated a challah demonstration & program.

60 plus people attended! We had a great time braiding traditional challah and stuffing them with oreos and other goodies!

We also celebrated the launch of The Nosh, a Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids culinary website developed by Evan Rossio and Arad Okanin.

Facebook: [mandyliciouschallah](https://www.facebook.com/mandyliciouschallah)

Instagram: [mandyliciouschallah](https://www.instagram.com/mandyliciouschallah)

The Nosh: <https://www.jewishgrandrapids.org/>





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

 Jewish Federation
OF GRAND RAPIDS

INTERESTED IN JOINING US?

Email: Nicole@jfrg.org
or call
616-942-5553 ext.207

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

JFGR Men's Outdoor Group

Get together every Wednesday morning! Meet new people, hang out with old friends, get fresh air and exercise.

Contact Jim Siegel at jims@siegeljewelers.com for time and location of each outing and for carpool arrangement and questions.



The Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS



Scholar-In-Residence 2022



Dear Jewish Community of Grand Rapids,

It was an honor and pleasure getting to know you all, and sharing in the cultures and traditions that we preserve. Thank you for showing me your world and allowing me to contribute with my own. From the adult workshops to the children's entertainment, I truly enjoyed the energy and kindness of each group that I had the pleasure to spend time with. You have left a positive impact on me, and I hope I succeeded in doing that for all of you as well. This weekend was one that I will cherish forever.

Thank you to all of those who made this all possible, I am so grateful.

L'hitraot,

*Sam Bodenheimer (BODI)
bodi@bodimusic.com*



On November 12, 2022, Bodi, Scholar in Residence, joined our Young Adults at Grayson Crossing for drinks and Schmooze. There were 28 participants and 5 fun filled hours of schmoozing!

Thank you to Shelby Denhof, Engagement Associate at Temple Emanuel, for facilitating this program.

This program was sponsored by: Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Temple Emanuel & Congregation Ahavas Israel



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.

Download on the App Store



Jewish Federation Grand Rapids
Arad Okanin

OPEN



AGE
4+
Years Old

CATEGORY
Reference

DEVELOPER
Arad Okanin

LANGUAGE
EN
English



October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by Judith Joseph, JFGR Board Member



Judith Joseph

Each year in the United States, about 255,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in women and about 2,300 in men. About 42,000 women and 500 men in the U.S. die each year from breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women after skin cancer.

Studies have shown that your risk for breast cancer is due to a combination of factors. The main factors that influence your risk include being a woman and getting older. Most breast cancers are found in women who are 50 years old or older, but breast cancer also affects younger women.

One in forty Ashkenazi Jews – men and women – carries a BRCA gene mutation, more than ten times the rate of the general population, making Jewish families significantly more susceptible to hereditary cancer, which could include breast, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate, melanoma or male breast cancer. Sephardic Jews may also be genetically predisposed to hereditary cancer, but their risk to carry a BRCA mutation has not been identified to be as high as the risk for Ashkenazi Jews.

Some women will get breast cancer even without any other risk factors that they know of. Having a risk factor does not mean you will get the disease, and not all risk factors have the same effect. Most women have some risk factors, but most women do not get breast cancer. If you have breast cancer risk factors, talk with your doctor about ways you can lower your risk and about screening for breast cancer.

There are many steps you and your loved ones can take to improve your chances of staying healthy:

- Conduct monthly self-exams. In addition to medical screenings, the National Breast Cancer Foundation and many medical professionals recommend a monthly self-exam. To learn how to do a breast self-exam, check out this self-exam guide offered by NationalBreastCancer.org.
- Mammography is the most common screening test for breast cancer. Mammography may find tumors that are too small to feel. A mammogram is an X-ray of the breast. For many women, mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat and before it is big enough to feel or cause symptoms. Having regular mammograms can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. At this time, a mammogram is the best way to find breast cancer for most women of screening age. It is recommended that average risk women have mammograms starting at age 50 every two years until they are 75. Discuss this with your health professional. Some women should be screened before they are 50 and others may need screening to continue past age 75. Most health insurance plans are required to cover screening mammograms every one to two years for women beginning at age 40 with no out-of-pocket cost (like a co-pay, deductible, or co-insurance).
- Quit smoking. According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), smoking is a significant risk factor for breast and many other types of cancer. Non-smokers are at lower risk than smokers regardless of your age or how long you have been a smoker.
- Exercise more. Regular exercise and a healthy diet can also lower your risk factors. Benefits.gov

Judith Joseph – Forty-three year breast cancer survivor.



The PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids now has 120 children enrolled with 83 families. To enroll your child, visit www.pjlibrary.org.

FREE JEWISH CHILDREN'S BOOKS



www.jfgr.org
616.942.5553



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




The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership presents
**The Henry Pestka
 Art & Poetry Contest**
 2022-2023: Never Forget
 For Grades 6-12

WGUV.ORG/PESTKA

WGUV Public Media | Grand Valley State University | FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS AND SCULPTURE PARK | The Jewish Federation | ADL | EGRPS | JETS JPS JTE TEACHERS NETWORK

The Pestka Family, in memory of their father and grandfather, Henry Pestka, a Holocaust survivor, is proud to bring Holocaust awareness and education to West Michigan students in grades 6-12 through an art and poetry contest. This contest is designed for students who have completed the Michigan state requirement on Holocaust education and enables them the opportunity to process and reflect on the concepts they learned through writing or art.

PRIZES

FOR EACH GRADE

1st Place \$150

2nd Place \$100

3rd Place \$50

The top 10 finalists in each grade will have their work displayed, and be invited to attend and be recognized at an event in April 2023. Finalists who attend the event will also receive a gift.

THIS YEAR'S THEME Never Forget



Entries may be prose, poetry, or art.

**Entries accepted October 3, 2022
through February 10, 2023.**

Open to 6th-12th grade students living in a West or Southwest Michigan County.

Finalists will be notified in early March of 2023.

Learn More




Teaching the Holocaust
A GUIDE FOR MICHIGAN EDUCATORS

WGUV Public Media Education | CONTEST

- Guidelines
- Rationale
- Lessons
- Field Trip
- Resources

This collection of lessons and resources is designed to prepare and support educators in teaching curriculum related to the Holocaust. Students are encouraged to use this content as the foundation for their projects.

The Henry Pestka Art and Poetry Contest is coordinated by The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership, which consists of: ADL Michigan, East Grand Rapids Public Schools, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, GVSU, The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, and WGUV Public Media. The Partnership collaborated to curate a collection of resources and aligned the contest to support educators and students in meeting Michigan State Holocaust and Genocide Education Standards. Members of The Partnership with proximity to student entries, including EGRPS faculty and staff, will not be permitted to judge entries.



A New Torah Arrives in Grand Rapids

By Rivka Weingarten

Avi and Chana (Weingarten) Lesches wanted to do something unique with their charity for the upcoming year. They decided to have a Torah written in memory of two individuals that meant a lot to each of them. Why a Torah? The Torah is the foundation that connects all Jewish people no matter where they are, and it is the bedrock that made us into a people. They had the Torah written in loving memory of David Samrick OB”M and Hindy Krinsky-Kanarfogel OB”M. They were not just people who meant a lot to Avi and Chana but were people who had an impact on the lives of many others.

Hindy was a talented educator who taught 9th grade English at Haftr high school in Long Island, NY. Her students, the parents, the faculty and community all loved her. Hindy suddenly passed away at the age of 32. Leaving behind a husband and 5 young children.

David was a one of a kind person. David was a visionary leader with a passion for investing in people and the community. As a young man David began working at Mill Steel. A company that he helped to become an industry leader. David was not just recognized for his success in business, but also for his contributions to the community. Giving was at the core of who David was. Through a quarter century partnership with DABSJ and Mill Steel's annual Golf for Kids charity outing, David raised millions in support of its Mentoring Services. David was a national board member of AIPAC, working closely with members of the United States Congress to strengthen and promote the U.S. Israel relationship. David partnered with Chabad of Western Michigan in many ways; he was the founding supporter of CTeen in Grand Rapids. CTeen

is a program for Jewish high school teenagers from our local area. The teens come together to get to know one another, participate in unique programs, and empower them to actualize their inner infinite potential, while cultivating a strong sense of mission, and Jewish pride.

It was Hindy and David's unwavering support and investment into our youth that brought about Chana and Avi to have the Torah written in their memory. Hindy and David have left not just a legacy of the work and contributions that they have done, but an everlasting impact on the lives of hundreds of people as well.

Following the completion of the holiday Sukkot 2021, family and close friends were invited to join them to begin writing the Torah.

On **September 4th, 2022**, family, friends and neighbors celebrated once again, but this time for the completion of the new Torah. Celebrating and dancing with the Torah through the streets of Brooklyn. On **October 7th, 2022** the new Torah arrived in Grand Rapids, to its new home at the Chabad House of Western Michigan.

When looking back and contemplating the lesson and message Chana and Avi personally took from this experience, it was not just to write a Torah in memory of two people they truly loved, but to also see the impact this had on both of these respected families coming together in celebrating the lives and legacy of their loved ones. For them personally they also saw how committing oneself to giving charity has not just an effect on the individuals but on our surroundings as well.

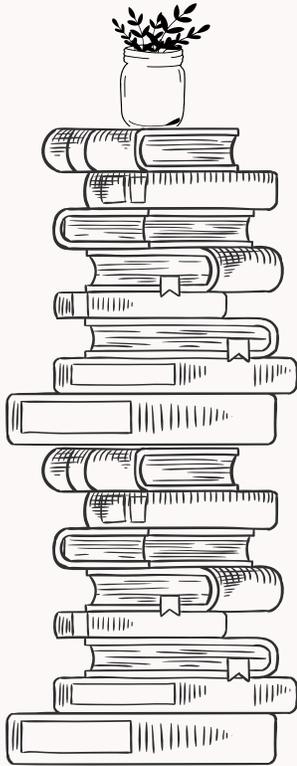




SAVE THE DATE

BABKA BOOK CLUB

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



NEXT MEETING:

JANUARY 18, 2023

5:00 - 6:30PM

Temple Emanuel
1715 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

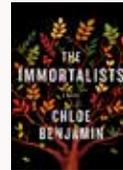
RSVP AT JFGR.ORG



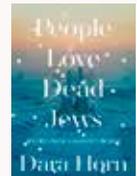
BABKA BOOK CLUB

BOOK SCHEDULE

BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE
BOOK CLUB TABLE AT SCHULER BOOKS
ONE MONTH BEFORE EACH MEETING.



January 18, 2023
The Immortalists, by Chloe Benjamin



March 15, 2023
People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present, by Dara Horn



May 17, 2023
On Division, by Goldie Goldbloom



July 19, 2023
Margot, by Jillian Cantor



Tahyeem

Michal Ravid

📍 Grand Rapids, MI

📞 (832)641-5926

✉️ Israelibestfood@gmail.com

🌐 www.tahyeem.com

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dinner, Tahyeem has you covered!**



Financial Focus

How should you pay for short-term financial goals?

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



Chad Zagel JFGR
Board Member

As you go through life, you will likely have long- and short-term financial goals. But how will your strategies for meeting your long-term goals differ from those needed for your short-term ones?

If you're like most people, your biggest long-term goal is achieving a comfortable retirement. And for this goal, a common strategy is putting away money in tax-advantaged retirement vehicles, such as your 401(k) and IRA.

So, how should you go about preparing for shorter-term goals, such as a family vacation, home renovation, wedding or major purchase?

For starters, determine what your goal is, how much you can spend on it and when you'll need the money. Even if you can't pinpoint a precise amount, you can develop a good estimate. Of course, the sooner you start this process, the better off you'll be, because you'll have more time to save.

Your next decision involves the manner in which you save for your short-term goal. Specifically, what savings or investment vehicles should you use? The answer will be different for everyone, but you need to make sure that your investments align with your risk tolerance and time horizon. And you'll want to ensure, as much as possible, that a certain amount of money is available for you at the specific time you'll need it.

If you aren't able to save enough to reach a short-term goal, you have other options — you can borrow what you need, or you can potentially sell investments to cover the cost. How can you decide which choice is best?

To help make up your mind, you'll first want to consider some of the most common borrowing options: credit cards, home equity loans, personal loans and margin loans.

(A margin loan lets you borrow against the value of investments you already own). How might each of these loans fit into your overall financial strategy? Will the repayment schedule work with your cash flow and budget?

You'll then want to compare the costs and benefits of borrowing, in whatever form, against selling investments. For example, if you can borrow at a lower interest rate compared to the return you think you can get from your investments, borrowing might be a reasonable choice. You'll also need to consider other factors, such as your credit score, taxes, fees associated with selling investments and time needed to repay debts. If, for instance, selling investments will trigger a large amount of taxes, borrowing might be preferable. You'll also want to consider whether there's a penalty or high costs associated with selling investments. In addition, if you have a long time horizon for a loan, you may want to sell investments to avoid paying interest for a longer period of time, and thus driving up the overall cost of borrowing.

Finally, keep in mind that you may have built an investment mix designed to align with your goals and risk tolerance. If you were to sell any of these investments to meet short-term needs, you would want to consider the need to rebalance your portfolio to maintain your desired asset allocation.

As you can see, there's a lot to think about when it comes to paying for short-term goals. But by carefully evaluating your options, you can make the choices that are right for your needs.

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.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Nestled in the Beautiful, Ancient, and Legendary Galilee is Grand Rapids' new Home in Israel

By Sandi Simms and Marni Vyn

We are beyond thrilled to announce BIG news! Grand Rapids and Kibbutz Ein Dor in Northern Israel are “sister cities” or as we prefer to call it our “kinship community.”



P2G Women in Detroit, at the home of Randi Sakwa

Kibbutz Ein Dor was the first Jewish settlement founded in Israel after the declaration of independence in 1948 and has grown to more than 1,000 residents. It is located at the base of the historical Mount Tavor in the Central Galilee's Jezreel Valley, a geographic region known for its fertile lands, coexistence of Jews and Arabs, and biblical significance.

Last April, we traveled to Israel and met with members of Kibbutz Ein Dor. We were impressed with their strong sense of community, deep connection to the land, and diverse residents including professionals, farmers, and artists. The kibbutz offers a vibrant secular Jewish life, a new elementary school to meet the needs of the growing population of young families, and engaging services for the elderly. We see many commonalities and shared values between our two communities.

Kibbutz Ein Dor also offers unique opportunities to the broader community. An archeological museum on the kibbutz contains artifacts unearthed from the land when the kibbutz was built; a dedicated art gallery showcases local artists; neighboring school children come for experiential learning activities including an ancient



Dinner at Rose's

olive grinding stone to make olive oil; and residents of local Arab villages come to the kibbutz for innovative, art-focused programming that strengthens people-to-people connections and deepens interpersonal relationships between Jews and Arabs.

You might be wondering - why does the Jewish community of Grand Rapids have a sister city? What do we get out of this relationship?

The Partnership2gether Program (P2G) is a global network through the Jewish Agency for the promotion, empowerment, and development of deep connections between Jewish communities in Israel and worldwide. Grand Rapids was represented in P2G at its inception more than 20 years ago, and we recently reengaged with P2G Michigan four years ago. We learned about Ann Arbor's sister city relationship with a moshav called Nahalal, and we knew that having a sister city of our own would help Grand Rapids connect with P2G in a powerful way.

From the moment we stepped onto Kibbutz Ein Dor, we felt a strong connection to the people. They were warm, welcoming, and interested in getting to know us. We have much to learn from their way of life (both as Israelis and “kibbutzniks”). We look forward to sharing our traditions and culture with them. Israel is the Jewish Homeland, and we now have a home-away-from-home, an extended family in Israel. We hope to start sending groups of families, adults, and teens from West Michigan to visit Ein Dor in the coming years.

Ein Dor's P2G coordinator is Rabbi Shlomit Myers, and she is supported by a dynamic committee of six other kibbutz members. From the Israel side, Shlomit has been the champion of this sister city project with Grand Rapids, and she brings extensive experience with



Meijer Gardens



Downtown GR

the Detroit-based P2G program from its early days in the late 1990s.

Here in Grand Rapids, we have a dedicated committee including Michelle Benjamin, Tina Murua, Amy Ostrow, Evan Rossio, and Kris Siegel - and we welcome our newest members, Dafna Kaufman and Sherri Robinson.

Relationship with Ein Dor Families Already Underway!

We've already begun to create relationships between members of each community. Twelve Ein Dor families created and sent Rosh Hashanah cards for twelve families in Grand Rapids. Many of these families are now communicating via email and getting to know each other!



Challah making at Sandi's

We also welcomed Shlomit Myers to Grand Rapids last month. She was in Michigan with 15 other Israelis for a delegation visit to Detroit. The theme of the trip was "shared society" (including relations between Blacks and Jews and relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims) - and the diversity of American

Jewry across denominations, which is very different from Jewish life in Israel!

Nicole Katzman joined us in Detroit for this incredible experience. We have learned that P2G not only strengthens our ties between Michigan and Israel, it also strengthens the bonds between Jews across the state of Michigan. The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is more connected to the Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit (JFMD) as a result of our participation in P2G. We are even in discussions with JFMD's

partners (like the Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity) to bring some of these amazing programs to West Michigan.

After the delegation, Shlomit extended her stay in order to visit Grand Rapids. We showed her some highlights of our region - including visiting the Holocaust Memorial Sculpture at Meijer Gardens, our vibrant downtown, and the shores of Lake Michigan. We made challah together and gave her tours of our congregational buildings.



Home hospitality at the home of Brad and Robin Axelrod, Ann Arbor.

On Friday evening, Shlomit was invited to speak at Temple Emanuel's Kabbalat Shabbat service about life on the kibbutz and secular humanistic Judaism.



At Lake Michigan

Her comments were thought-provoking and so enlightening! All those attending the service were invited to join us for dinner at the Temple.

We look forward to our next steps with Kibbutz Ein Dor and invite you to get involved!

Sandi and Marni

Sandi Simms is a board member of Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids and co-chair of the Partnership2gether Grand Rapids/ Ein Dor committee with Marni Vyn.

Marni Vyn is the past Board Chair and a current Office of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. She co-leads the Partnership2Gether program in Grand Rapids with Sandi Simms.



Cantor David Fair

United Jewish School Update

by Cantor David Fair

Dear Families of the United Jewish School,

After a joyous month of gratitude, we are excited to welcome in this month of Kislev, as we celebrate Chanukah! We hope that you will light the Chanukah candles with

your children and recite the blessings:

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

(Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.)

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh.

(Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wonderous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.)

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

(Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.)

This month, our entire school is focusing on "Gevurah," which means "Using one's inner and outer strength." We focus on concepts such as Anne Frank's strength, standing up for others, strength as a spiritual guide, Joshua as a leader, Israeli Olympians, bullying, Jewish partisans and Holocaust survivors, and the story of David & Goliath. There is much to learn and we looking forward to working with your children as we explore this important Jewish value.

Last month, we welcomed to Grand Rapids Jewish musician and educator, Bodi! We enjoyed a fabulous morning program called "A Jewish Journey Through Contemporary Music and Pop Culture." The kids really enjoyed themselves and gained a truly memorable and educational experience!

This month, we are excited to welcome Jewish songleader, composer, and prayer leader Noah Aronson. Noah has been creating and inspiring international audiences with his heartfelt and soulful music for the last 20 years. Known internationally

for his well-known prayer settings of "Am I Awake/ Bar'chu," "Let There Be Love," "We Return," and "Zamru Ladonai." Noah will be offer an entire weekend to the Temple Emanuel Community, but on Sunday, he will be working with the entire school on Sunday, November 11th, to prepare them for a concert at 11:00am where the kids will sing for us all! The entire community is welcome to come!

We have been amazed at how many parents donated to The Kippah Project. We raised an incredible \$709! With this money, we were able to go to the classrooms and ask kids exactly what theme of kippah they are looking for. We have been delighted to start seeing more and more kids wearing them while they learn! We've been able to use the surplus to go toward other educational initiatives, such as bringing in Jewish guest artists!

We have another opportunity for you to give. UJS would like to bring in a group called "The Afro-Semitic Experience" on Martin Luther King, Jr weekend.



These six musicians travel around the country offering incredible programming to communities just like ours! Our Jewish community believes in opening our eyes and hearts to the incredibly unique and exciting possibilities that happen when people from different racial and musical backgrounds come together and create, so this program is particularly appropriate for ours.

As their website describes: "Our friendship ignites our passion and purpose: we merge our musical roots, Jewish and Afro-diasporic melodies and grooves, combining the core concepts of àse and shalom - power, action, unity, and peace."

As legendary jazz critic, Nat Hentoff wrote "...never before have I heard this lyrically powerful a fusion of Jewish and jazz souls on fire..." The Afro-Semitic Experience's music is described by critic Carlos Ramos as "a whoopin', hollerin', testifyin' celebration of multicultural soul music. Imagine Charles Mingus

(Cont'd on next page)



sitting in with a Klezmer band, playing Gospel music set to the polyrhythmic pace of congas and bongos.” I would be so excited to expose our students to this awesome music and way of envisioning togetherness. This feels like it could truly be an experience our children would never forget. <https://afrosemiticexperience.net/home>

But we need your help! We are raising money to pay for them to come to Grand Rapids. They have been so generous as to only ask for \$2000. Even a small donation would go a long way toward that goal. We are also in the process of releasing a publication to be distributed at the end of the year of families who made our various educational opportunities possible. We would be honored to include your name in this. If you are in a position to make a donation, please go to

<https://www.unitedjewishschool.org/donate/>. We’d love to bring this exciting educational program to Grand Rapids!

L'Shalom,
Cantor David Fair
(He/him/his)
Cantor@unitedjewishschool.org

Cantor David Fair (he/him) has been serving the Grand Rapids Jewish Community since 2021. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, he graduated with his BA in Theater from the University of Maryland College Park, a Professional Studies and Artist Diploma in Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He received a Masters in Sacred Music and was ordained from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City in 2021 (where he wrote his thesis “Tziporah’s Children: The Music and Lived Experiences of Black Jewish Americans”). Cantor Fair’s first love was as an actor and singer, and he’s performed in hundreds of musicals and operas across the country. Cantor Fair is also the Educator of Grand Rapids’s United Jewish School, as he was a school teacher before entering Cantorial school. Cantor Fair and his partner Corey are honored to be part of the Grand Rapids Jewish community.

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Leadership Lessons for Life: Get Unstuck in 5 Steps

By Coach John Robinson



Coach John Robinson

Are you feeling stuck in your life? Are you wanting to reach a new level? With the New year around the corner, it is a great time to reflect on what you want out of life and the path you are walking to get there.

After years of feeling stuck and working through tough challenges, I have come to the five steps below. They have helped me overcome obstacles and find out how to bring about my dream life.

Here are the five steps that make up my Shield Success Plan template.

1. Create your Dream Blueprint

This is creating a vision for your life. Take the time to sit quietly to reflect on what you really want your life to be like. I encourage you to think about drafting this in a way that weaves joy into the picture.

Use pen and paper to write this and then transfer it to digital form later if you desire. Be sure to imagine all the great feelings when this Dream Blueprint (vision) becomes a reality. Really allow yourself to soak in the picture of living your dream.

2. Know Your Why

What is your reason for wanting the life you envisioned with your Dream Blueprint? How will your life be better and how will the world be better?

Your why takes you from good to great. It also helps you stay inspired and on track when tough times hit.

3. Pick Your One Thing & Goals

This is the One Thing that is most important for you to focus on at the moment in pursuit of your Dream Blueprint. It is good to pick this at the start of each week, and pick a new one if you finish it before the week ends.

It is also helpful to set goals that lead to the realization of your Dream Blueprint. I encourage the people I professionally advise to at least set a monthly goal.

4. Set Your Power Hour & Super Friends

Your Power Hour is a time, as early in the day as possible, ideally first thing in the morning. This is

when you get to take massive action towards your Dream Blueprint focusing on your current One Thing. Your Super Friends are those who will support you on this. They may also be people you hire or recruit to be on your team.

5. Do Your Selfcare365

This is daily self-care. Make a list of things that fulfill you, sustain you, rejuvenate you and/or bring you joy. Do at least one thing from this list as early in the day as possible. You can do something else from the list later in the day if you need a lift, such as if you face a difficult challenge.

Ready?

Take the time to dive into each step above. Save this as a reference. Reach out to me with your questions. I'm happy to give feedback. Let me know how this works for you.

Coach John

He/Him/His (what's this)

Your Executive & Personal Success Advisor

LeaderSupportCircle.com

Leadership Coach John helps warrior leaders take command of their personal and professional lives, and create a life they love including a legacy of service to others. Your dreams absolutely can come true.

If you have feedback on this article, or a request for a future article, please reach out at info@CoachJohn.help.

"The warrior in all of us is desperately searching for something heroic, transcendent, or self-sacrificing." cac.org



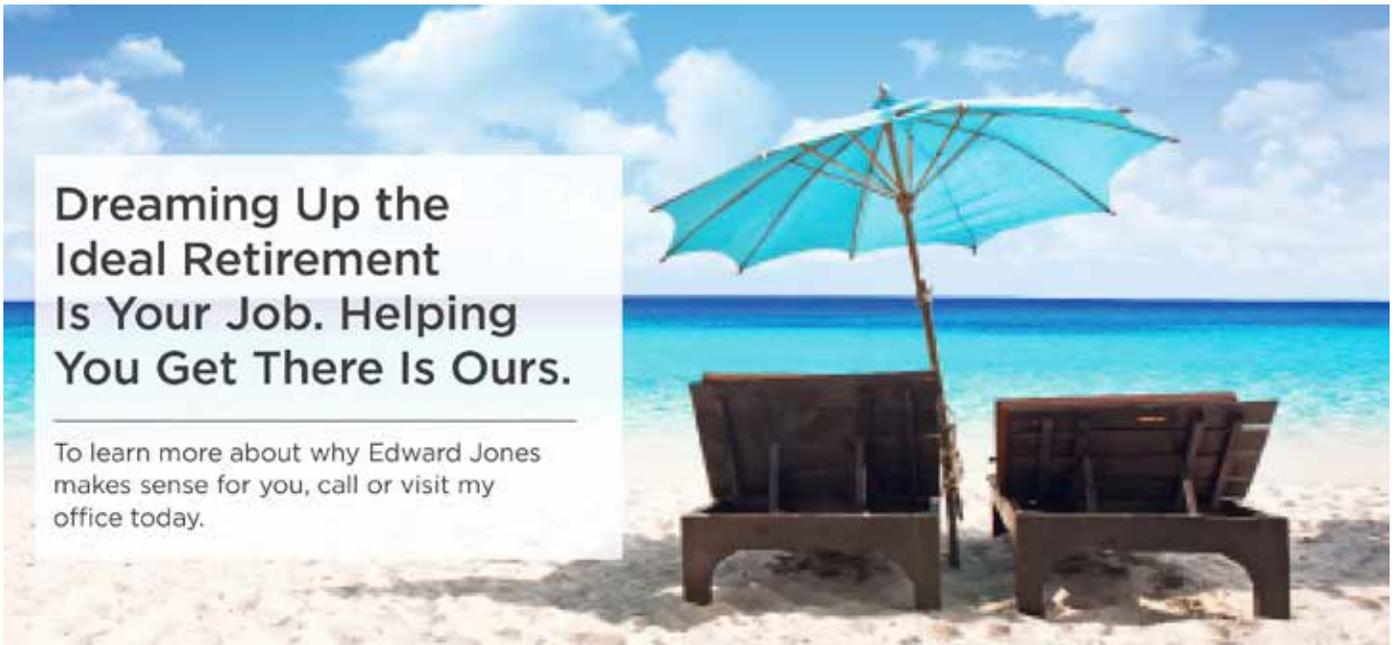


Stephanie Hurwitz Realtor®

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office 616.575.0118
1555 Arboretum Dr. SE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49546



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.



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Stories of Hope and Courage from the Holocaust

by Bev Kagan

“Stories of Hope and Courage from the Holocaust” was a very successful interfaith event with over 90 people in attendance on Wednesday morning, October 26th at Temple Emanuel.

This inspiring presentation was led by my Cassandra Kroondyk from Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. It included very touching stories and beautiful violin and vocal music selections performed by Cassandra and accompanied by Dr. Ken Bos on piano.

She is a member of our “Sisters of Faith” group which consists of Jews, Christians and Muslims and is part of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute.

This event brought me hope and also the courage to face the difficult challenges ahead for all of us.



Bev Kagan



Bev Kagan is a member of Temple Emanuel and a participant in “Sisters of Faith” which consists of Jews, Christians and Muslims and is part of the Kaufman Interfaith Institute.

Thirty years ago, Bev was Federation’s first program director providing activities for people of all ages from the entire Grand

Rapids Jewish community.

Bev has been married to Dave for 53 years, is the proud mom of Lisa and Jeff and the loving grandma of Abby, Ethan, Caleb, Wolf and Alice!

Do You Need a Ride?

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Contact Nicole at 616.942.5553 x207
or Nicole@JFGR.org to schedule your ride.
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Thank you to the generosity of the Ravitz Foundation for this service to the Grand Rapids Jewish community.





Artist-in-Residence

Noah Aronson

December 9 - 11, 2022

Temple Emanuel

1715 E Fulton St Grand Rapids, MI
616-459-5976 | info@grtemple.org

Temple Emanuel is excited to welcome Jewish composer and song and prayer leader Noah Aronson. He has been creating and inspiring international audiences with his heartfelt and soulful music for the last 20 years. Known internationally for his well-known prayer settings of Am I Awake/Bar'chu, Let There Be Love, We Return, and B'rich Rachamana, Noah will be offering an entire weekend to the community.

Thanks to the Tom & Mickie Fox Family Endowment Fund for helping to underwrite the weekend.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:00 PM: A Soulful Shabbat led by Noah, Rabbi Schadick and Cantor Fair.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:30 AM: Shabbasana: Join Noah and our resident Yoga Shabbat Teacher, Corey Dane, for a morning of movement and prayer. Followed by a vegan lunch. RSVP required: coreydane@gmail.com (Limited to 30).

12:45 PM: Kumzits: Noah will teach us his well-known musical settings of prayers and songs that have made him a household name in the world of Jewish music.

5:45 PM: Our annual Chanukah Dinner, catered by Marla Tulett. \$25 adults/\$18 age 12 and under, non-members \$5 additional. Make your reservation on Temple Emanuel's website: grtemple.org, pay under donate (general fund, make a note what payment is for.) Seating is limited for dinner/concert.

Following Dinner: A Concert of Noah's most famous musical offerings.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

11:00 AM: UJS Chanukah Concert. Noah will work with our students all morning and teach Chanukah favorites to be performed for the school community!

For more information please email: cathy@grtemple.org or call: 616-459-5976.



Sufganiyot

By Evan Rossio, Campaign Director, JFGR



Evan Rossio

Latkes aren't the only fried treat eaten during Hanukkah. In modern Israel, more than 18 million sufganiyot, or jelly doughnuts are consumed in the weeks around the holiday, which averages out to over three sufganiyot per citizen. Some find the idea of making sufganiyot at home quite daunting due to the use of yeast and hot oil, but the dough doesn't need extensive kneading and only requires a single rise. Give it a try! Adapted from a recipe by Joan Nathan.

Sufganiyot

1 T (10g) active dry yeast
3 T (38g) granulated sugar
¼ c (60ml) water
½ c (120ml) lukewarm milk
1 lg egg
1 lg egg yolk
Pinch of kosher salt

Grated zest of 1 lemon
3 ½ c (435g) all purpose flour, plus more for dusting
3 ½ T (48g) unsalted butter, at room temperature
Vegetable oil for deep frying
1 c (240 ml) jam, Nutella, or lemon curd
Confectioners' or granulated sugar for rolling and dusting

In a large bowl, dissolve the yeast and 1T (12g) of the granulated sugar in the water, then stir in the milk.

Add the egg, egg yolk, lemon zest, flour, remaining 2T (26g) granulated sugar, and the butter. Mix with your hands until a dough forms, then knead it on a clean countertop until it is sticky and elastic.

Transfer the dough to a lightly oiled bowl, cover with cling film or a kitchen towel and let rise in a warm place for at least 1 hour, or until doubled in size. You can let it rise in the refrigerator overnight; let it come to room temperature before rolling and cutting.



Dust a clean surface with flour and roll out the dough to ½" thickness. Using the top of a glass or a biscuit cutter, cut out rounds about 2" (5cm) wide and let rise for 30 minutes. You can also roll the dough into a rectangle and, using a pizza cutter, cut the dough into 2" squares.

Heat at least 2" of oil in a Dutch oven over medium heat until it reaches 375°F (190°C) or is about to bubble. Drop 4-6 doughnuts at a time into the hot oil and cook for 2-3 minutes on each side, turning when brown. You'll see less bubbling and hear less sizzling when ready to turn.

Transfer to paper towels to drain and fry the remaining doughnuts. Using a pastry bag or cupcake injector, fill each sufganiyot with about 1t of the jam. Roll the sufganiyot in confectioners' or granulated sugar and serve immediately.

WHERE DOES MY MONEY GO?



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CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

Chabad House of Western Michigan is dedicated to serving Jews of all ages with Ahavat Yisroel regardless of religious background or affiliation.

WEBSITE: WWW.CHABADWM.COM | **FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM:** @CHABADWM | **PHONE:** 616-957-0770 | **EMAIL:** CHABADWESTERNMICHIGAN@GMAIL.COM

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

WEEKDAY MORNING SERVICE MINYAN

MONDAY & THURSDAY (+ ROSH CHODESH) | 7:15AM

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 269.903.7916 or Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com

NEW SIX-WEEK JLI COURSE

"My G-d" - Defining the Divine

Nothing is off-limits as this refreshingly open course asks piercing questions about G-d and delivers profound, insightful answers. An enlightening study into G-d's nature, G-d's goal for creation, human experiences of G-d, the role of religion, and the function of prayer, this course promises to satisfy your questions, including those you didn't know you had.

Virtual: Six Tuesday's, began on November 8th, 2022 | In Person: Six Wednesday's, began on November 9th, 2022.

For more information contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.7916 or Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com

MENORAH BUILDING WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH | 12:00-1:30PM | AT CHABAD

Build your own Menorah! | Free Workers Apron! | Music & Refreshments! | Fun for the whole family!

Accompanied by a parent, the children will don aprons, make menorahs from prepared cut wood, paint their creations and insert candle holders. The menorah will be lit during Chanukah, which begins on the night of Dec. 18th. Chabad also will provide instructional literature and safety handouts to go with. RSVP required at www.chabadwm.com/workshop

JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE

The Jewish Women's Circle brings together Jewish women of all ages & backgrounds to learn, laugh, experience & rejuvenate the mind, body & soul.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH | 7:00PM

Pre-Chanukah Candle Making Workshop

Enjoy a ladies night out! Create your very own candle to warm up your home, and connect with the powerful Chanukah message of light.

Couvert \$20 | Limited seating | RSVP at www.chabadwm.com/JWC

CTEEN GRAND RAPIDS UPCOMING EVENTS:

CTeen is a part of the fastest growing teen network in the world!

It's the place for ALL Jewish high school teens!

For more information about CTeen or to RSVP, contact Rivka at 616.206.9654 or Rivkahweingarten@gmail.com.

WEEKLY VIRTUAL CTEEN LOUNGE NIGHT:

SUNDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

Meeting ID: 938 3001 6601 Password: 180 or text Rivka for the link.

MIDWEST REGIONAL SHABBATON

DECEMBER 2ND - 4TH *pend a Shabbat at Camp Nageela in Illinois together with many other Jewish teens from the Midwest!*

CTEEN & CTEEN JUNIOR CHANUKAH BASH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH | 3:00-5:00PM

Light up Chanukah the teen way! Followed by the Grand Menorah Lighting at the Calder Plaza. (Pick up downtown)

CTEEN INTERNATIONAL NYC SHABBATON:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

Meet thousands of Jewish teens from around the world for an unforgettable weekend together in NYC! Register online at www.cteen.com/shabbaton | Contact Rivka for more info and a discount code!

GRAND MANORAH LIGHTING CELEBRATION AT THE CALDER PLAZA

DECEMBER 18TH - 5:00PM

Come celebrate the FIRST night of Chanukah together as a community!

Lively Chanukah music, Sufganiot (donuts), Hot delicious latkes, exciting entertainment, and more!! Fun for the whole family!

DAILY MENORAH LIGHTING DOWNTOWN AT THE CALDER PLAZA

SUNDAY, DEC. 18TH (Grand Menorah Lighting!) • **5:00PM**

MONDAY, DEC. 19TH - THURSDAY DEC. 22ND • 5:00PM

FRIDAY, DEC. 23RD • 3:00PM

SATURDAY, DEC. 24TH • 7:00PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 25TH • 5:00PM

MENORAH AT THE WOODLAND MALL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

GAN ISRAEL WINTER CAMP

DECEMBER 20TH & 21ST | 10:00AM-3:00PM

Why wait for summer to experience the excitement of camp Gan Israel?!

Bring the fun of Gan Izzy right into your winter break!

Camp activities include: Games, cooking, outdoor fun, crafts, sports, Awesome Chanukah and CGI activities, hunts and more!!

For Jewish children Ages 5-12 | \$60 both days (including a hot lunch) | Register online at www.chabadwm.com/cgiwinter

CHOPSTIX CHANUKAH PARTY

Join us for our Annual Latke Party!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH | 7:30PM

Come celebrate Chanukah with the whole Family!

Kosher Chinese Buffet, Hot Delicious Latkes, Sufganiot (donuts), Chanukah music, Chanukah crafts, Dreidel Ride, Games, Menorah Lighting and more!



At the Chabad House | 2615 Michigan ST | Cover charge: \$6
RSVP www.chabadwm.com/latkeparty or call Sarah at 616.375.9404

JEW-Q

Chabad of Western Michigan is excited to bring **JewQ** - the International Torah Championship for Jewish children in grades 3-7.

It's fun, exciting, and you'll learn lots about being Jewish!

For more info and to register your child go to www.chabadwm.com/wmjewq or message us at 616-813-4827.

JTEXT ~ JEWISH TRIVIA FOR TEENS!

EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY AT 7:00PM.

Be the 7th to answer correctly and win a \$20 AMAZON GIFT CARD to your email! 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 the 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 to be picked up at Chabad! **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.**



AHAVAS ISRAEL BOOK GROUP

We have been invited by Congregation of Moses to join a book group conversation on Zoom with Rabbi Dr. Haviva Ner-David on January 24th 10:00 a.m., on "Dreaming Against the Current, A Rabbi's Soul Journey." She also wrote "Life on the Fringes" and three other book, including a novel. To receive the zoom link, register for the group at https://congregationofmoses.org/event_signup/?EID=9891.

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Ilana Kurshan, If All The Seas Were Ink

Ilana Kurshan's memoir is impressive for many reasons. On its face the story is about a woman—the author—and how she recovered from her divorce through daf yomi, the daily practice of studying the Talmud, which took over seven years to complete. But Kurshan's divorce is neither the focus of her book nor the main story of her life. Rather, the book's topics range widely, from Kurshan's childhood to her aliyah to Israel, to parenthood. Organized in a loosely chronological fashion, it is arranged by Talmud tractates. The power of this memoir arises from the expert connections Kurshan draws between her personal story and the talmudic anecdotes.

Evident from the beginning is Kurshan's expertise in the Talmud,

rabbinic Judaism, midrash, and Jewish topics more generally. Perhaps due to the nature of daf yomi, which is less deep dive and more high-level, she strikes the right balance between explanation, detail, and depth in her retelling of talmudic stories. This is helpful because the Talmud is, frankly, complicated, and the numerous stories occasionally make the memoir a touch too dense. Fortunately, for the majority of the book, Kurshan's skilled writing makes the stories accessible and also animates the rabbis and their debates for a modern audience.

Kurshan's passion for the written word is a key feature of her inner self. She is not only an expert in rabbinic literature; she also weaves secular literature and poetry throughout the book. The literary quotations add emotional richness to the memoir.

Due to Kurshan's deft explanations of Talmudic personalities and principles, even readers without a background in Jewish topics will enjoy this insightful memoir. Readers will be inspired by Kurshan's resilience and renewal, with the Talmud by her side.

NEW COURSE: DR. BINYAMIN MEHLER - THE KORBANOT SERVICE

When: Tuesday January 10, 17 and 24 between 3-4:30 pm.

The course will be offered by Zoom. The recording will be available for those who wish to register but cannot attend live. Advance registration required by Monday, January 9. Contact binyaminbenhaim@gmail.com to register.

For those who have never studied with Dr. Mehler – you will be entertained, you will be astonished, you will be challenged, and you will learn!

This seminar will be an exploration of a part of the morning service no longer included in the Sim Shalom. The Sim Shalom begins the morning service with the morning blessings followed by "Rabbinic texts." After the morning blessings in the traditional siddur comes the "Korbanot" section containing 19 paragraphs mostly biblical paragraphs describing the various offerings (e.g. sin offerings, thanksgiving offerings) and a recipe for the incense.

"For me, the most esoteric parts of the morning service are the most meaningful. We read the recipe for incense that has not been burned in 2000 years, details of services abandoned for centuries, whose memory was rescued from oblivion by the heroic efforts of teachers who believed that if the incense could not be smelled, at least the recipe could be recited. If the meal could not be eaten, at least its preparation could be recalled, reminding us always of how much we have lost; of our hunger." – Dr. Mehler, 4/5/2011.

Dr. Mehler will explore the meaning of these esoteric texts and why the reading of the Tamid and Ketoret (recipe for the incense) was so much more important to read than Psalms 30, which we would never think to skip.

Those who sign up will receive a pdf of the Korbanot service with Dr. Mehler's notes compiled in 2011.

HANUKKAH DINNER

Mark your calendars and watch for more information about a Hanukkah dinner on Sunday evening, December 25.

(Continued on pg 26)



Temple Emanuel was founded in 1857. We are the 5th oldest Reform synagogue in the United States. We invite those who are looking for a vibrant Reform congregation in West Michigan to come and be a part of our community. We welcome all those who are seeking a contemporary approach to Jewish life to our beautiful campus.

We wish the entire Jewish community a joyous Chanukah and a blessed 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

Friday, December 2

Family Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM
Students join Rabbi Schadick and Cantor Fair leading the service

Sunday, December 4

Your Opinion Matters Breakfast at 10:00 AM
Join Jim Siegel for a great meal and a topical discussion. RSVP to Jim at jims@siegeljewelers.com

Friday, December 9

We welcome the incomparable Noah Aronson to Temple for a weekend of music as a Chanukah gift to our congregation.

Shabbat Services featuring Noah and our clergy team at 6:00 PM

Saturday, December 10

Delicious Pre-Chanukah Latke Dinner catered by Marla Tulett at 5:45 PM
\$25 for Temple Members/\$18 for Children (Non-members add \$5)
An amazing concert of Noah's most famous musical offerings following dinner
Seating Limited
Reservations and payment at grtemple.org.
Underwritten by the Tom & Mickie Fox Family Endowment Fund

Friday, December 16

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
Led by Rabbi Schadick and Cantor Fair

Sunday, December 18

The first night of Chanukah

Friday, December 23

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
Led by Rabbi Albert Lewis and Kathy Osborn
Celebrate Shabbat and the 6th Night of Chanukah at Temple

Friday, December 30

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM
Led by Janice Fonger and Kathy Osborn
The last Shabbat of 2022
Toast the year 2023 at Temple

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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**
In Honor of Norm's 90th birthday
Sandy Simon
- David & Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund**
- Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund**
In Honor of Carol Present
Judith Neuman
- In Honor of Carol & Mike Present*
Peggy & Marc Leven
- In Honor of my parents*
Caroll and Mike Present
- In Honor of my grandparents*
Lisa Present Shall
- Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund**
- Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund**
- Fox Family Fund**
- The Finkelstein Brothers Fund**
- Henry Pestka Memorial Fund**

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.

*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
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**Next Issue's Information Deadline:
December 15, 2022**

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