



## Happy Purim From the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

*Marni Vyn, Board Chair, JFGR*

This month, we celebrate the holiday of Purim. Many people think of Purim as a children’s holiday marked by dressing up in costumes and eating hamantaschen, those delicious triangular cookies (my favorite filling is chocolate, and for those of you who know me, that comes as no surprise!).



*Marni Vyn*

But Purim is much more than meets the eye, and its traditions and themes are as relevant today as they were in Biblical times.

Purim is about Jewish pride and identity. It’s about the struggle between good and evil. It’s about having the courage and standing up for what’s right.

In the Book of Esther, we read that Esther embraced her Jewish identity, showed great bravery in the face of evil, and ultimately saved the Jewish community, both locally and throughout the Diaspora.

Here at the Jewish Federation, we carry on these themes of Jewish pride, unity, and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). Our mission is to build and sustain the local and global Jewish community. Together, we transform Jewish tradition and values into action. We come together as one to engage and inspire a vibrant and flourishing Jewish community.

On Purim, we celebrate with four Mitzvot:

- Hearing the Book of Esther (Megillah) read aloud
- Eating a festive meal (Seudah)
- Sharing gifts of food (Mishloach Manot) with friends
- Giving charity (Tzedakah) to those in need

I encourage you to bring positivity into your homes and hearts this Purim. Hear the recounting of this ancient story that still resonates today. Share a good meal and gifts of food with friends. Most importantly, be strong and courageous like Esther, giving generously of your time, talents, and treasures to make the Jewish community, and the world, a better place.

Happy Purim! (Chag Purim Sameach!)

Marni Vyn  
Board Chair

P.S. To read more about the Federation’s vision, mission, and guiding values – as well as upcoming events – check out our newly redesigned website at [www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)

### Like Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids on Facebook!

**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.

**Inside this issue:**

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**Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids**

2727 Michigan Street NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
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info@jfgr.org  
www.jfgr.org

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**GOAL: \$500,000.00**  
**353 Donors**  
**\$420,000.00**

**Campaign Update**

Campaign 2019 has raised just over \$420,000. We have received donations from 353 donors. In addition, any increased amount and any new pledges will be matched by a generous grant from the Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation, and for donors age 50 and younger, that amount will also be matched by a generous grant from the Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation.

Our goal for this year's campaign is \$500,000. We hope you will consider making a pledge, or increasing your donation before our annual campaign closes on March 31, 2020. At that time, our Board of Directors will begin the allocation process to provide funds that make a difference for Jews right here in West Michigan and around the world.

Please complete and return the pledge card in the Shofar, you can make a donation on our website: [JFGR.org](http://JFGR.org). We accept all credit cards. If you prefer to make a pledge now and set up a payment plan, please email us: [info@JFGR.org](mailto:info@JFGR.org).

Thank you for your support.



**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**

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

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

I HEREBY PLEDGE TO THE FEDERATION ANNUAL  
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## The Importance of Jewish Programming

*Marisa Krishef, Director of Programming, JFGR*

I grew up in the small town of Superior, Wisconsin, with few Jewish people. I have many memories of going to different Jewish and non-Jewish cultural programs with my parents. Most of them were held in our neighboring, slightly larger city of Duluth, MN which technically involved traveling over the high bridge on Lake Superior, into the state of Minnesota from Wisconsin. It was kind of a big deal, Duluth was also where I went to Hebrew School. Late night, long rides home over the bridge were special and a family bonding experience. However, there were many times, especially as a teenager, that I was cajoled, or should I say, forced, to come along with my parents when I didn't want to attend those events. Looking back as an adult, I realize that was part of my parent's strategy in raising me and my older siblings to be connected to the Jewish community and take pride in our Jewish heritage. This strategy, along with keeping kosher in our home, eating only vegetarian foods in restaurants (not easy in the '70s and '80s), observing Shabbat and Jewish holidays and attending Jewish summer camp had a profound effect on all of us. It ultimately led, I believe, to all four of us becoming the committed Jewish adults that we are today. Even the secular concert to see Lawrence Welk and His Orchestra Live

was a great experience!

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids provides our community with many opportunities to experience Jewish cultural programs with our children. I encourage you to bring your children to our upcoming Spring events such as the Purim Carnival, the PJ Library art-making event at Meijer Gardens, and the PJ Library Shir La La concert in April. Bring your older children to Nadine Epstein's presentation on Elie Wiesel in March and to appropriate Jewish Film Festival movies in May. Tell your children about the adult Jewish cultural events you attend so they know of your own Jewish interest and pride.

I will never forget one of the last Jewish cultural events my parents insisted I come to in my senior year of high school. It was the movie *Yentl* with Barbra Streisand. Seeing that movie ultimately affected my decision to pursue my cantorial ordination at a time when there were still a few women doing so. If you are unsure whether or not to bring your child to a Jewish program that they don't seem too excited about, go ahead and bring them! Seeing that movie ultimately affected my decision to pursue my cantorial ordination at a time when few women were doing so.

## 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 the first half of 2019. The committee discussed the economy and markets and elected to make no changes to the investment policy.

The L'dor Vador endowment funds totaled \$8,451,025.00 as of 12/31/2019, which is up from \$4,782,983.00 at the end of 2018. Of note, the funds' balance has been increased by contributions and reduced by annual distributions requested by many of the funds beneficiaries.

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

16.58% for all of 2019. However, L'dor Vador endowment assets generated over \$250,000 through 2019 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 any questions or would like more information, contact Nicole Katzman, Executive Director at 616-942-5553 or [nicole@jfgr.org](mailto:nicole@jfgr.org).





## A Hungry Heart

Rob Franciosi, Professor of English, GVSU



Rob Franciosi

This year marks the centennial of a significant event in the cultural lives of Jewish American women. No, not passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, as momentous as that was, but a major breakthrough of a different sort. One hundred years ago Anzia Yeziarska's *Hungry Hearts* was published to widespread acclaim.

A collection of stories set in the New York ghetto, *Hungry Hearts*, more than any fiction I know, gives voice to the Jewish women of my great grandmother's generation, those who were part of that vast immigrant wave that crested between 1880 and 1910. The hunger that pulses through these tales is not physical, despite plenty of rapturous oy-inflected expressions for chicken or fish; instead, as a *New York Times* reviewer declared, it is a "hunger of the spirit for better things." And Yeziarska's life embodied this same spirited desire, for both good and ill.

She was born in a Polish shtetl, then part of the Russian Empire, and at age ten emigrated to America with her large family, landing like

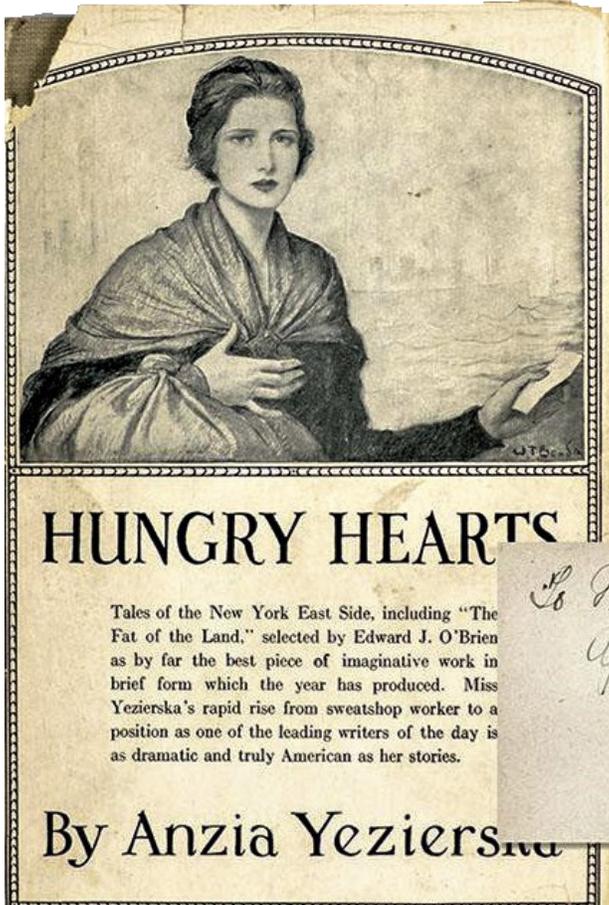
so many thousands in the crowded tenements of the Lower East Side. Despite the formidable forces arrayed against her—poverty, a religious tradition that had no place for a young woman of her talents and ambitions, and a wider society that was equally unreceptive to this passionate daughter of the shtetl—Yeziarska managed to grab an education for herself, mostly through night schools and scholarships. "I want to be a person," her typical heroine cries to all who will listen, though more often than not the social workers and teachers, landlords and shop owners, do not know how to deal with this wild hunger.

Unlike her many frustrated characters, however, Anzia Yeziarska found an outlet for her desires. After two disastrous marriages, she began to write stories that appeared in popular magazines of the day until one, "The Fat of the Land," was chosen by Edward J. O'Brien for his *Best Stories of 1919* collection; he even dedicated the volume to her. That story's success, followed by *Hungry Hearts* in 1920, caught Hollywood's notice and Samuel Goldwyn paid her \$10,000 for the book's rights, also inviting Yeziarska to the West Coast to adapt her immigrant tales for the silent screen.

Deemed the "sweatshop Cinderella," Yeziarska soon found Hollywood to be a sun-filled trap—alienating her from both past and newly prosperous present. She returned to New York after a few years and continued to write, even into her 80s, but her work eventually faded into obscurity, only to be rediscovered in the 1970s by feminist and ethnic studies scholars.

Mary Antin's *The Promised Land* may have been more insightful and artistically sophisticated, Abraham Cahan's fiction more accomplished, but it is Anzia Yeziarska, especially in *Hungry Hearts* and her memorable novel, *Bread Givers* (1925), who lets us still hear the long-silenced sounds of Hester and Mott streets that filled the world of our mothers. A hundred years later they are still worth hearing.

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





Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids presents:

# Community Purim Carnival 2020

Sunday, March 8, 2020

12:30-2:30 pm

Temple Emanuel

1715 Fulton St East

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$5 per person

\$3 children age 5 and younger

Kosher hot dog lunch with vegetarian options



RSVP by March 3 to

[markay@jfgr.org](mailto:markay@jfgr.org).

Find more information at:

[www.JFGR.org](http://www.JFGR.org)

*Bounce House, Carnival Games, Face Painting, Costume Contests, Cash Raffle!*

JFGR's Cultural Council presents:

# Nadine Epstein

Editor-in-Chief and CEO  
of Moment Magazine

Nadine will give a multi-media  
presentation on her book about Elie  
Weisel, Nobel Prize winner and author.



**Sunday, March 22 at 2 pm**

**Temple Emanuel**

**1715 Fulton St East**

**Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Cost: \$15 per person

\$5 per student

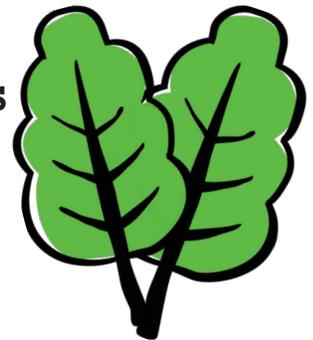
RSVP by **March 15** to [markay@jfgr.org](mailto:markay@jfgr.org)

Find more information at: [www.JFGR.org](http://www.JFGR.org)



Sunday, March 15, 2020  
 Frederik Meijer Gardens  
 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
 100 E Beltline Ave NE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Join the PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, as we view the butterfly exhibit at The Frederik Meijer Gardens. Afterward, we will be crafting with repurposed materials to make new art.



Questions or comments?

Contact: [Jessica@jfggr.org](mailto:Jessica@jfggr.org) or  
 (616) 942-5553

**Fee: \$10 for parent  
 and child, \$5 for each  
 additional person**



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## Financial Focus

### *Avoid These Estate Planning Mistakes*



Chad Zagel  
JFGR Board Member

You save and invest to meet a variety of goals during your lifetime: college for your children, long vacations, a comfortable retirement, and so on. But you probably also want to leave something behind – to your loved ones and, possibly, to the charitable organizations you support. To do so, you’ll need to develop a comprehensive estate plan,

but to make that plan work, you must avoid some common mistakes.

Here are a few of these pitfalls you’ll want to avoid:

- *Not writing a will* – If you were to die “intestate” – without a last will and testament – the state in which you live would determine how your property was distributed. And the state’s decisions may not match what you had in mind at all. Furthermore, a will is where you would name guardians for your minor children.
- *Not going beyond a will* – While a will is an essential component of estate planning, it’s often not enough. You may need to create other documents, such as a living trust, which, among other benefits, enables your estate to avoid probate, a time-consuming and public process that can lead to disputes among your heirs and others. And a living trust lets you place highly specific conditions on how and when you want your assets distributed. You might also consider other legal documents, including a power of attorney, which

allows you to appoint a person or organization to handle your affairs if you can’t do so yourself, and a health care directive, which lets you name someone to make health care decisions on your behalf, should you become physically or mentally incapacitated.

- *Choosing the wrong executor* – An executor is responsible for distributing property to your beneficiaries and paying off any debts and taxes your estate may owe, among other tasks. Because the role of executor is so important, you need to choose someone who is reliable, competent and trustworthy. It’s certainly possible to find such an individual in your own family, but many people choose someone who is either conflicted, too busy or simply not up to the task. If you have doubts about picking a good executor, you may want to turn to a trust company. The costs likely will be higher than if you chose a family member, but the results may be much better.
- *Not naming proper beneficiaries* – Many of your assets – 401(k), IRA, life insurance and so on – require you to name a beneficiary. These beneficiary designations are powerful, often superseding the instructions in your will. If circumstances change in your life, such as new children, or divorce or remarriage, you may well want to change beneficiaries. It’s easy to do – but it’s also easy to overlook.
- *Not updating ownership of assets* – A change in your family situation or changes in the laws governing income and estate taxes could require you to update ownership designations of financial assets.

And here’s perhaps the biggest mistake of all: not understanding what’s in your estate plan. You need to work closely with your tax, legal and financial professionals to create a plan you fully comprehend and can communicate effectively to your loved ones. Surprises are often pleasant in many areas of life – but estate planning is not one of them.

*Chad Zagel, 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.*





# ADL Words to Action Workshop

Learn about how ADL (Anti-Defamation League) fights anti-Semitism and how you can effectively respond.

We will have workshops for both students and parents/Jewish community members.

## For Students:

Words to Action empowers and equips Jewish youth to;

- Address anti-Semitism by increasing understanding and awareness of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias
- Counter anti-Semitic stereotypes and anti-Israel myths
- Learn skills to strategically respond to anti-Semitism in any form

## For Parents & Community Members:

With the rise of hateful incidents, ADL's mission "To stop the defamation of the Jewish people, and to secure justice and fair treatment to all" has never been more relevant.

- Learn from the ADL Michigan team about the approach to doing this work locally
- How you can help fight hate for good

## Three Student Groups:

5th-6th, 7th-8th, and 9th-12th grades

**DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020**

**TIME: 11:00-12:30**

**LOCATION: TEMPLE EMANUEL**

1715 FULTON ST E, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503





## Honoring Cathy Winick for 15 Years of Service to the Jewish Federation

Cathy Winick joined the Jewish Federation in 2005 and has played a key role in our success by directing our annual campaign, assisting with programs and events, managing our donor database, and supporting the staff and Board of Directors. She even served as Chair of the 20th Annual Film Festival in 2018!

Cathy embodies the definition of servant leadership with a passion for making a positive impact in the Jewish community. She quickly builds rapport, finds common ground, and makes connections wherever she goes. If you've ever met Cathy, you know that she has a ready smile and a kind word to say to everyone. She brings out the best in others. While she doesn't seek out the spotlight, she's behind the scenes making everything happen (and making it look easy!).

Cathy resigned from the Federation at the end of February as she begins a Master of Arts program in Jewish studies at the Spertus Institute. She will be missed on staff but we look forward to Cathy's continued involvement in the Jewish community. Thank you to Cathy for her many years of tireless dedication to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids!



Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids...

### *Save The Date*

**Jewish Genetics & Your Health**  
**Sunday, May 3, 10:00 am**  
**Temple Emanuel**

Hear first hand from genetic counselors, a culinary medicine specialist, and a BRCA cancer survivor. Learn about genetic risks and how to be proactive for the health of you and your family.

**Questions? Contact Marni Vyn at [marnivyn@gmail.com](mailto:marnivyn@gmail.com)**



## JEWISH SUMMER CAMP: FUN FOR ALL

*Carly Fleck, Communications Intern, JFGR*

Jewish summer camp has been a long time tradition for many. The Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC), sends over 72,000 Jewish children to camp each year. Camps such as Tamarack, Ramah, and Tavor have become popular over the past few years. These camps combine Jewish values, cultures, and traditions along with outdoor and bonding activities. At camp, Jewish culture is shared through song, dance, food, and art. Statistics show that children who attend camp are more connected to their Jewish identity, and are more likely to take part in Jewish leadership roles. The camp experience and the impact it gives does not end once children leave. Long-lasting relationships can continue for a lifetime.

A Jewish camp is a place where children feel safe and can be themselves, along with being surrounded by other children who have similar interests. Camp does not discriminate and serves all types of children with different backgrounds. Many camps have programming for campers with special needs and disabilities, making the camping experience inclusive for all. Camp Havaya, formally known as Camp JRF, of South Sterling Pennsylvania, specializes in developmental disabilities such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, cognitive delays, developmental challenges, moderate speech and/or processing issues, and some forms of physical disabilities. Programs like these give all children an equal opportunity to enjoy all aspects of Jewish summer camp and be a part of the community.

Every Jewish child deserves the chance to go to a summer camp. There are scholarships available

to assist families with these opportunities. PJ Library's scholarship "PJ Goes to Camp" is one of the many scholarships offered through One Happy Camper Foundation. They are offering scholarships up to \$1,000 for first-time campers, along with many other scholarships for non-first time campers. Along with PJ Library, The David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund through the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is taking applications for summer 2020. Applications must be submitted by March 15. For more information, visit the online applications at:

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pj-goes-to-camp>  
<https://www.jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper/scholarships/pj-goes-camp/>  
<https://cdn.fedweb.org/fed-61/2/blank%2520camp%2520scholarship%2520application.pdf>



*Carly Fleck*



### 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](http://www.JFGR.org) or you may request one by emailing Nicole at [nicole@JFGR.org](mailto:nicole@JFGR.org), or phone (616) 942-5553. Your completed application must be received by March 15, 2020.

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



**August  
9-14,  
2020**

**Baseball  
Basketball  
Chess  
Dance  
E-Sports  
Ice Hockey  
Soccer  
Swimming  
Table Tennis  
Tennis  
Volleyball**



**JCC Maccabi  
Campus Games**

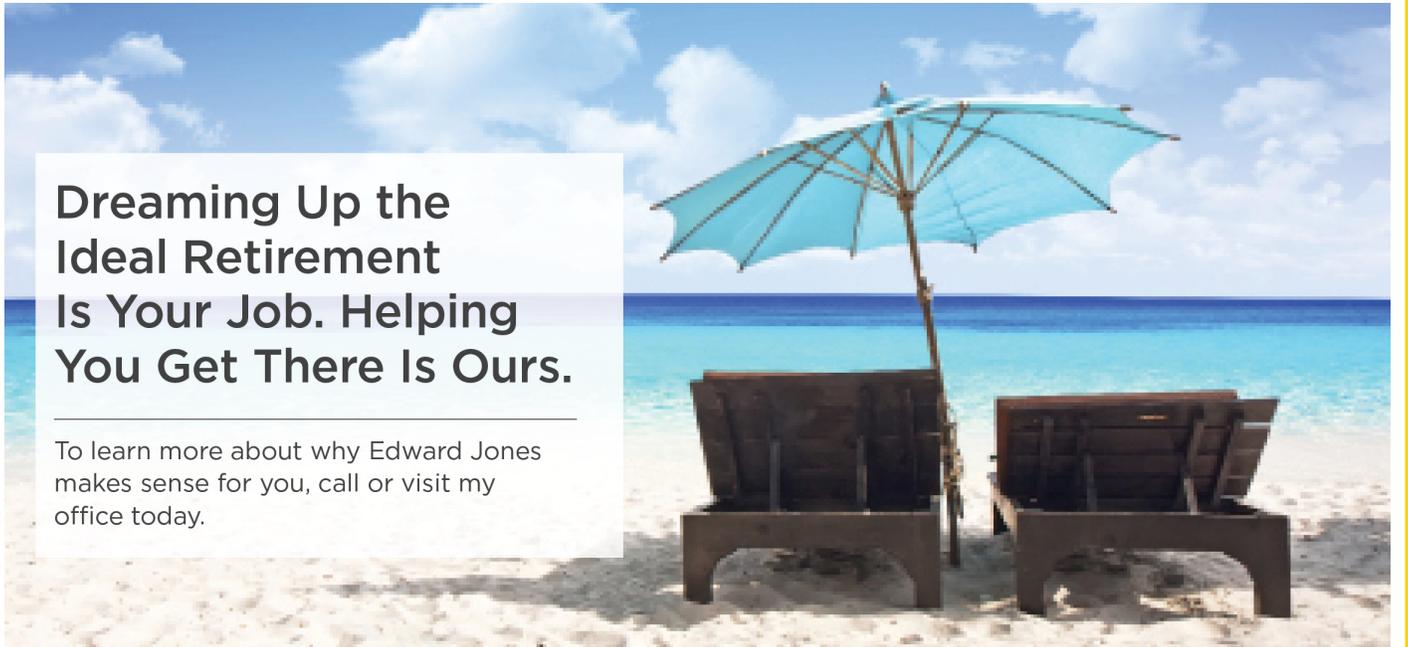
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2020 marks the 22nd year for the Jewish Film Festival. The Film Festival committee is busy screening films and planning special programming to make sure this year's festival is spectacular! We hope you will join us when the festival brings our community together for five days of cultural enlightenment and entertainment. In the meantime, your opportunity for sponsorship is at hand.

**Individual Sponsors Get Great Benefits**

**Director: (\$500)** Receive two Flex Passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications, and four admissions to all private receptions, dinners and events.

**Producer: (\$250)** Receive two Flex Passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications, and two admissions to all private receptions, dinners and events.

**Actor: (\$100)** Receive one Flex pass (8 admissions) and recognition in the program booklet.

**Film Fan:** If you would like to financially support the Jewish Film Festival and do not see a sponsorship that interests you, please feel free to send a contribution in any amount to the Federation office. Your name will be listed in the program booklet.

**Jewish Film Festival Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Jewish Film Festival of Grand Rapids is to entertain and educate. The festival uses the power of film to challenge conventional perspectives on complex and dynamic issues facing the Jewish people and the community as a whole. It also provides a forum for the Grand Rapids community to dialogue with filmmakers, producers, writers and expert panelists.

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

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

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

- Film Festival Director (\$500)
- Film Festival Producer (\$250)
- Film Festival Actor (\$100)

- Film Festival Fan (Please indicate dollar amount)
- Flex Pass (\$36)

Mail this form and your check to:

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



## Put Your Pet's Best Face Forward!

It's time for the JFGR's first annual pet issue where we feature pictures of your faithful friends. Send us a picture of your dogs, cats, birds and reptiles. Fish are welcome too! Deadline for photo's is April 15, 2020.

Please remember to include your name, contact information and your pets name

You can submit through our website or email to [nicole@JFGR.org](mailto:nicole@JFGR.org)



Molly Katzman



Thursday, March 19, 2020  
12:30 pm  
**Gravity Taphouse**  
3210 Deposit Drive NE, Grand Rapids  
(off of East Beltline)

RSVP to [markay@jfgr.org](mailto:markay@jfgr.org) or 616-942-5553

Please let us know if you need a ride.



*Ju Sushi and Lounge, Grand Rapids, February 20, 2020*

Look what you  
missed last month  
at Ju Sushi!



## Stephanie Hurwitz Realtor®

stephanie.hurwitz@gmail.com  
cell 616.443.9559  
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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## CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

**FACEBOOK:** @CHABADWMI | **PHONE:** 616-957-0770 | **EMAIL:** CHABADWESTERNMICHIGAN@GMAIL.COM

Family Masquerade Party & Megillah reading!  
**MONDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> • 7:30PM • At Chabad**  
Exciting Entertainment, Purim Crafts, Multimedia presentation & Megillah reading, enjoy some delicious Purim treats! Come dressed in your most original costume!  
Fun for all ages!!

The Chabad House of Western Michigan invites the entire Jewish community to the  
37th Annual Purim Celebration Dinner  
**PURIM IN ITALY**  
**PURIM DAY • TUESDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> 2020**  
At the Chabad House  
Come join us for a festive, fun and joyous evening.  
Live Music Entertainment with Special Guest Entertainer by: *Shlomo Haviv*  
Singer, Songwriter, Guitarist, Percussionist, Bouzouki Player.  
**Hors d'oeuvres: 5:30pm | Megillah Reading: 5:45pm | Dinner: 6:15pm**  
Donation \$36 per person | Limited seating.

Jewish Woman's Circle - MUSIC OF MIRIAM  
**MONDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> • 7:30PM**  
Explore the story of Miriam and the power of feminine faith.  
Paint a beautiful decorative tambourine to celebrate our freedom today.  
Hostess: Paula Miller | RSVP: Nechamy8@gmail.com

Model Matzah Factory  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> • 1:00PM • At Chabad**  
It's MATZAH Time! Grind your own wheat and bake your own Matzah, at the Model Matzah Factory!

CKids Club/Mini Chefs: (for Jewish boys & girls, ages 5-11)  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> ~ "EGYPT" Authentic Matzah**  
**4:30-6:00PM** | \$5 Donation per session (includes light dinner)

Community Passover Seder  
Chabad invites you to join us for a warm interactive Passover Seder. Relive the exodus, discover the eternal

meaning of the Haggadah, enjoy a community Seder complete with hand-baked Matzah, wine, and a wonderful dinner spiced with unique traditional customs.  
**First Seder Night: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>, 9:00PM**  
**Second Seder Night: THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 9:30PM**  
At the Chabad House. Open to the entire Jewish community regardless of background or affiliation.

CTeen Trip Day!  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> • 5:00PM**  
Escape from Egypt – Embark on a live, interactive escape room adventure!  
**The place for ALL Jewish high school teens!**

JTEXT ~ JEWISH TRIVIA  
**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 (grades 6-12) in West Michigan and would like to join?  
Text "CTEENGR" to 616-207-1218 to be let in on the fun!

Gan Israel Day Camp - Register Today!!  
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 22<sup>ND</sup>- JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> 2020 | 9:00AM - 3:30PM**  
**Kiddy Camp:** Ages 3-5 | **Main Division:** Ages 6-10 | **Pre-Teen Division:** Ages 11-12

Gan Yiladim Preschool – Kindergarten  
**New!! This upcoming 2020/2021 school year - We will be offering full day program option!!**  
Gan Yiladim is a licensed preschool for Jewish children ages 2-6 open to the entire Jewish community, regardless of background or affiliation.  
For over 40 years, 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.  
Gan Yiladim takes the best of both worlds – secular and Judaic – and blends 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.



## Beit Sefer B'yahad United Jewish School

1715 Fulton St E | Grand Rapids MI 49503  
616.459.5976

- March 8** Purim story 10:10-11:00am, with Rabbi Schadick
- March 8** Purim community event starts at 12:30-2:30pm
- March 22** Matzah Factory with Chabad for Pre-K- 2nd grade
- March 29** Passover story walk with PJ Library and UJS.
- March 29** Chocolate mock seder for 5th - 10th grade
- April 5** No school spring break
- April 12** No school Passover
- April 19** ADL Words to Action: Empowering students and adults with constructive, effective responses to Anti-Semitism and Anti-Israel Bias.



### Torah Study Shabbat and Abbreviated Shabbat service - March 14

Please join us for Torah study at 9:30 am and a shortened Shabbat service at 10:30 am. Mark your calendars for next month's Torah Study Shabbat on April 18 (third Shabbat).

### Celebrate Purim with Ahavas Israel!

#### Monday night, March 9, 6:30 p.m.

The Religious Life committee celebrates Purim with food and drink following the megillah reading. Come one, come all - this is a celebration for young children and older adults alike!



### Your Opinion Matters & Brunch

**Sunday, March 15th at 10:00 AM** in the Lewis Social Hall

Topic: Negativity rules our world. What strategies can we use to reduce it? Inspired by The Power of Bad by Jon Tierney & Roy F. Baumeister.

RSVP to Jim Siegel at [jims@siegeljewelers.com](mailto:jims@siegeljewelers.com)

### Temple to Host Interfaith Seder

We invite our membership to come and celebrate the first Seder of the season with our neighbors from many religious traditions. Our Interfaith Seder will take place on **Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 PM.**

Helping Rabbi Schadick lead the seder will be Reverend Christian Brocato from St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Pastor Bob Linstrom from Trinity Lutheran Church, Pastor James Jones from Oakdale Park Church, Pastor Jenn Porter from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Father Rene Constanza from the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, Pastor Mark Barger-Elliott from Mayflower Congregational Church, Pastor Mitchell Connelly from Celebration Bible Church, and Imam Morsey Salem from the Masjid At-Tawheed.

The Seder will include a full course chicken dinner complete with traditional Passover ceremonial foods. A vegetarian option is available upon reservation. The cost is \$20 a person. Please contact the Temple office to RSVP. 616-459-5976

### Temple Pub Crawl

Due to scheduling challenges (LaughFest) on the part of our fearless leader (Cat), the next Pub Crawl will be **Sunday, April 5th.** We will meet at Broadleaf Brewing, [www.broadleafbeer.com](http://www.broadleafbeer.com), located at 2885 Lake Eastbrook Ave, just south of 28th Street. These guys opened up last summer with some really great beer, and have just gotten their kitchen organized for food. With a very small menu, they managed to cover yummy sounding options for vegans, those who are free of glutens, and omnivores alike. Let Cat know if you plan to join the fun [cat@grtemple.org](mailto:cat@grtemple.org). Everyone is welcome!

### Women's Seder

We extend a cordial invitation to all of the women of our congregation to share a night of Sisterhood with us. Together we will listen to the voices of women and hear their stories through the text of a specially designed Hagaddah.

Our Women's 7th Night Seder will take place on **Tuesday, April 14,** beginning at **6:15 PM.** The night includes a complete Vegan Dinner, lovingly prepared and served by a few of the men of our congregation. Susan Schadick will lead the Seder. The cost is \$22 for members and \$25 for non-members. Please RSVP to the Temple office no later than Friday, April 10.

**Ahoy, Mateys!** All are welcome to join us for a Pirate Purim on **Monday, March 9th**

**6:00 PM Dinner** Scallywag Salad, Pegleg Corn Dogs, Seadog Fish and Chips, Grog, Root Beer, Fish Bait, and Yo Ho Ho Hamantashen



(Continued)

**Ahoy, Mateys!**

**6:45 PM Family Fun** Pirate Games and Treasure Hunt, A Pirate's Purim Tale, Pirate Costume Contest

**Don't be a Landlubber!** Contact Captain Cat to RSVP by Thurs. March 5th. **\$10 per pirate**

**Adults Only Post-Purim Fun!**

Join us for hearty appetizers, adult beverages, and a chance to express your artistic self at our first ever Wine/Beer and Canvas Night on **Saturday, March 14 at 6:30 PM.**

Jack Moga & Deet Newman will be our instructors \$25 for a delicious night of fun!

Contact the office to RSVP 616-459-5976 or Cat@GRTemple.org

*Thank you for supporting the  
Grand Rapids Jewish Community*  
**JFGR General Endowment/L'Dor Vador Fund**  
In memory of Celeste Kessler  
From Rochelle Najmy

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

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.

**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](mailto:info@JFGR.org)  
Phone: 616.942.5553  
Fax: 616.942.5780  
[www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)  
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**Next Issue's Information Deadline:**  
**March 15, 2020**

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## ★ SAVE THE DATE ★

### APRIL 19th, 2020

Celebrate the wonders of growing up green with Parent's Choice Award Winner, ShirLaLa, and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. Join Shira Kline as she brings fun, energetic music to teach a new generation how important it is to take care of the world we live in. Shira Kline is an award winning musician on the PJ Library circuit.

**Sunday, April 19**  
**Earth Day Celebration**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**Temple Emanuel**  
**1715 Fulton St. E**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49503**



For more information contact Marisa Krishef, Director of Programming,  
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, at [Markay@jfgr.org](mailto:Markay@jfgr.org) or 616.942.5553