



New Holocaust Memorial has Arrived at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Nicole Katzman, JFGR Executive Director



Nicole Katzman

The new Holocaust Memorial, *Ways to Say Goodbye*, by artist Ariel Schlesinger has arrived from England and was delivered to the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. The sculpture, a cast of a fig tree that has shards of glass inserted among the branches, was shipped from England in early November, weighs over 3000 pounds and is 22 feet in length. It took many months to orchestrate the packaging and shipping of such a large object of art. The sculpture was received in perfect condition without any damage and will be installed, Spring 2022 in an outdoor location at the Meijer Gardens.

The sculpture is a gift from the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids to the Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park made possible by a donation from the Pestka Family in memory



"Ways to Say Goodbye" arriving at Frederik Meijer Gardens

of their father, Henry, a Holocaust survivor, and the millions of Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

Ariel Schlesinger takes an organic form that is a metaphor of both the Jewish people and their history. The aluminum cast sculpture is of a living fig tree that he found on a farm while traveling in northern Italy. This tree was specifically chosen by Schlesinger for its character and as a symbol of the Jewish

struggle for survival both during and after the Holocaust. The tree appears fragile and clinging to life, however it is also representative of great endurance. Schlesinger has commented that in conceptualizing the sculpture, he held pieces of broken glass in his hands that pressed into his fingers. This recalled the Kristallnacht, or Night of the Broken Glass. The Kristallnacht was the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust, during which Nazi mobs murdered Jews and destroyed Jewish

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Our Mission:

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids unites the local Jewish community to sustain and strengthen Jews locally, in Israel and around the world.

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

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Campaign Update
from **Linda Pestka,**
Campaign Chair & Board Member



We are in the homestretch! It has been a tough year for all of us. In spite of the pandemic and the many challenges we face, things are looking up. The days are getting longer. The snow will eventually melt. The Holocaust memorial sculpture Ways to Say Goodbye has arrived in Grand Rapids and is awaiting installation at Meijer Gardens. And, of course, we are inching closer to our Campaign 2021 goal of \$500,000.

*I'm proud to be part of a community that places a high value on giving. Once again, I'd like to thank those of you who have generously pledged and donated, and I ask those who are able and have not yet supported Federation help us achieve our 2021 goal by making your gift. Remember, any amount you increase - and any NEW pledges - will be matched by a generous grant from the **Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation**. And, if you are under 50 years of age, it will ALSO be matched by a generous grant from the **Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation**.*

In an increasingly polarized society, I leave you this quote: "Whoever practices charity and justice fills the world with loving kindness" – Talmud: Sukkah.

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Three Steps to Save a Busted New Year's Resolution (Or Boost a Current One)

By John Robinson

Here are some excerpts from a recent blog post of mine to help you with your resolutions!

Are you someone who creates New Year's resolutions? If so, congratulations! Those who take on resolutions face a trend working against them. I have seen in multiple places that a third of people falter on their resolution by the end of January. Other stats I have come across have roughly half of resolutioners off track midway through the year, to as high as 80% giving up by the end of February.

What then should you do if you want to keep your resolution going, or if your resolution has already fallen by the wayside? Whichever boat you are in, here are three steps to save a busted New Year's resolution (or boost a current one).

Step One: Write down a description of the life you want the resolution to help you achieve

This is what I sometimes call a Dream Blueprint. The key to this is making a vision of what you want your life to be like. In this instance, you aren't necessarily writing your resolution. Write about what your life will be like when you achieve your resolution. Add to it what it will feel like and how you will feel. And do commit it to paper with a writing instrument as it will give you a deeper connection over just thinking about it or typing it.

Step Two: Name the One Thing you should most focus on right now to achieve that life.

With your Dream Blueprint in mind and in front of you, think about One Thing you should focus on today or this week, to move toward making it a reality. Think about something that helps you make an impact towards achieving your dreams. Write it with pen and paper. You

can transfer this and your Dream Blueprint to an electronic format later if you like.

Step Three: Pick the earliest time each day you can take steps towards that one thing and do it!

Think of this as your Power Hour.

The sooner in the day you can set to work towards your Dream Blueprint, the better chance you have of getting it done. Try to make it your first hour of the day. For someone on a typical first shift schedule, the time you pick for this step might be 6:00 am. While a time this early might seem crazy, there's a good reason for it. The later in the day you choose, the more likely you are to encounter interruptions and reasons to delay. Later times are at greater risk of being less effective, if they happen at all. Thus, start your day with your first hour dedicated to your Dream Blueprint.

These steps will make you a leader in your own life. They will give you direction, actionable steps, and a way to build the habits to keep you on track towards your dreams. Remember, trust yourself, you can do this!



Coach John Robinson

Leadership Coach John Robinson has a free resource for you this month. Check out his Win Or Learn Program at <http://bit.ly/WinOrLearn2022> or reach out at info@CoachJohn.help with any questions or comments.

Coach John Robinson serves in multiple ways, including as a Leadership Coach, community volunteer and poet. He invites you to reach out at info@CoachJohn.help with any questions or comments.



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Jewish Federation Grand Rapids
Arad Okanin

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L'dor Vador Endowment Update

Growing the Community's Endowment Funds

The L'dor Vador Endowment Committee met and reviewed the investment policy statement and results for 2021. The committee discussed the economy and markets and elected to make no changes to the investment policy.

The L'dor Vador Endowment funds totaled \$11,023,847.00 as of 12/21/2021, which is up from the \$9,874,664.00 at the end of 2020. Of note, the funds' balance has been increased by contributions and reduced by annual distributions requested by many of the fund's beneficiaries.

Due to the fluctuating conditions of the market, the funds annualized weighted average return

was 10.23% for all of 2021. However, L'dor Vador Endowment assets generated over \$330,000 through 2021 that are available to local Jewish organizations for their discretionary use to fund their charitable missions.

Please consider contributing to, or setting up a L'dor Vador Endowment Fund to help ensure the future of our Jewish community. To donate, contact the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Congregation Ahavas Israel or Temple Emanuel. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Nicole Katzman, Executive Director at 616-942-5553 or nicole@jfgr.org



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Financial Focus

What to know about early IRA withdrawals

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



Chad Zagel JFGR
Board Member

While you're working, you may be contributing to an individual retirement account (IRA), which can provide a tax-advantaged way to save for your future. So, is it ever a good idea to tap into your IRA before you retire?

Ideally, you should leave this account intact until your retirement. After all, you could spend two or more decades in retirement, so you'll need a lot of financial resources. Still, life is unpredictable, so there may be times you'll consider taking money from your IRA. You'll need to be aware, though, that if you withdraw funds before you turn 59½, you will generally trigger a 10% penalty. Plus, you'll be taxed on whatever you take out, thereby losing, at least in part, the benefits of tax-deferred earnings offered by a traditional IRA. (With a Roth IRA, you can withdraw your *contributions* free of taxes and penalties, but the earnings may be taxed and penalized if you take them out before you're 59½.)

If you need to withdraw funds from your IRA before you're 59½, you may be able to avoid the 10% early withdrawal penalty if you meet an exception, such as one of these:

- *Paying for college* – You are allowed to take penalty-free withdrawals to pay for tuition and other qualified higher education expenses for you, your spouse, children or grandchildren. However, since the withdrawals may be considered taxable income, they could reduce the student's eligibility for financial aid.
- *Buying a first home* – You and your spouse can each withdraw up to \$10,000 from your respective IRAs to buy your first home. To qualify as a first-time homebuyer, you (and your spouse) need to have not owned a home for the two years preceding your home purchase.

- *Having a child* – Following the birth or adoption of a child, you and your coparent can each withdraw up to \$5,000 from your respective IRA without paying the 10% penalty.
- *Covering medical expenses* – You may be able to avoid the early withdrawal penalty if you use the money to pay for unreimbursed medical expenses (for you, your spouse or dependents) that exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. You may also qualify to take a withdrawal without penalty to pay for health insurance premiums if you are unemployed. In the case of a disability, the 10% early withdrawal penalty also may not apply.

These aren't the only exceptions to the 10% withdrawal penalty, but they do cover many of the common reasons that people may consider an early withdrawal from their IRAs. And if you do need to take an early withdrawal, consult with your tax advisor to determine your eligibility for avoiding the 10% penalty.

Keep in mind, though, that you do have ways to potentially reduce the necessity of withdrawing from your IRA early. One proven technique is to build an emergency fund containing at least three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account. You might also consider opening a line of credit. A financial professional can help you explore other options, as well.

Ultimately, if you can leave your IRA intact until you retire, you'll be helping yourself greatly. But if you do need to tap into your account early, at least be familiar with the possible drawbacks – and how you might avoid them.

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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David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund

Your child may qualify for a camp scholarship through the David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. Applications are available on our website at www.jfgr.org, or by request by emailing nicole@jfgr.org or calling (616) 942-5553. **Your completed application must be received by March 15, 2022.**

All applications will be reviewed by a scholarship committee and kept confidential.



If your child is enrolled in PJ Library and attending an overnight summer camp for the first time, you may be eligible for up to \$1,000 in scholarships! Visit onehappycamper.org for more information on eligibility, award details, and how to apply. Check out the [PJ Goes to Camp](#) page on pjlibrary.org for additional details.



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A Star that Can Never Really Fade Away

By Rob Franciosi



Rob Franciosi

Oscar season has arrived and in thinking about this column I made the mistake of Googling “best Jewish actresses,” which sent me to a site called The Famous People. There I found a list “based on an algorithm that combines various factors,” including user votes and internet search trends, but the results also suggest that stupidity and historical ignorance may have affected the numbers.

Scanning a bizarre list headed by Carrie Fisher, and scrolling past such luminaries as Mila Kunis and Lisa Kudrow, I at last found worthy actress. For some



reason, though, the site’s creators decided to use a picture of Lauren Bacall in her late eighties. “Dude,” the grizzled twenty-three-year old editor probably had said, “folks can’t, like, relate to black and white photos. Maybe we can find a recent selfie with this Bacall lady. See if she has an Instagram account.”

Fortunately, a mouse-click brought up the young face that could have launched a thousand troop ships, with a sultry beauty that today’s influencers can’t imagine, let alone imitate.

Perhaps my mistake was searching for Jewish *actresses* instead of *stars*. In an age bursting with celebrities and Tik-Tok fame-seekers, fewer and fewer understand what it once meant to be considered a Hollywood star. One of my favorite books about the film industry, Neal Gabler’s *An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood*, details the world created by the first moguls of the movie business, in which stars were the pistons driving the entertainment machine. Serving almost as quasi-royalty during the last century, those who had been granted the title assumed a larger-than-life identity that even erased such troublesome personal traits as ethnicity or religion or sexual preference. “Your father is not a Jew,” the wife of Bert “Cowardly Lion” Lahr once told her children. “He’s a star!”

For Betty Perske, a Jewish girl from the Bronx, stardom happened in that most fantastic of ways so dear to Hollywood and its devotees—by accident and almost



overnight. After some successful cover-girl features in New York, she was discovered by the wife of director Howard Hawks, whose secretary was told to make inquiries about the teen model. By a stroke of fortune, inquiries were somehow translated into train tickets, and Perske soon arrived for a screen test. Hawks not only signed the eighteen-year-old to a contract, but became a mentor, advising her to adopt the name Lauren, to which she added a version of her mother’s Romanian family name, Bacall.

But it was her work on Hawks’s *To Have and Have Not* (1944) that rocketed Bacall into the Hollywood firmament. Once the director recognized the on-screen chemistry between her and Humphrey Bogart, a relatively small part grew into a leading role. Cinematic passion between the pair quickly developed off camera. Just nineteen when they met, she and the forty-four-year old actor would marry a year later, a union that would endure until Bogart’s death in 1957.

Besides *To Have and Have Not*, the pair would work together in three more films: *The Big Sleep* (1946), *Dark Passage* (1947), and *Key Largo* (1948). It was her role in the 1946 adaptation of Raymond Chandler’s novel that cemented Bacall’s legacy as perhaps the ultimate *film noir* siren.

Lauren Bacall had other successes in the 1950s, including *How to Marry a Millionaire* (1953) with Marilyn Monroe and Betty Grable, two actresses who, like Bacall in her early years, derived much of their success from posing before the still camera. She would experience other triumphs, however, when she moved from Hollywood to Broadway, winning Tony awards for *Applause* (1970) and for *Woman of the Year* (1981).



Like so much of the Jewish-American experience, Lauren Bacall’s journey from the Bronx to Hollywood is both an inspiring and a cautionary tale. Even in a storied career, one which bridged the worlds of fashion,

(Cont’d on page 8)



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(Cont'd from page 7)

film, and stage, she knew the dark side of American life. In her memoir *By Myself and Then Some* (1978) she recalled lunching one day with Howard Hawks, who remarked how noisy the room suddenly became when a Jewish colleague entered. "Jews always make more noise," he informed his young protégé. "I felt that I was turning white," she wrote, "but I said nothing. I was afraid to—a side of myself I have never liked or been proud of—a side that was always there." A side that stopped her from revealing her own Jewishness to the anti-Semitic Hawks. Early on in her career, the studio even claimed that Bacall had come from a long-established American family.

She had changed her name, adopted a husky register

to her voice that became her trademark, and formed a Hollywood power couple that still endures in our imaginations, almost eighty years after she first taught Bogart to whistle: "You know how to whistle, don't you Steve? You just put your lips together and blow." The star that was Lauren Bacall still shimmers.



In "Key Largo," an otherwise forgettable song from the 1980s, the chorus includes two memorable lines: "We had it all/ Just like Bogie and Bacall." Save yourself from Spotifying this track, as it's the kind of dentist-office music that makes welcome the sound of the drill, though it does have another saving grace by quoting that most classic of classic Bogart lines.

So in that spirit, Happy Valentine's Day, Betty Perske. Here's looking at you, *kid*.

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



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(Cont'd from front page)

New Holocaust Memorial has Arrived at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

property and synagogues throughout Germany. Schlesinger transferred this concept to the sculpture by embedding the glass shards into the branches of the tree, representing the near annihilation of the Jewish people in a few short years.

Meijer Gardens and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids envision *Ways to Say Goodbye* as a gathering place for the Jewish community of Grand Rapids. The sculpture will be an excellent teaching tool for educators both locally and nationally to address the Holocaust and its legacy.

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, will continue to provide updates with installation details. Thank you to the Pestka Family for this incredible gift to our Jewish community.

Nicole



Rick Stevens inspecting the sculpture.

“As time goes on and memories of the Holocaust fade, it is important to remember the barbarity human beings are capable of, It is equally important to contemplate the strength of the survivors and their ability to continue and rebuild their lives. It is our hope that this work of art will promote an appreciation of our shared humanity and a reminder that hatred and intolerance continue to this day and the consequences of the ultimate dehumanization of human beings.” – Steven Pestka



Linda Pestka standing next to “Ways to Say Goodbye”



“The memorial has important significance to my family because our father was a survivor. The numbers 73847 are numbers that we will never forget. They were tattooed to my father’s forearm, as though he was an animal, as identification for his potential death. It is our duty to educate, respect and honor the victims and their families of the unthinkable acts against life and morality. The Holocaust did happen. Holocaust deniers are reporting false and harmful information. Anti-Semitism and other hate crimes are on the rise. The Meijer Gardens Memorial sculpture will allow hundreds of thousands of people each year to become educated and aware of the atrocities against humanity. May we never forget.”

–Linda Pestka



Closeup of the intricate metal detail work of the sculpture.



Pictured: David Hooker, President & CEO - Frederik Meijer Gardens, Rick Stevens - Community Member, Evan Rossio - JFGR Campaign Director, Linda Pestka - Campaign Chair & Board Member, Jochen Wierich - Curator of Sculpture and Nicole Katzman - JFGR Executive Director.

by”.



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- Get motivated by frontline representatives as they share examples of the life-improving impact that Jewish Federations and our partner organizations are having on the daily lives of people living with disabilities.

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All rides need 24 hour advance notice.

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





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Accidentally Vegan Pita

By Evan Rossio, Campaign Director, JFGR

You don't have to be a vegan to enjoy vegan food. There are many foods considered to be "accidentally vegan" that aren't made specifically for vegans or the vegan market, but are not made with any animal products. Case in point - vegan pita.



Evan Rossio

Pita (Vegan)

8 oz/236ml lukewarm water
1 T sugar
2 ¼ t yeast
3 c/360g AP flour
1 T extra virgin olive oil
1 ¾ t kosher salt (about 10g)

Add the water, sugar, and yeast to the bowl of a stand mixer, and add one cup/120g of the flour and whisk. Let sit for about 10 min until bubbly.

Add the olive oil and salt the remainder of flour, and mix/knead with a dough hook for 10 minutes. Remove and place in an oiled bowl, cover with cling film and let rise in a warm place for one hour.

Punch down and let rise another hour. Remove dough from bowl onto a lightly floured surface. Cut and form 8 balls of dough and cover with a towel and let rest for 30 minutes.

Roll each ball into a flat round shape, keeping covered with a clean towel. Rest for 10-30 minutes.

Preheat a cast iron skillet over medium heat.

Cook each pita 1-2 minutes on each side.

If you have a gas stove, place the pita directly on the flame briefly to char and puff up. Remove pita and store under a clean towel while cooking the remainder.



Senior Schmooze Update

Senior Schmooze deliveries were a success!

33 boxes were delivered to community members on
January 7 & 21, 2022.

A huge thank you to Michal Ravid for assembling
these delicious meals with homemade
matzo ball soup and challah.

We are grateful to the Ravitz Foundation
for funding this program.



CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

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.

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

chabadwestmichigan.com

NEW 6 WEEK JLI COURSE

Experience Jewish Learning Like Never Before. JLI makes Jewish learning accessible & personally meaningful to every Jew, regardless of background or affiliation.

MEDITATION FROM SINAI. DIVINE SPIRITUALITY TO HELP YOU THINK, FEEL AND LIVE DEEPER.

This course will explore the world of authentic Torah- and Chasidus - based meditation and spirituality in a down-to-earth and accessible way. Capitalizing on the popularity of meditation and mindfulness, this course will expose students to the unique Jewish approach to meditation, give them practical techniques to incorporate these teachings in their lives, and communicate Chasidic teachings in an entirely new light.

SIX WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: 7:30-9:00PM | CLASSES BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND 2022

VIRTUAL OPTION ON TUESDAY EVENINGS VIA ZOOM | STARTING ON FEBRUARY 1ST AT 7:30PM

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

For more Info or to register go to Chabadwm.com/JLI or contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.7916 or Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com

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: 970 8155 3747 Password: 7Fqhvftn

CTEEN PRE-SHABBATON MEETING:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH | 7:00PM

A Session for teens and their parents.

CTEEN INTERNATIONAL NYC SHABBATON:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

Meet thousands of Jewish teens from around the world for an unforgettable weekend together in NYC!

COMMUNITY PURIM BASH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH | 8:15PM

Come dressed in your most original costume, hear the Megillah and enjoy some Purim treats!

CTEEN JUNIOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

For Jewish teens Grades 6-8. To RSVP or for more info contact Rivka at 616.206.9654

CTEEN JUNIOR - PIZZA PARTY:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH* (Please note date change*) | 4:00PM

MASKerade & MEGILLAH READING!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH | 8:15PM | AT CHABAD

Multimedia presentation & Megillah reading, enjoy some delicious Purim treats in a bag!

Come dressed in your most original costume and your Mask☺

38TH ANNUAL PURIM CELEBRATION

The Chabad House of Western Michigan invites the entire Jewish community to the

38th Annual Purim Celebration

PURIM DAY • THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH 2022 | 5:30PM

GAN ISRAEL DAY CAMP

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

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

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

DATES: JUNE 20TH - JULY 1ST 2022 | 9:00AM - 3:30PM

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

For more info, please contact Rivka at (616)206.9654 or register online at chabadwm.com/camp

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

JText ~ Jewish Trivia for Teens!

EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY AT 7:00PM.

Be the 7th to answer correctly and win a \$20 AMAZON GIFT CARD straight to your phone!

Are you a Jewish teen in grades 6-12 that lives in West Michigan and would like to join?!

Text "CTEENGR" to 616-207-1218 to be let in on the fun!

Jewish Trivia Game for Adults in Western Michigan!!

It's fun, it's quick, it will stimulate your mind- and best part is?

YOU ARE COMPETING TOGETHER WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS!

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



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**



JOIN AHAVAS ISRAEL FOR MINI-WINTER OLYMPICS, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Park at the far end (west side) of the parking lot and walk around the back of the building, past the playgrounds.

Featuring (depending on weather) –

- ice mini-golf
- snow-painting
- snow-bowling
- snow-people and snow-dog making competition (child, teen, and adult divisions)
- Pizza, hot cocoa bar and cookies

AHAVAS ISRAEL BOOK GROUP

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 7:00 P.M

(Note: The date published in the February issues of the Voice and Shofar may be incorrect - this is the correct date) - Becoming Eve, by Abby Chava Stein (non-fiction)

“Holy Creator, I am going to sleep now, and I look like a boy. I am begging you, when I wake up in the morning, I want to be a girl...God, you have enough boys. You do not need me to be a boy. I promise, if I wake up as a girl, I will make up for it by having many boys, who will be the most studied and pious boys.”

Abby Chava Stein remembers saying this nightly prayer as a child, which encapsulates much of what makes her memoir captivating: the balance between her love for the Jewish community and Jewish learning, and the restrictiveness of communal norms, the balance of humor and heartbreak in her recollections of growing up, and the core personality of an inventive girl, always hungry for learning, living in a world where inventiveness was frowned upon.

<https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/becoming-eve>



Temple Emanuel Events and Programs for February. Our doors are open to all members of the extended Jewish community. Some events require registration or fees. More information can be found on our website, grtemple.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Celebrate Shabbat with us at 6:00 PM. Lots of beautiful music. Torah will be read.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Tot Shabbat-10:00 AM, a special hour-long Shabbat program with the Rabbi for young children and parents/grandparents. RSVP requested.

Introduction to Judaism-11:30 AM

The topic this week is, “What Do Jews Celebrate in the Fall and Winter?”

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Torah Study at 10:30 AM in the Rabbi’s Study. The Social Justice Torah Commentary published by the Central Conference of American Rabbis is the source for discussion.

Red Tent for Adar 1 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. This is a women’s gathering to dive into the sacred power of Rosh Chodesh, the arrival of the New Moon. This is an evening of wellness, an opportunity to share, a spa night for the soul. Registration required.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Celebrate Shabbat with us at 6:00 PM. Services will include readings and music as we celebrate the power and the beauty of love.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Join us for Shabbat morning services at 10:00 AM.

Introduction to Judaism-11:30 AM

The topic this week is, “What Do Jews Celebrate in the Spring and Summer?”

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Torah Study at 10:30 AM in the Rabbi’s Study. The Social Justice Torah Commentary published by the Central Conference of American Rabbis is the source for discussion.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Virtual Book Club at 7:00 PM. Share your thoughts with Rabbi Schadick on Mitch Albom’s newest book, “The Stranger in the LifeBoat”. RSVP appreciated.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Join us for a special Sephardic Shabbat at 6:00 PM. Services will feature beautiful Sephardic music and a special take-home Oneg Shabbat.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Yoga and Meditation Shabbat at 10:00 AM. There is an \$18 fee for those who are not members of Temple Emanuel

Mussar Torah Study at 10:00 AM. The Mussar Torah Commentary published by the Central Conference of American Rabbis is the source for discussion

Introduction to Judaism-11:30 AM

The topic this week is, “What Do Jews Think About God?”

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Family Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM. Services conducted with special liturgy geared for children of all ages. The Rabbi will tell a story. February birthdays and anniversaries will be celebrated. Amy Ostrow will be the soloist.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

We wish Mazel Tov to Orli Dujovny, daughter of Karen and Nadav Dujovny, as she celebrates becoming a Bat Mitzvah at 10:00 AM. Amy Ostrow will be the soloist.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Fun in the Snow at Temple from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Come make snow art, snow people, and snow forts on our campus. Hot chocolate and prizes included. RSVP appreciated. Dress to play *outside*. Fun for ALL ages



10 REASONS TO VACCINATE YOUR 5-11 YEAR OLD AGAINST COVID-19

- 1 COVID-19 is a top 10 leading cause of death for this age group. In the US, over 1.9 million 5-11 years olds have been infected, >8300 hospitalized with COVID 19 and 94 children have died.
- 2 30% of infected hospitalized children had no underlying condition.
- 3 MIS-C (multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children) is a severe complication of COVID-19 affecting multiple organs. It is most common in this age group.
- 4 Long COVID occurs in at least 7-8% of children infected with the virus.
- 5 Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) is more common and more severe after COVID-19 infection. No post-vaccine cases were observed in clinical trials for this age group.
- 6 COVID-19 cases in kids have increased dramatically since the Delta variant arose. Vaccines protect again Delta and other variants.
- 7 Vaccines prevent death and hospitalization from COVID-19 and make COVID-19 illness less severe.
- 8 Vaccination allows schools to stay open and for kids to stay safely in school and participate in activities.
- 9 These vaccines are very safe. Long-term side effects are extremely unlikely, including for fertility.
- 10 The pandemic will only end when enough people have immunity, whether through vaccination or infection. Vaccination is the safer, less risky, less disruptive, and faster way out of this.

By Alison Bernstein, PhD

Assistant Professor of Translational Neuroscience
College of Human Medicine
Michigan State University

Co-Founder, SciMoms
Author and Creator, Mommy PhD

News from the Nosh



We are officially under construction!

Thank you for continuing to submit recipes. We are looking for the following categories: appetizers, mains, desserts, Passover & holiday, Vegan/Vegetarian, sides, and international (e.g. Russian, Sephardic, Mizrahi, "old country" etc.)

A reminder that we are accepting recipes and content via www.JFGR.org, mailing to the Federation office, or by email: evan@jfgr.org.

Keep them coming!



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



Jewish Federation
OF GRAND RAPIDS
THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

www.jfgr.org
616.942.5553



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



Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

JFGR General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund

In honor of Mark Gerson's 65th Birthday

Jan & Miles Gordon

In memory of Elaine and Bob Lipshutz

Howard Lipshutz

In memory of Elaine Lipshutz

Love, The Tarshishim

In honor of Olivia & Isabel Javery's Birthday

Angela Riley

Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund

Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

In memory of my parents

Toby Weiner Dolinka

Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund

Charles and Maxine Shapiro Endowment Fund

Woman of Valor Endowment Fund

In memory of Elaine Lipshutz

Evelyn & Herbert Friedman

Anne Tucker

In memory of Esther Padnos

Rosalie Stein

Leven Family Endowment Fund

David & Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund

Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund

Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund

Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund

Fox Family Fund

The Finkelstein Brothers Fund

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.

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 _____

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www.jewishgrandrapids.org
Email: info@JFGR.org

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