



For Everything There is a Season...

by Marni Vyn
JFGR Board Chair



Marni Vyn

This is my final note to you as Board Chair of the Jewish Federation. It's been an honor to serve the Federation and support our Jewish community in this role over these past three years. I am confident in the future of our organization with its talented staff, generous donors and committed volunteers. I will remain an active board member, and my passion for inspiring vibrant Jewish life remains strong.

We've seen so many changes over the past three years. The adage, "The only constant in life is change," has never been more true. Most notably, Covid-19 affected every aspect of our daily lives and impacted how Federation does its important work. Nicole and the staff adapted quickly to ensure that our social services could still be provided to those in need. The team updated the website into a comprehensive community resource. They transformed in-person programs into virtual formats, including Campaign Kick-off, PJ Library events and The Jewish Film Festival.

If you viewed the video from the annual meeting that was sent by email in mid-June, you know how much JFGR contributed to our community this past year alone. I'd like to mention two projects I'm most excited about:

- Leaders from across the Jewish community came together in 2018 to explore the creation of a unified Jewish campus with Temple Emanuel and Congregation Ahavas Israel that includes the Federation's office. After much planning and many discussions over these past few years, the congregations will vote this summer on moving forward with the shared campus model.
- Through a generous contribution from Steve and Linda Pestka in memory of their father, Henry Pestka, JFGR established a partnership with the Meijer Gardens to create a Holocaust Memorial – the first of its kind in Grand Rapids.

The Federation is here for all of us and depends on all of us. Thank you for playing an important role in strengthening our vision to engage and inspire vibrant and flourishing Jewish life through philanthropy and community.

May we go from strength to strength!

Marni Vyn

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

2727 Michigan Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
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THANK YOU

**Thank you to our community for an outstanding Campaign 2020.
This year was our most successful campaign yet, raising just over
\$477,000 from 303 donors.**

**A special THANK YOU to Chad Zagel, Campaign Chair and JFGR Board member,
for his time and dedication to making Campaign 2020 a great success!**



STAFF: Nicole Katzman, Executive Director, Nicole@JFGR.org ext. 207 | Evan Rossio, Campaign Director, Evan@jfgr.org, ext. 205
Arad Okanin, Administrative Support & IT Consultant, Arad@JFGR.org ext. 204
Dafna Kaufman, Film Festival, Dafna@JFGR.org ext. 217 | Julianna Schrier, Community Connector, Julianna@JFGR.org ext. 206

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!

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Welcoming our New JFGR Board Chair

By David Alfonso, MD
JFGR Board Chair



David Alfonso, MD

I am excited and honored to begin my chairmanship of the Federation Board. As many of you know I have served previously and am excited to talk about my vision for our community. Needless to say we all have had an incredibly challenging year. We have been fortunate to have a great staff at our Federation that rose to the challenge of providing our services to the community in the midst of a pandemic. Thankfully we are emerging from these dark times and I look forward to seeing many familiar faces in the fall as we resume our community programming. There are many exciting events to look forward to in the upcoming campaign year. We are planning on resuming many if not all of our community events in person. Keeping up our social ties with our fellow community members is vital to maintain a close-knit community. As you have read in previous issues of the Shofar, we are anxiously awaiting the Holocaust Memorial installation at Meijer Garden. This will be a great benefit to our community as well as the greater Grand Rapids area.

We also have many challenges as well as opportunities that await us as well. Thankfully, the rocket attacks in

Israel have ceased and there remains a fragile cease-fire. As events unfold in the future we plan to be prepared to help challenge some of the misinformation and anti-Israel bias that we face both locally as well as nationally. As we saw most recently, events many miles away can have negative ripple effects in Jewish Communities across the world. We plan to have resources for our community members to help educate some of their non-Jewish friends and families that often are unaware of the complex history and challenges that Israel has faced and continues to face.

I hope that our community members have an enjoyable and relaxing summer catching up on activities that we missed out on over the last year. I am excited about all the positive momentum we have as well as the beginning of our campaign season this upcoming fall.

Dr. Alfonso is a board-certified plastic surgeon specializing in cosmetic surgery and has an interest in nutrition, and its role in health, healing and recovery after surgery.

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presents:

Pajama Picnic!

July 22, 5:30pm
Millennium Park

Meet at the playground
near parking lots A & B



PJ Library, a program
of the Jewish Federation
of Grand Rapids,
presents a Pajama Picnic!

Wear your favorite pajamas, bring a
blanket & stuffed animal. We will provide a
PJ story and healthy snacks. RSVP by
emailing julianna@jfgr.org or call
(616) 942-5780 (let us know if you have
any allergies or questions.)



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APPRECIATION

REPAIR THE WORLD

EDUCATION

TZEDAKAH

COMMUNITY



Welcome New Additions



Linda Pestka
*JFGR Campaign Chair 2021
and Board Member*

Shalom, my name is Linda Pestka and I am honored to be the new Campaign Chair for 2021. My family and I are lifelong members of the Grand Rapids Jewish community. In the past I have worked as both an educator, and counselor in the Grand Rapids Public Schools. I'm currently managing our family business.

As many of you know, my family has donated the new Holocaust memorial, *Ways to Say Goodbye* by Ariel Schlesinger, to the Frederik Meijer Gardens. The Federation was inspired by this sculpture in choosing the theme of this year's campaign, *Branches of Giving*. Branches of Giving represents growth, renewal and Tzedakah. Campaign is integral to our efforts to provide enriching programs such as the PJ Library, Cultural Council, YAD programming, Jewish Film Festival and an array of social services, to our local community. Furthermore, campaign funds are also used to support the Jewish community on both the national and international level.

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids could not operate without your generous support. You are the Federation. It is our goal this year to raise \$500,000.00. I look forward to providing the community with more campaign updates coming soon.



Mort Finkelstein
New JFGR Board Member

We are delighted to welcome Mort to the JFGR Board.

Mort brings his love for the Grand Rapids Jewish community, strong leadership and business skills to the JFGR Board. Mort and

his brothers Raleigh and Ed ז"ל expanded their parents' retail business to become MC Sporting Goods. Mort was instrumental in the growth of the business to over 100 retail stores.

We look forward to Mort sharing his expertise with us. We also wish Mort a Happy Birthday on July 4!



Cantor David Fair

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids would like to extend a warm welcome to Cantor David Fair and his partner, Corey Dane, who will be moving to Grand Rapids this month. Cantor Fair will share the bimah with Rabbi Schadick at Temple Emanuel on Friday nights, and will also share his voice at Ahavas Israel one Shabbat a month. Cantor Fair will also take on the role of Cantor/Educator of the United Jewish School, helping the teachers and board members reimagine and invigorate the Jewish education we are offering our children. We look forward to his enthusiasm and energy and can't wait to hear his wonderful voice as it lifts and strengthens our Jewish community.

On behalf of the JFGR Board of Directors and staff, thank you to

Marni Vyn

for her three years as Board Chair. We are grateful that you will remain on the JFGR Board and continue to lead with integrity and compassion. Yasher Koach, for all you have accomplished for the Grand Rapids Jewish community.



“Streets that Hummed with Jewish Life”

by Rob Franciosi



Rob Franciosi

The haunting “Tower of Faces” at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum may be its most powerful feature. Spanning all three floors of the permanent exhibition, the tower presents some 1000 photographs of Jews from the Lithuanian shtetl of Eisiskes. They were gathered over many years by

the scholar Yaffa Eliach, a child of Eisiskes during the war and the only member of her family to survive, and present scenes of Jewish life before the Nazi invasion of 1941. Formal portraits, engagement and wedding photographs, numerous pictures of children and families—the kind of mundane images we all take to represent ourselves.

For those touring the USHMM exhibition, these photographs serve as a welcome relief from the perpetrator-generated moments that too often dominate images of the Holocaust’s victims. The last time visitors pass through the tower, however, they learn that of the more than 3000



Tower of Faces

Jews who constituted the majority in Eisiskes, only 29 survived the September 1941 massacre.

I often think of Eisiskes—and the hundreds of other towns and villages where Jews shared similar fates—when searching for information about the towns from which our Grand Rapids-area survivors first began their unexpected and often winding journeys from Europe to the New World. All stories must have a beginning, and for these survivors from Poland or Germany or Hungary theirs often started in places once suffused with Jewish life.

To contemplate the Holocaust, though, is to engage not life, destruction—of countless lives and families, of long-standing religious, cultural, and economic institutions. Even of the very language. In her great

story “Envy, or Yiddish in America,” Cynthia Ozick asks finally “of what other language can it be said that it died a sudden and definite death, in a given decade, on a given piece of soil?”

Equally soul-shocking for me is the death of those Jewish towns and cities that spanned the soil of Eastern and Central Europe.

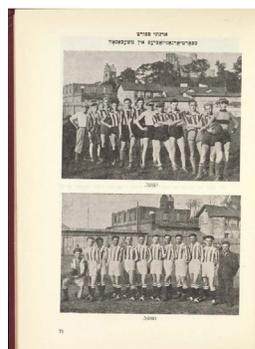
Yet unlike the lava-buried Pompei or the abandoned Machu Picchu, a small city like Kalisz, where Joe Stevens and his family once lived, or Ciechanów, the town from which Henry Pestka hailed, continues its life in the world. Population in both places has increased since 1939, even though both communities lost respectively 25% and 50% of their number. Kalisz and Ciechanów are still there. It’s the Jews who are gone. Their absence is perhaps best memorialized in the “Valley of Communities” at Yad Vashem, where the names of over 5000 “vanished” Jewish towns are chiseled into limestone across a multi-acre site. At the very top of one photograph from my visit to that memorial, coincidentally, is the inscription for Ciechanów.

To retrieve a sense of life in those places there are many resources available through the USHMM, Yad Vashem, or the YIVO Institute in New York. Most striking about all the images one gathers, though, is their ordinariness, their everydayness, with no hints of the tragedies awaiting so many of the photographic subjects.

Those who wish to learn even more about the life



Valley of Communities



from the Ciechanow Yizkor book | Children of Ciechanow

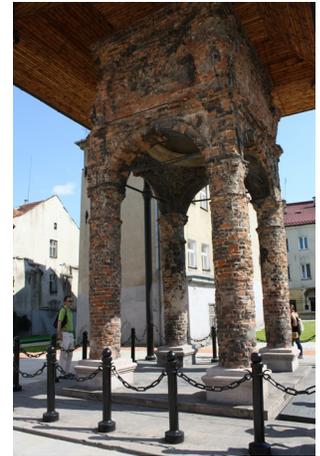


and death of many of these Jewish towns should seek out their Yizkor (memorial) books. The New York Public Library has a digital collection of 700 available volumes, nearly all either in Yiddish or Hebrew. (Fortunately, the genealogical site JewishGen is working with volunteers to translate all of these volumes into English.) These Yizkor books were all written and published by individuals from the particular communities, most often by groups (*landsmannschaften*) located in either the U.S. or Israel, and most importantly, they tell the stories of particular towns both before and after 1939.

Digital resources like the Yizkor books or thousands of archived photographs give us a hint of life in those vanished Jewish communities, but travel to the towns themselves can be disappointing. When I visited the Polish city of Tarnow some ten years ago only a single survivor remained of a Jewish community that before 1939 had numbered 25,000. The cemetery was an overgrown mess, but the city had at least dedicated memorial space to its murdered members. Burned to the ground by the Nazis, the city's Old Synagogue

nevertheless leaves a powerful trace of the community that had built it, as the stone pillars of the bimah had somehow survived the flames.

I'm hoping to travel to Poland next summer and may visit Ciechanów and Kalisz. But I have few illusions about what will await me there. Even so, walking the streets that once hummed with Jewish life offers its own satisfaction, a physical dimension that no photograph or book or web site can convey.



Tarnow Memorial

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

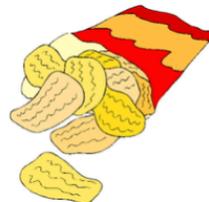
Save the Date!

Reunited & It Feels So Good Community Picnic



Where: Manhattan Park Pavilion,
750 Lakeside Dr. SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

When: August 12, 6pm - 9pm



Join us at for a 70s themed community picnic sponsored by the Finkelstein and Leven Families! There will be food, face painting, PJ Library stories, and a live musical performance by Marc Rossio. RSVP to julianna@jfgr.org



Thank You: *Today Rabah!*



Tom and Mickie Fox



Norm and Marilyn Leven



Peg Finkelstein



Mort, Raleigh and Ed *לייז* Finkelstein



Kay Finkelstein



Linda, Steve, Alicia and Nathan Pestka

for your generosity!



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We apologize for any errors, contact evan@jfg.org if you see a mistake, thank you!

Thank you to our
outstanding Campaign Volunteers!

David Alfonso

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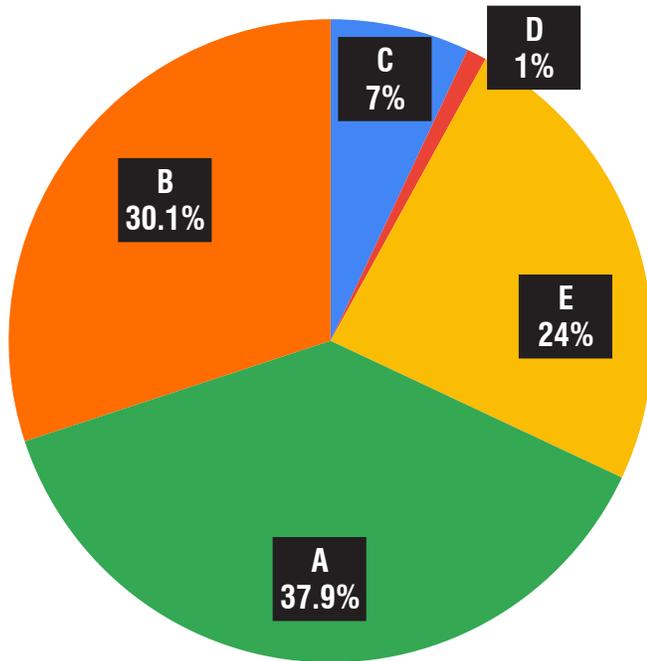
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Chad Zagel



Total Funds Available for Allocation		Totals:
Total Regular Campaign	\$429,000	
Matching Grant - Padnos Foundation	\$30,000	
Matching Grand - Hy & Greta Berkowitz Foundation	\$5,000	
Interest	\$400	
Loan Repayments	\$2,000	
Available for Re-allocation	\$46,896	
General Endowment Fund	\$19,983	
Art Fund	\$11,864	
Weiner Fund	\$2,844.13	
Woman of Valor	\$2,013	
		\$550,000
Allocations For Local Organizations		
United Jewish School	\$18,000	
Chabad of West Michigan	\$6,000	
Jewish Theater of Grand Rapids	\$5,500	
Shir Shalom Choir	\$3,574	
Temple Emanuel Food Bank	\$2,500	
Interfaith Dialogue	\$2,500	
Sacred Grounds	\$250	
		\$38,324
Allocations For National Organizations		
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)	\$1,000	
Birthright Israel (JFNA)	\$1,500	
HIAS	\$500	
GVSU Hillel	\$1,000	
MSU Hillel	\$500	
U of M Hillel	\$500	
GVSU AEP	\$500	
		\$5,500
Allocations for International Organizations		
Partnership2Gether (JFNA)	\$2,000	
Overseas Need Assessment (ONAD)	\$130,000	
		\$132,000
JFGR Programming and Services		
Family services	\$84,495	
YAD	\$1,000	
Community programming	\$113,294	
Leadership development	\$10,000	
		\$208,789
JFGR Operational Expenses		
Administration and Campaign	\$48,266	
Social Services Administration	\$30,300	
JFNA Fair Share	\$15,769	
Uncollected Pledges	\$28,500	
Bank and Bankcard Charges	\$3,000	
FICA & Medicare	\$14,000	
Rent	\$14,832	
FedWeb	\$1,720	
Missions and Leadership Development	\$2,500	
L'Dor Vador Community Endowment	\$6,500	
		\$165,387
Total Allocations and Expenses		\$550,000



- A) Operational: Administration and Campaign, Social Services Administration, JFNA Fair Share, Uncollected Pledges, Bank/Bankcard Charges, FICA and Medicare, Rent, FedWeb, Missions and Leadership Development, L'Dor Vador Community Endowment.
- B) Programming & Services: Family Services, YAD, Community Programs, Leadership Development.
- C) Local: United Jewish School, Chabad of West Michigan, Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, Shir Shalom Choir, Temple Emanuel Food Bank, Interfaith Dialogue, Sacred Grounds.
- D) National: Anti-Defamation League ADL, Birthright Israel (JFNA), HIAS, GVSU Hillel, MSU Hillel, U of M Hillel, GVSU AEP.
- E) International: Partnership2gether (JFNA), Overseas Need Assessment (ONAD).

We gratefully acknowledge our L'Dor Vador Funds, totaling over \$10.8 million as of Friday, June 8, 2021.

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.



Financial Focus

Don't let investments go on vacation

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

Now that we've gained at least some space from the COVID-19 pandemic, summer travel is heating up. But while you might be eager to hit the road, you won't want your investments to take a vacation – you need them to work hard for you consistently. But how can you make this happen?

Here are some ideas:

- **Know your destination.** “If you don't know where you want to go, then it doesn't matter which path you take.” This bit of wisdom, paraphrased from the classic children's book, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, may be appropriate for, say, hikers exploring a new landscape. But as an investor, it matters a great deal which path you take. If you only dabble in investing, occasionally putting some money into one investment or another, it will be difficult to build a portfolio that's consistently working in your best interest. It's important to create a long-term investment strategy based on where you want to go in life – that is, how long you plan to work, what sort of retirement lifestyle you envision, and so on.
- **Match goals with investments.** Some investments are designed to achieve certain goals. To illustrate: When you contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan, you're investing for one specific, long-term goal: a comfortable retirement. While you can tap into these accounts for other purposes – though doing so might incur immediate taxes and penalties – they are designed to provide you with income during your retirement years. Similarly, you may have other investments

for other purposes, such as a 529 education savings plan. Here's the key point: Goals-based investing, by its nature, can help ensure your portfolio is always working on your behalf, in the way you intended.

- **Invest for growth.** Ideally, hard work produces results, and one of the main results you want from your investments is growth – that is, you want your investments to appreciate in value so they can eventually help you meet your goals. But if you are overconcentrated in vehicles such as certificates of deposit (CDs) and government securities, you may end up lowering your growth potential. That's not to say that CDs and Treasury bills are in some sense “lazy.” They can provide you with income and help you reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. But to achieve most of your goals, you'll need a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments working for you, with the exact percentage based on your needs and life stages.
- **Check your progress.** How else can you ensure your investments aren't just taking it easy? By checking up on them. If you follow a buy-and-hold strategy, your portfolio shouldn't require many changes if it already reflects your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Too much buying and selling could jeopardize your ability to follow a consistent, long-term strategy. However, “buy and hold” doesn't mean “buy and forget.” By reviewing your portfolio at least once a year, you can determine if your investments are performing as they should. If they're not working for you as you'd like, you may need to make some changes.



Chad Zagel
JFGR Board Member

If you're traveling this summer, relax and enjoy yourself – but keep those investments working hard.

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.





What to Read Now

by Kris Siegel



Kris Siegel

Looking for interesting and inspirational newish-Jewish books for summer reading? Look no further!

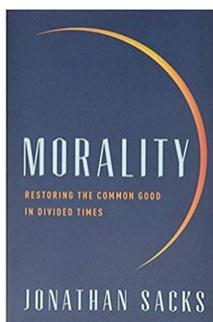
Nonfiction:

Morality: restoring the Common Good in Divided Times, by Jonathan Sacks. (Winner, Book of the Year, 2020 National Jewish Book Award)

With liberal democracy embattled, public discourse grown toxic, family life breaking down, and drug abuse and depression on the rise, many fear what the future holds.

In *Morality*, respected faith leader and public intellectual Rabbi Jonathan Sacks traces today's crisis to our loss of a strong, shared moral

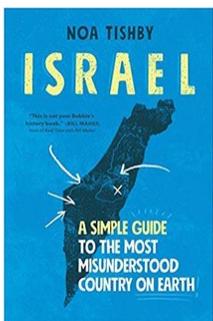
code and our elevation of self-interest over the common good. We have outsourced morality to the market and the state, but neither is capable of showing us how to live. Sacks leads readers from ancient Greece to the Enlightenment to the present day to show that there is no liberty without morality and no freedom without responsibility, arguing that we all must play our part in rebuilding a common moral foundation. A major work of moral philosophy, *Morality* is an inspiring vision of a world in which we can all find our place and face the future without fear.



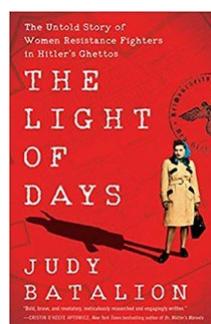
Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth, by Noa Tishby. Israel. The small strip of arid land is 6,000 miles away but remains a hot button issue and a thorny topic of debate. But while everyone seems to have a strong opinion about Israel, how many people actually know the facts?

Here to fill in the information

gap is Israeli American Noa Tishby. Offering a fresh, 360-degree view, Tishby brings her straight-shooting, engaging, and slightly irreverent voice to the subject, creating an accessible and dynamic portrait of a tiny

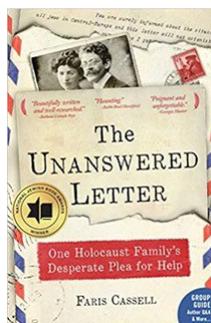


country of outsized relevance. Through bite-sized chunks of history and deeply personal stories, Tishby chronicles her homeland's evolution, beginning in Biblical times and moving forward to cover everything from WWI to Israel's creation to the real disputes dividing the country today. Tackling popular misconceptions with an abundance of facts, Tishby provides critical context around headline-generating controversies and offers a clear, intimate account of the richly cultured country of Israel.



The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos, by Judy Batalion. One of the most important stories of World War II, already optioned by Steven Spielberg for a major motion picture: a spectacular, searing history that brings to light the extraordinary accomplishments of brave Jewish women who became resistance

fighters—a group of unknown heroes whose exploits have never been chronicled in full, until now.



The Unanswered Letter: One Holocaust Family's Desperate Plea for Help, by Faris Cassell

In 1939, as the Nazi closed in, Alfred Berger mailed a desperate letter to an American stranger who happened to share his last name. He and his wife, Viennese Jews, had found escape routes for their daughters.

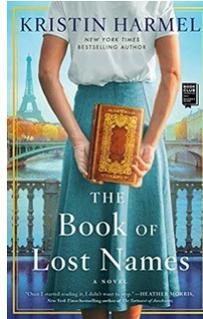
But now their money, connections,

and emotional energy were nearly exhausted. Alfred begged the American recipient of the letter, “You are surely informed about the situation of all Jews in Central Europe . . . By pure chance I got your address . . . My daughter and her husband will go . . . to America . . . help us to follow our children . . . It's our last and only hope.”

After languishing in a California attic for decades, Alfred's letter ended up in the hands of Faris Cassell, a journalist who couldn't rest until she discovered who couldn't rest until she discovered the ending of the story. Traveling across the United States as well as to Austria, the Czech Republic, Belarus, and Israel, she uncovered an extraordinary story of heart-wrenching



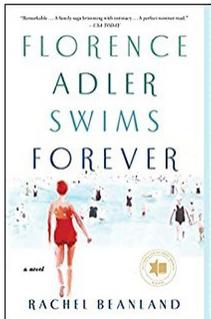
loss and unforgettable love that endures to this day. Did the Berger's desperate letter find a response? Did they—and their daughters—survive? Did they leave living descendants? You will find the answers here.



The book of Lost Names, by Kristin Harmel. Inspired by an astonishing true story from World War II, a young woman with a talent for forgery helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis.

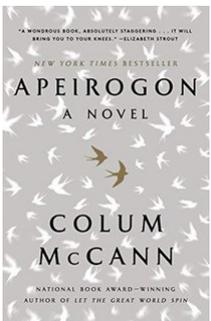


The Tunnel, by A.B. Yehoshua. From the award-winning, internationally acclaimed Israeli author, a suspenseful and poignant story of a family coping with the sudden mental decline of their beloved husband and father—an engineer who they discover is involved in an ominous secret military project.

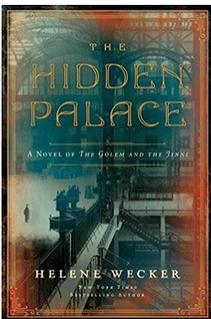


Fiction:

Florence Adler Swims Forever, by Rachel Beanland. Described by USA Today as “the perfect summer read,” this story begins with a shocking tragedy that results in three generations of the Adler family grappling with heartbreak, romance, and the weight of family secrets over the course of one summer.



Apeirogon, by Colum McCann. Winner of the National Jewish Book Award, this epic novel is rooted in the unlikely real-life friendship between two fathers, one Israeli and one Palestinian.



The Hidden Place, by Helene Wecker. This is a sequel to the very popular *The Golem and the Jinni*, published in 2013. If you think fantasy just isn't your genre, I encourage you to give it a try. You might like it!



The Lost Shtetl, by Max Gross. What if there was a town that history missed? For decades, the tiny Jewish shtetl of Kreskol existed in happy isolation, virtually untouched and unchanged. Spared by the Holocaust and the Cold War, its residents enjoyed remarkable peace. It missed out on cars, and electricity, and the internet, and indoor plumbing. But when a marriage dispute spins out of

control, the whole town comes crashing into the twenty-first century. The writing style has been compared to the books of Michael Chabon. Another National Jewish Book Award winner.

Happy Summer reading!
Kris Siegel

Kris Siegel is the Librarian at Temple Emanuel. Even at her very advanced age, she loves reading beautiful picture books.

Do You Need a Ride?

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

Contact Julianna Schrier, Community Connector at **616.942.5553 x206** or Julianna@JFGR.org to schedule your ride.

All rides need 24 hour advance notice.

Hours of service: 8am to 8pm

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





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



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Hummus, the Unofficial National Dish

Evan Rossio, Campaign Director, JFGR

When we think about Jewish food, things like bagels, brisket, knishes, kugel, latkes, and matzo balls come to mind. These are all foods from the Ashkenazi communities of Europe, based upon the ingredients that were available to them. However, Jewish cuisine encompasses an assortment of traditions from the Sephardic and Mizrahi communities as well. These Jews also cooked food popular in their home countries, usually adapting them to the laws of kashrut. Israeli cuisine has often been called a fusion cuisine,

adapting styles of various Arab cuisine with those of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews. Perhaps the most popular Israeli dish is hummus, which has been adopted as the unofficial “national dish” of Israel. In Israel, hummus isn’t just a side dish, it’s often the main event.



Evan Rossio

Israeli-Style Hummus

Adapted from Zahav’s Hummus Tehina (Michael Solomonov)



- 1 ½ c dried chickpeas
- 2 t baking soda, divided
- 4 unpeeled garlic cloves
- ⅓ c lemon juice, or more to taste
- 1 t kosher salt
- ¾ c tahini
- ¼ c ice water
- ¼ t ground cumin
- Extra virgin olive oil and optional sumac or paprika, toasted pine nuts, and/or pomegranate seeds

Soak the chickpeas overnight at room temperature by covering with cold water and 1 t of the baking soda. The next day, drain and rinse the chickpeas. Place them in a large pot, add cold water to cover them by at least 4” and add the remaining ¼ t of baking soda. Bring to a boil and skim off any scum that rises to the surface. Reduce to a simmer and cook for

about one hour until the chickpeas are tender, then drain.

In the meantime, process the garlic, lemon juice, and 1 t of kosher salt in a food processor until puréed and let sit for 10 minutes. Strain the mixture into a bowl through a fine-meshed strainer and press on the solids to get as much liquid as possible. Rinse the food processor bowl and return the liquid. Add the tahini and pulse to combine. With the motor running, add ¼ c ice water and mix until smooth and creamy. Taste and adjust the seasoning with salt, lemon juice, and cumin if desired.



Bring Jewish stories home

The PJ Library, a program of the
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
now has 120 children enrolled with 83 families.
To enroll in PJ Library call or email.

FREE JEWISH CHILDREN’S BOOKS



www.jfgr.org
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*Judith Joseph’s great granddaughter,
Beverly, playing with her new Torah toy.*



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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

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Experience Jewish learning like never before. JLI makes Jewish learning accessible & personally meaningful to every Jew, regardless of background or affiliation.

TUESDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

For more info or for zoom information, please contact Rabbi Mordechai at [269.903.2770](tel:269.903.2770) or Rabbihaller@chabadwm.com

GAN YILADIM PRESCHOOL – KINDERGARTEN

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

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

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

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

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

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



Tisha B'Av

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

Saturday night, July 17, at 10:15 p.m., for Ma'ariv and the reading of the Biblical book of Eikha (Lamentations);

Sunday morning, July 18, 9:00 a.m. for morning minyan with special inclusions for Tisha B'Av. (Fast ends at approximately 9:18 p.m.)

Welcome Cantor David Fair

We welcome Cantor David Fair to Grand Rapids as of July 1. We invite you to a "Meet and Greet" Shabbat service, led by Cantor David, on July 31. The service will be followed by a Kiddush lunch, to give us time to get to know Cantor David and welcome him to Ahavas Israel.

Ahavas Israel Havurot/Small Groups

The Havurah committee has compiled a list of possible Topic-Based Havurot (cooking, crafting, gaming, etc.), Time-Based Havurot (meetings on Friday nights, Havdalah, weekdays for Coffee, etc.), and Personal/Family Defined Groups (Families with young children, LGBTQ+). We're asking each member of the congregation to complete a brief form indicating three ranked choices for a Havurah, and based on the responses, the Havurot will assemble people into small groups. If you haven't indicated a choice, we'll invite you to participate in one of the groups that we think you'd like. For more information, see the full article in the Summer voice or online here: <https://ahavasisraelgr.org/congregational-news/1559-ahavas-israel-havurot-small-groups-2>

To get involved, contact Shoshana Jackson shoshana.maloff@gmail.com.

Ahavas Israel Book Group

Put August 11 on your calendar for the next Ahavas Israel Book Group meeting. We'll be reading Spies of No Country: Secret Lives at the Birth of Israel, by Matti Friedman.

Matti Friedman is one of Israel's most perceptive contemporary chroniclers, and his books and articles are quickly becoming indispensable for understanding how the Jewish State's past is creating its emergent future. With an understatedly luminous prose style, Friedman also has an eye for that which is overlooked, but far from irrelevant....

...Spies of No Country (documents) the enormous impact of the dissolved world of Mizrahi Jewry on the State of Israel, and the still unfolding implications of Israel's identity as a Middle Eastern country. The focus here is narrow, but the canvas is large. Friedman tells the story of four members



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of the Arab Section, the undercover intelligence unit started by the British, developed under the Palmach, and institutionalized during the consolidation of the nascent IDF. The four spies Friedman focuses on hailed from mellahs and medinas in Damascus and Aleppo, and vegetable markets in Jerusalem. They carried the resonant appellation mista'arvim, or "the ones who became like Arabs," because their mission was to merge with the populations of places like Amman and Beirut and pick up scraps of intelligence while undercover as shopkeepers and candy salesmen, taxi drivers and kiosk vendors.

~from the Jewish Book Council, <https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/spies-of-no-country-secret-lives-at-the-birth-of-israel>



Service Schedule

Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat Services all summer. We are delighted to welcome Cantor David Fair to our bimah.

Friday, July 2
Services at 6:00 PM

Friday, July 9
Services at 6:00 PM

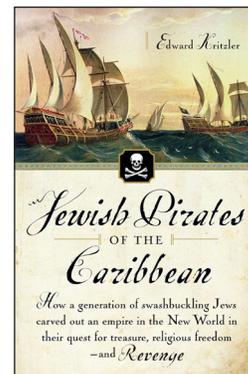
Friday, July 16
Services at 6:00 PM

Friday, July 23
Services at 6:00 PM
Celebrating July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Friday, July 30
Services at 6:00 PM

Ahoy, Summer Book Fun!

Join Lynn Hoenke and Cat Finney either live or in person for a summer book discussion. We will be taking on Edward Kritzler's Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean. This nonfiction tale follows a group of unlikely swashbuckling Jews who ransacked the high seas in the aftermath of the Spanish Inquisition. Climb aboard the Prophet Samuel, the Queen Esther, or the Shield of Abraham, and plunder the Spanish fleet in acts of revenge!



We will be online and in person on Tuesday, July 13th and July 20th at 7:00 PM. In-person location TBA—somewhere with WIFI and rum. Suggestions welcome! To join online go to...

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84576562336?pwd=UnZOekJ4ZFAYOEozWES2d2FhV2UxZz09>
Meeting ID: 845 7656 2336 Passcode: AhOY!

Contact cat@grtemple.org or SVRoxyTC@gmail.com with questions or suggestions. Yo ho ho! Enjoy your reading!

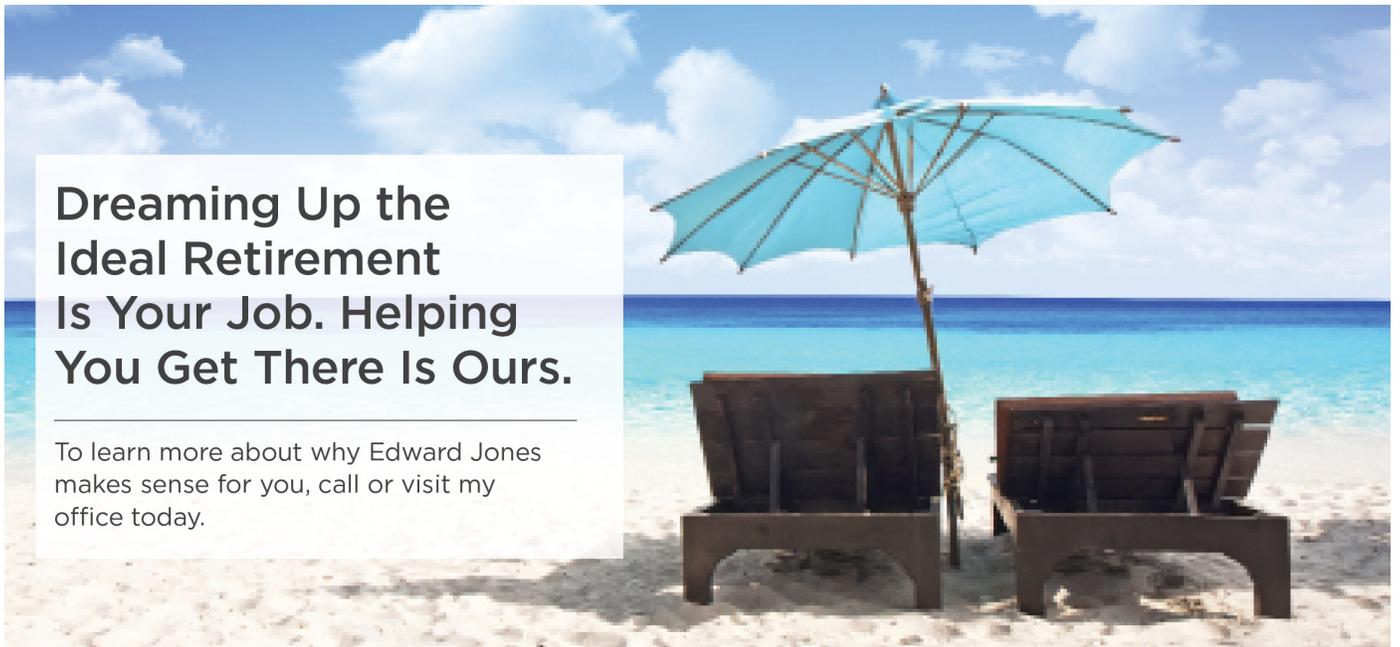
Stay tuned for some exciting news regarding the collaborative cookbook project!



We are taking it in a new direction. Same great recipes, but with options like instructional videos, color photography, recipe commentary, tips, stories and more.

We are still collecting content from the community, so submit your recipes and photographs to Evan Rossio at evan@jfgr.org.

Stay tuned for more information!



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*Thank you for supporting the
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- Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund**
- Louis & Louise Weiner Fund**
- Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund**
- Charles and Maxine Shapiro Endowment Fund**
- Woman of Valor Endowment Fund**
- Leven Family Endowment Fund**
- David & Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund**
- Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund**
- Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund**
- Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund**
- Fox Family Fund**
- The Finkelstein Brothers Fund**

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.

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

JFGR Endowment Fund Donation Form

Donation from: Name _____

Fund (pick from list) _____

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In honor of _____

Donor City/St/Zip _____

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Notes: _____

Send card to address _____

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The Shofar

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Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

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The Shofar is delivered to nearly 700 subscribers, 12 times a year. Space is limited.
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Ways to Say Goodbye

by Ariel Schlesinger

COMING SOON

New Holocaust Memorial

at the

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Generously given by the Pestka Family

For more information visit the [jfgr](http://jfgr.org) website at
www.jewishgrandrapids.org

"Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park is highly honored and very pleased to receive this significant and meaningful gift to acquire Ariel Schlesinger's monumental sculpture Ways to Say Goodbye. The sculpture will be dedicated in memory of Henry Pestka and the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and serve to promote peace. We are deeply grateful for this gift adding such an important work of art to our Permanent Collection. Our members and guests will forever benefit from this extraordinary gift."



- David Hooker, President & CEO
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park