



## More Than Enough

by Nicole Katzman  
JFGR Executive Director



Nicole Katzman

I have been teaching religious school for the past seventeen years, fifteen years at my former synagogue in Providence and the past two years at UJS. Friends and family will often ask me, “Nicole, why are you still doing this, don’t you want to sleep in on Sunday mornings?” My sentiment has always been that I love working with children, teaching them values, morales and traditions. Moreover, I believe in the mission of instilling in our youth a sense of belonging within the Jewish community.

Despite the relentlessness of COVID, it’s comforting to know that the celebration of Jewish holidays continues. Despite the logistical challenges these celebrations have taken on deeper meanings. We have had to carve out new ways to connect with our family and friends, but what is constant is that holidays bring a sense of familiarity, comfort and belonging especially for children. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing the smiles, and hearing the exclamations of joy from eager children during special holidays.

The PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, delivers books of Jewish content directly to your mailbox. This month, one of the Passover books sent, for children ages 3-4 years, is called *More than Enough* by April Halprin Wayland. This animated story has a very clear message, and that is to be grateful and appreciate spending time with family and friends. When we sing “Dayenu” (“it would have been enough”) during the Passover seder, we’re singing about Torah, Shabbat and freedom. In this story, we notice so many more things to feel grateful for as we enjoy the springtime pleasures of Passover.

From your friends at JFGR, wishing you and your family a happy and healthy Passover.

L'Shalom,

Nicole

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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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*Chad Zagel*

The Jewish Federation is here for our community, Israel and the world. Please make a difference and support Campaign 2020. Every gift is meaningful and can positively change the life of a person or family in need. Todah Rabah, Thank You!

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. A special thank you to Peg and Mort Finkelstein for matching the first \$5,000 raised in Campaign 2020.

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## Community Collaboration: *Creating a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community in Grand Rapids*

By Marni Vyn, Chairperson

The Collaboration is more than Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel sharing one facility. The vision is to build a more inclusive community that encourages greater engagement and creates an environment where our changing needs and challenges are addressed. The vision is to enrich and expand community-wide activities and programs for adults, families, children, and teens. These activities can include social events, mitzvah projects, religious and holiday celebrations, senior programs, informal drop-ins, youth programs, cultural programs, and more. The plan is to provide spaces that accommodate the needs of both of the congregations, as well as the United Jewish School, Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, and other local Jewish organizations.

Last month, the Boards of Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel each voted to appoint a team to negotiate a term sheet regarding the possible creation of a

combined facility on the current Temple Emanuel property on Fulton Street. The term sheet will describe the basic outlines of the arrangements between Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel (upfront financial contributions, governance, ongoing cost sharing, etc.) and will also include a proposed agreement regarding the roles of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids and other Jewish organizations. This term sheet will serve as a starting point for further negotiations between the two parties.



Marni Vyn

We are excited about this initiative and the positive impact it can make in our Jewish community. Questions? Contact Marni Vyn: [marnivyn@yahoo.com](mailto:marnivyn@yahoo.com)



Three organizations in one building working together would create a more vibrant type of Jewish programming for the whole community. Each congregation would have its own space for religious services to practice Judaism the way they always have. Operating out of a single building will give each congregation almost the same autonomy they now have at a reduced cost.

There have been questions raised as to what would be the role of Federation. So, what role does Federation play in this collaboration? Federation is all of us, it provides Social Services that both congregations demand. Federation is supported by many of the same

families that make up the membership of our two congregations and help those in our Jewish community that are in need.

The above are only a few examples that would be a plus for our Jewish community. The collaboration will greatly benefit our community now and for many years to come.

- Peg and Mort Finkelstein



# Judaism and Vaccinations

by Lisa Rose



Lisa Rose

It has been exactly one year since my family's life was suspended by Covid. My son was studying in South Korea and was experiencing the world's second hot spot after the Covid-19 virus ravaged Wuhan China.

We had no idea how upended our own worlds were about to become. People balked at the idea of a lockdown, children not being able to attend school or moving work from the office to our sofas. And none of us could have imagined how many loved ones would be affected by the virus. It us incomprehensible.

One year later, and our healthcare systems now have a tool to help mitigate the ravaging effects of Covid-19: a vaccine. To arrive to this point is its own sort of miracle.

Alas, the vaccine and its rollout has had its challenges - most significant is the lack of access to the vaccine by our most vulnerable and the amount of mistrust of the vaccine.

So here we are.

As an employee of Spectrum Health, I've seen firsthand ALL the shortcomings in the rollout of the vaccine - from supply chain to signup to distribution. As an anthropologist, I've gone deep to understand the mental barriers and whys people would want to delay or refuse a Covid-19 vaccination.

And as a Jew, I've reflected on what my ethical duty is to our community to 1) be vaccinated, 2) advocate for better access to the vaccine, and 3) dispel myths, mistruths, and tropes that exist around the science behind the mRNA vaccines and their role in our Covid-19 pandemic toolkit.

My call to action isn't to make sure when your name is called, to show up and receive the vaccine. That's an important call to action. But it's not the only call to action.

My call to action to all of you is to reflect how you can leverage and translate your talents, resources, and knowledge and be a part of the greater healing of our community during this pandemic.

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Efforts great and small make a difference, and they can be as simple as:

- Helping our elders navigate the digital sign-up process
- Offer transportation to someone that may need support in going to get their vaccine
- **MAKE SURE** friends, loved ones get their **SECOND DOSE!** (Early numbers suggest that 30% of those who have received the first dose did not return for their second does -- super important!).
- Get the science and the truths out to those that are misinformed. Fact check what you share on social media and ensure content is from reputable sources. Request the same from others
- Listen to our brothers and sisters in communities of color. Learn their cultures' stories and abuses they've suffered under the guise of science. As many of our ancestors suffered horrific experimental medical treatments during the Holocaust, so have the ancestors of our black and brown community members. Learn that history, validate their feelings and support them in gaining knowledge and access to not only the vaccine but the medical care they deserve.

The vaccine itself only addresses one facet in this complex healthcare crisis. It isn't the only tool in our toolkit, but it is an important tool nonetheless. If you or someone you know are eligible for or have questions about the vaccine and it's distribution, visit <https://www.spectrumhealth.org/covid19/covid-19-vaccine> or email me directly and I can connect you with the expertise you may need: [lisa.rose@spectrumhealth.org](mailto:lisa.rose@spectrumhealth.org)

Spectrum Health COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center Hours

8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. **If you are eligible for a vaccine and unable to complete your registration online, call 833.755.0696.**

Call volumes are extremely high. Only use the phone line if you are eligible for a vaccine and are unable to register online or have received a notification to schedule. This will allow those who are most in need to reach our team.

The call center can assist with:

- Registering for the COVID-19 vaccine for patients who meet the state's criteria but are unable to use the online registration.
- Navigating scheduling/rescheduling once you have received a notification to schedule.

The COVID-19 call center team cannot:

- **Tell you how long it will be** until you will be able to schedule your vaccination. This is based on guidance from the State of Michigan and Spectrum Health's vaccine supply.
- **Schedule appointments if you have not received a notification** that you can schedule.

What is the selection process for who gets scheduled first?

**Once you register, you are on the list for a vaccine.**

Based upon your responses, you will receive a notification to schedule based upon:

- MDHHS vaccine distribution guidance
- An ethical distribution framework
- When you registered,
- and Spectrum Health's available vaccine supply

*As an anthropologist with a professional focus on community health; Lisa M. Rose has gathered her food, farming and wild plant knowledge from many people and places along a very delicious journey. Ethnobotany research has led her into Central and South America into the Yucatan, mainland Mexico, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Brasil to learn about various peoples, plants and their connection to place.*

*As a wild foods chef, Rose's edible travels have taken her to work with talented Stags Leap winemakers in the Napa Valley, Alice Waters & The Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley, CA, and organic farmers of Leelanau County in Northern Michigan. When Rose is not exploring the gardens, kitchens, and wild spaces of the world, she can be found leading foraging expeditions and teaching culinary classes on edible and medicinal wild plants in her own backyard in Grand Rapids, Michigan.*





## Ask Julianna

by Julianna Schrier, Community Connector



Julianna Schrier

Shalom!

This month, I received the following question:

*How can I celebrate Passover in a meaningful way with my family while still being safe?*

Here are suggestions on how to celebrate Passover this year.

1. **A Smaller Seder:** If you're celebrating alone, or with immediate family, I encourage you to still have a seder. There's a wide variety of Haggadahs available online that are easy to follow. PJ Library's family-friendly Haggadah is available as a PDF on their website visit [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org). You can have a condensed celebration before the second glass of wine or grape juice!
2. **Share your recipes:** For me, the celebration of Passover is all about the food, matzo ball soup, gefilte fish, and brisket (or a vegetarian option if you prefer!). Many of us have our own favorites, and when we gather, we are able to prepare and share them with others. A way to connect is to email your favorite recipes to friends and family members, and have them send you theirs in return! You may not be able to eat the charoset that your aunt makes, but you can get the recipe from her and try it yourself! Food is such an important way to connect with one

another, and sharing recipes is a great way to do that.

3. **Focus on the Story:** It's easy to get caught up in the preparation and spectacle of Passover when you're setting the table for twenty. Often, I forget to reflect on the story of Passover, the exodus of the Jews, who were slaves in Egypt.
4. **Prepare Ahead:** Connect with family and friends with a Zoom seder. Prior to the seder, send each participant a copy of the Haggadah that will be used. Assign parts - who will read the Four Questions or lead the group in Dayenu? Color and cut out the plagues, mail them to your friends and family. I bet they will be surprised. If you can't get to the market, create a seder plate out of paper or clay place in the center of the table.

I'm looking forward to connecting with you. Contact me at [julianna@jfgr.org](mailto:julianna@jfgr.org) or (616) 942-5553 ext. 206.

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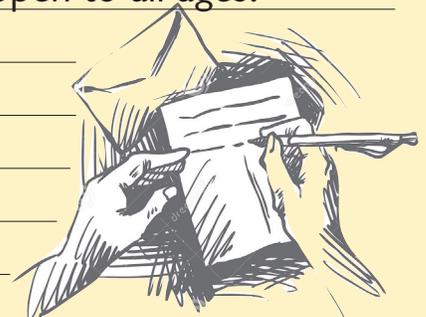
Place your ad today! Contact Nicole at 616.942.5553 or [Nicole@jfgr.org](mailto:Nicole@jfgr.org)

## Community Pen Pal Program

Would you like to have a pen pal? The Federation wants to bring people in the community together through letter writing. This is a unique way to connect with people and show them that you care. This program is open to all ages!

We hope you participate and make a new friend.

If you are interested in sending or receiving a letter, contact: [julianna@jfgr.org](mailto:julianna@jfgr.org) or call the Federation at (616) 942-5553.





## For the Love of Fabric

by Peggy Leven



Peggy Leven

My love of fabric comes to me honestly and from a young age. My grandmother sewed children's shoes in a shoe factory for thirty years starting in the Great Depression. She raised three children as a single mother, walking to and from the factory each day. Both grandmothers and great-grandmothers were quilters and members of quilting bees. My

father used to make various leather goods on an old Singer. And a favorite aunt was a skilled sewer and tutored me in the craft during the summer.

As a young teen, I loved fashion but didn't have the budget to keep up with my expensive tastes, so I took to the sewing machine. I worked in the Teen Department of J.L. Hudson's and used to take my favorite pieces in the back room and trace a pattern on tissue paper. I gave it up as a working mom but made Halloween and theatre costumes while the kids were in school. I especially loved costuming high school theatre productions while my son built sets and props.

Later turning to home dec projects, modern quilting and french tailoring as I approached empty nesting, I loved learning new techniques and fine tuning my craft. I love the skill of piecing together a giant mosaic - similar to a huge puzzle where you create each piece. Just a 1/8" variance can mean nothing aligns. It's the attention to detail, accuracy and precision that draws me in. The planning is also an exciting part of quilting - there are hundreds of thousands of modern fabrics to choose from. I am drawn to the many young designers on the modern scene. Fibre art pieces have won Art Prize twice! Computerized machines for the home can run into the tens of thousands of dollars and are highly complex and can be connected to the Internet allowing the user to download and stitch out most any design possible.

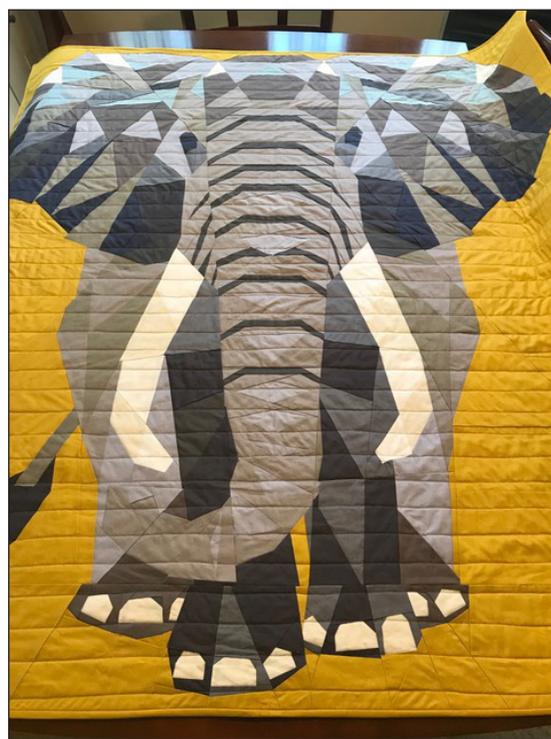
When the pandemic started last fall my veterinarian son called to ask me to make cloth masks for our fifty employees so that we could donate our PPE to the children's hospital. No one knew how to make them yet and masks were largely unavailable anywhere. With sewing machine in hand, I retreated to our lake home and quarantined for two months, making hundreds of masks free of charge for



hospitals, home care workers, first responders, front line workers and friends. My mask making skills evolved to include silver infused fabric, surgical wrap fabric filters and custom "made to fit" masks. Over the past twelve months, I have made over 4,000 masks, including masks for the hearing impaired, sign language interpreters, people with hearing aids and children. I have shipped them all over the country and have amassed a collection of fun novelty prints (RBG, Dr. Fauci, BLM, suffragettes, every conceivable dog breed and mermaids/unicorns), Liberty of London and hundreds of florals, geometrics and fun prints.

I love helping people and knowing they are wearing quality, safe masks that fit.

*Peggy was born and raised in the Detroit area and is still a proud Detroit. She and her husband, Marc, moved to Grand Rapids in the early 1980's with then 18 month old Jessica and founded their own veterinary hospital. They now employ over fifty animal care specialists. Peggy spent twenty years at Herman Miller as group product and marketing manager. She enjoyed working with the design process in their healthcare and home subsidiaries. She and husband, Marc, have three children Jessica and husband Courtney, Josh and his wife Kelly (both veterinarians) and Jordan and Patrick (computer dude and physician) who live in Pittsburgh. They are so lucky to have five grandchildren, Madison, Kameron, Emerson, Edison and Sawyer. All reside in the Grand Rapids area.*





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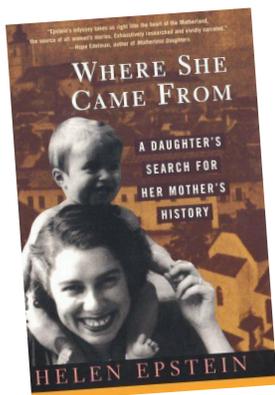
## The Inheritor

by Rob Franciosi

A recent article in the *Florida Times-Union* reported on efforts in Jacksonville by the children of Holocaust survivors to preserve their parents' stories. One member of the group explained that her father spent the last ten years of his

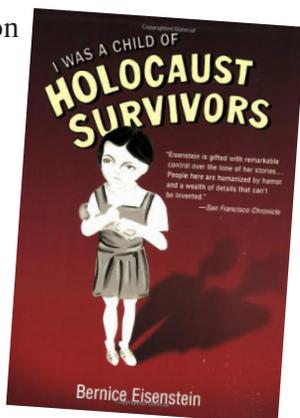
life speaking at local schools, where he shared both his testimony and its contemporary lessons. "I feel like I'm walking into some very large shoes," she said in reference to her own efforts. "More than ever, I am ready to tell this story, so it won't be forgotten."

When survivors finally began to speak to a wider public, usually delimited by the broadcast of the mini-series *Holocaust* in 1978 and the opening of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993, other voices accompanied them—those of the so-called "Second Generation." In many cases they had urged their parents to share their experiences during the



Holocaust with the wider community. Yet in pushing their parents into the cultural spotlight, these inheritors of a traumatic past soon found it shining on them as well. Helen Epstein's *Children of the Holocaust* (1979) was a watershed book in this regard, as she was the first to interview hundreds of young men and women who had grown up in families scarred by the past, by European events that very often had preceded their own births.

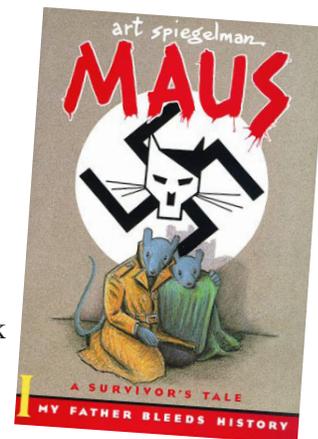
Books by such second-generation writers as Art Spiegelman, Lev Raphael, Berniece Eisenstein, Thane Rosenbaum, and Epstein herself now constitute a sub-genre of Holocaust literature. Their works have not been without controversy, with critic Ruth Franklin especially harsh on a group for whom "the Holocaust lies at the very foundation of their consciousness." Nevertheless, research by



psychologists and by scientists in the field of epigenetics has confirmed the inter-generational effects of trauma highlighted by these writers.

Although getting aged survivors to share their stories remains an urgent task,

recording the experiences of their children, most of whom are now eligible for Social Security, is also important. Writing about Art Spiegelman's amazing graphic memoir, *Maus*, Daniel Magilow and Lisa Silverman argue that the book shows how "the process of recovering the past and the family dynamics of Holocaust survivors have become as much a part of Holocaust history as the memory of eyewitnesses." The group in Jacksonville cannot finally tell their parents' stories; but they can articulate what it meant to grow up in the presence of the story-tellers, and how it affected their own adult lives and values.



As we assemble details regarding the lives of Grand Rapids-area survivors for our web site, we also hope to document the stories of their children. These members of the Second Generation are of course essential sources of details and clarifications regarding their parents, and we will rely heavily on them for such assistance, but their experiences, whether good or bad, also serve as a crucial inheritance of the Holocaust. Psychologist Aaron Hass, himself a child of survivors, writes that his parents' agony "did not end with their liberation at the close of World War II," and their "legacy of pain and changed personalities" profoundly affected "a generation that never saw an SS storm trooper." Or, drawing on my literary training, I think of words from William Faulkner that, though written about the South, also speak to the unique experiences of these Holocaust inheritors: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

*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*



## Recipes Needed!

by Kris Siegel



Kris Siegel

Are you willing to share your tried-and-true recipes? We want to publish them in our community cookbook!

The Collaborative Cookbook Committee comprises members from Ahavas, Chabad, JFGR, and Temple. Our mission is to bring people together through

food! Collecting recipes and food-related stories is an important part of preserving our culture. Please consider submitting a recipe in one of the following ways:

- Visit the JFGR website and submit online at [JFGR.org](http://JFGR.org).
- Email your recipe to [info@jfgr.org](mailto:info@jfgr.org).
- Mail a paper copy (not the original) of your recipe to The Jewish Federation office at 2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Some guidelines: recipes should be kosher, fairly easy to prepare, with an emphasis on fresh ingredients. We want cooks to be successful recreating your dish in their own kitchens. Also, if you would like to share a photo or family memory along with your recipe, that would help to make our cookbook extra-special. All kinds of recipes are welcome, as long as they fit the above criteria: appetizers, soups, salads, entrees, side dishes, desserts, or holiday recipes. Whatever it is, we want to cook it!

We thank you for taking the time to share your recipes. Please reach out to anyone on the committee with questions: *Judy Joseph, Nicole Katzman, Michal Ravid, Rhonda Reider, Karen Reifler, Evan Rossio, Kris Siegel, Jim Siegel, Sandi Simms, Nechamy Weingarten*

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

We are excited to announce a

## Collaborative Cookbook Project

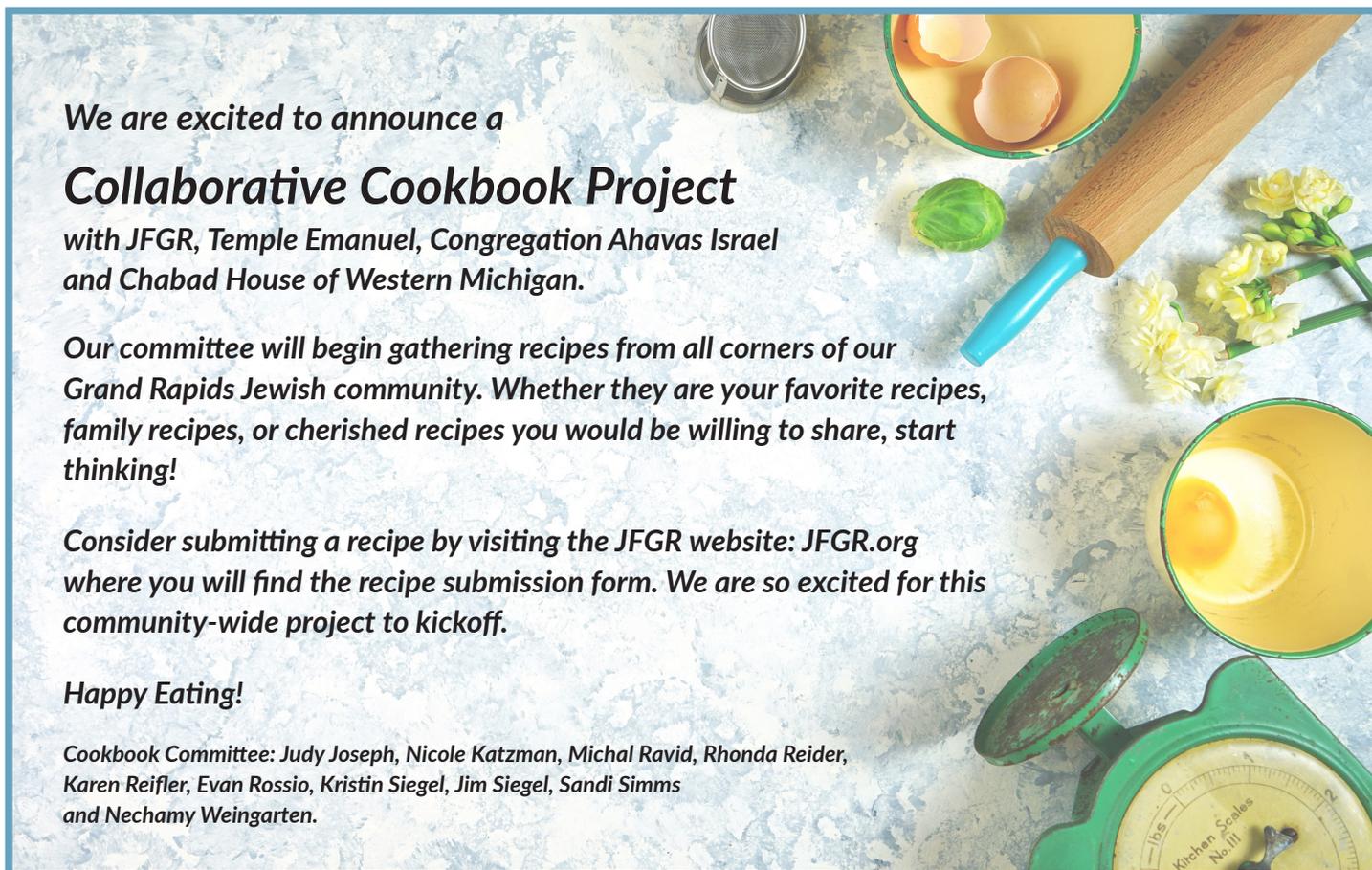
with JFGR, Temple Emanuel, Congregation Ahavas Israel and Chabad House of Western Michigan.

Our committee will begin gathering recipes from all corners of our Grand Rapids Jewish community. Whether they are your favorite recipes, family recipes, or cherished recipes you would be willing to share, start thinking!

Consider submitting a recipe by visiting the JFGR website: [JFGR.org](http://JFGR.org) where you will find the recipe submission form. We are so excited for this community-wide project to kickoff.

**Happy Eating!**

Cookbook Committee: *Judy Joseph, Nicole Katzman, Michal Ravid, Rhonda Reider, Karen Reifler, Evan Rossio, Kristin Siegel, Jim Siegel, Sandi Simms and Nechamy Weingarten.*





## Financial Focus

# With Ultra-low Rates, Should You Still Invest in Bonds?

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

If you've been investing for many years and you've owned bonds, you've seen some pretty big changes on your financial statements. In 2000, the average yield on a 10-year U.S. Treasury security was about 6%; in 2010, it had dropped to slightly over 3%, and for most of 2020, it was less than 1%. That's an enormous difference, and it may lead you to this question: With yields so low on bonds, why should you even consider them?

Of course, while the 10-year Treasury note is an important benchmark, it doesn't represent the returns on any bonds you could purchase. Typically, longer-term bonds, such as those that mature in 20 or 30 years, pay higher rates to account for inflation and to reward you for locking up your money for many years. But the same downward trend can be seen in these longer-term bonds, too – in 2020, the average 30-year Treasury bond yield was only slightly above 1.5%.

Among other things, these numbers mean that investors of 10 or 20 years ago could have gotten some reasonably good income from investment-grade bonds. But today, the picture is different. (Higher-yield bonds, sometimes known as “junk” bonds, can offer more income but carry a higher risk of default.)

Nonetheless, while rates are low now, you may be able to employ a strategy that can help you in any interest-rate environment. You can build a bond “ladder” of individual bonds that mature on different dates. When market interest rates are low, you'll still have your longer-term bonds earning higher yields (and long-term yields, while fluctuating, are expected to rise in the future). When interest rates rise, your maturing bonds can be reinvested at these new, higher levels. Be sure you evaluate whether a bond ladder and the securities

held within it are consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances.

Furthermore, bonds can provide you with other benefits. For one thing, they can help diversify your portfolio, especially if it's heavily weighted toward stocks. Also, stock and bond prices often (although not always) move in opposite directions, so if the stock market goes through a down period, the value of your bonds may rise. And bonds are usually less volatile than stocks, so they can have a “calming” effect on your portfolio. Plus, if you hold your bonds until maturity, you will get your entire principal back (providing the bond issuer doesn't default, which is generally unlikely if you own investment-grade bonds), so bond ownership gives you a chance to preserve capital while still investing.

But if the primary reason you have owned bonds is because of the income they offer, you may have to look elsewhere during periods of ultra-low interest rates. For example, you could invest in dividend-paying stocks. Some stocks have long track records of increasing dividends, year after year, giving you a potential source of rising income. (Keep in mind, though, that dividends can be increased, decreased or eliminated at any time.) Be aware, though, that stocks are subject to greater risks and market movements than bonds.

Ultimately, while bonds may not provide the income they did a few years ago, they can have a place in a long-term investment strategy. Consider how they might fit into yours.

*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.*

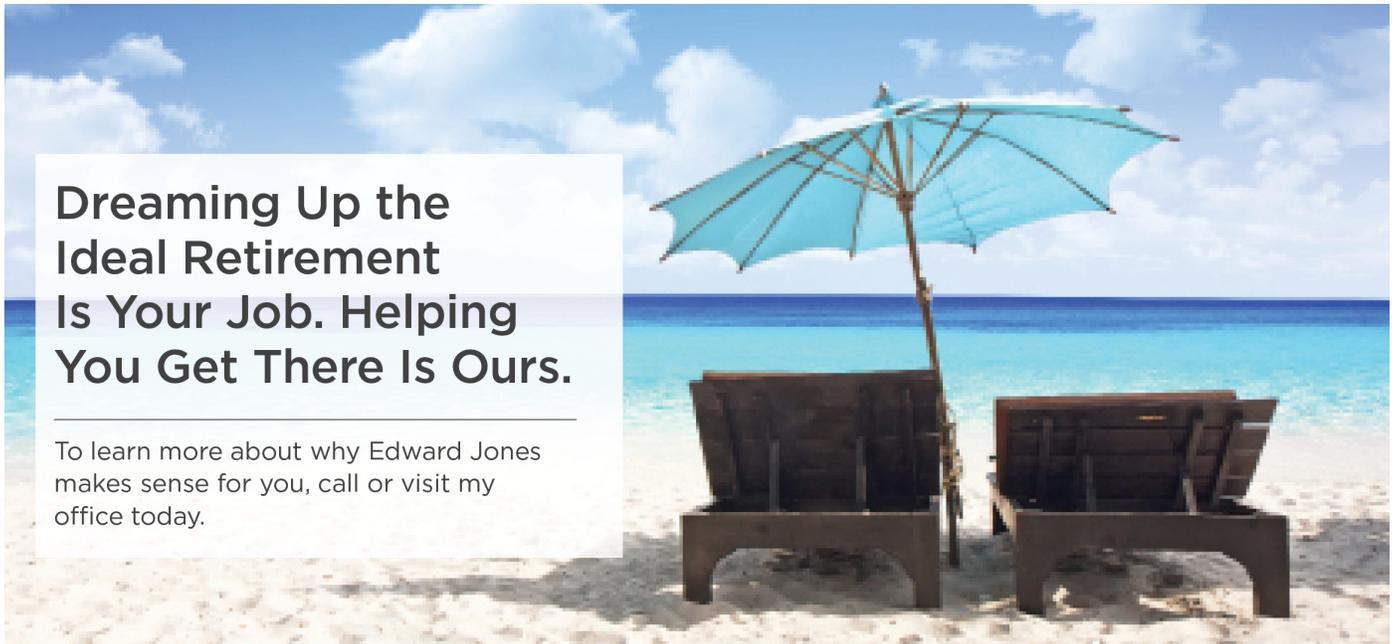
*Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.*

Before investing in bonds, you should understand the risks involved, including credit risk and market risk. Bond investments are also subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of bonds can decrease, and the investor can lose principal value if the investment is sold prior to maturity.



Chad Zagel  
JFGR Board Member





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## A Special Passover Recipe

Here is a Passover Cinnamon Nut Cake that my mother made often. The original recipe was given to her by one of her best friends, Marsha Cooper, who was an accomplished baker and cook.



Shelly and Sandy Rossio

### Passover Cinnamon Nut Cake

- 1 cup matzo cake meal
- 3 tablespoons potato starch
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 12 eggs at room temperature
- 1 ½ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 2 tablespoons seedless jam
- 1 cup nuts, finally chopped

Sift cake meal, potato starch, and cinnamon three times and set aside. Beat eggs until light and fluffy, about 10-15 minutes. Gradually add sugar while still beating on high. Add sifted ingredients, blending well on low speed. Add oil and jam. Stir or fold in nuts. Pour into ungreased

tube pan sprinkled with cold water. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Invert in pan until completely cool.

*Evan D. Rossio is an attorney from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Married to wife and successful Realtor Julie for 32+ years, they have two children; son Jordan and daughter Emily. Evan's love for cooking began 30 years ago, when he discovered it was good stress relief after a day at work. He now splits his time between an estate planning practice and the occasional cooking gig. If not in the kitchen, he can be found in front of the TV cheering for his beloved Ohio State Buckeyes or perusing his vast cookbook collection.*



Evan Rossio

## Do You Need a Ride?

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

Contact the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids at **616.942.5553** to schedule, 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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## CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

WEBSITE: [WWW.CHABADWM.COM](http://WWW.CHABADWM.COM) | FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM: @CHABADWM | PHONE: 616-957-0770 | EMAIL: [CHABADWESTERNMICHIGAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CHABADWESTERNMICHIGAN@GMAIL.COM)

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

**CHECK FACEBOOK @CHABADWM FOR VIRTUAL ZOOM LINKS AND PASSWORDS OR TEXT RIVKA AT 616.206.9654!**

### BECOME A SEDER LEADER – THURSDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> | 8:00 PM

This year, YOU - and not Grandpa Bernie or Auntie Gertrude - will likely be leading the Passover Seder in your home!

As we prepare for a Passover Seder, that may be in a different setting than what we are accustomed to, make it meaningful, make it your own.

Sharpen your Seder leadership skills and learn the ropes for leading an engaging kosher Seder for your family.

Join us virtually online for informative and eye-opening class, with Rabbi Yosef & Rabbi Saadia.

Zoom Meeting ID: 921 5730 1229

Passcode: 888

### SEDER IN A BOX –

As we prepare for another unique Passover celebration with (at best) limited family gatherings and no communal Seder's, we are reminded that this is how Passover got its name. Each of our ancestors was told to "Shelter in Place" as the plague wrought havoc throughout Egypt and Gd "passed over" our homes.

Chabad of Western Michigan, once again will be offering the "Seder in a Box" with everything you need.

**Kit includes:** 3 Shmurah Matzohs, Bottle of Wine, Kiddush Cup, Easy read Seder how-to guide, 2 Hebrew/English annotated Haggadah, and all the food required for the Seder plate. You can also select to order just the shmurah matza if that is what you prefer.

**Order your kits today at [Chabadwm.com/Seder](http://Chabadwm.com/Seder)**

May Hashem bring healing to the world and happiness to our homes.

"THIS Year in Jerusalem!" With wishes for a joyous and kosher Passover

### 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

### 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 delivered straight to your doorstep!

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!**

### 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 21<sup>ST</sup> - JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> 2021 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM**

**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 email us at [campganisraelgr@gmail.com](mailto:campganisraelgr@gmail.com)

### GAN YILADIM PRESCHOOL – KINDERGARTEN

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Take-out Seder Meal and Passover Foods

A collaboration between Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Temple Emanuel, Congregation Ahavas Israel and Chabad House of Western Michigan.

### Take-Out Seder Dinner

Individual Seder Plates, Passover Soup, Gefilte Fish, Kosher Chicken Breast with Sides and dessert.

**\$25.00 per meal**

Ahavas Israel: Conservative supervised Kosher for Passover

Temple Emanuel: Kosher Style meal

**Deadline to Order: March 19, 2021**

**Pickup on Friday March 26**

Visit [www.jfgr.org](http://www.jfgr.org) to place your order.

### Additional Passover Foods

We will be shopping in Grand Rapids and Detroit for matzah, kosher wine, baking supplies and any other Passover items families may want. We literally go to extra mile to make pesach a festive celebration.

Need Haggadahs? Haggadahs from each congregation can also be ordered!



For more information, contact [info@jfgr.org](mailto:info@jfgr.org) or call us at (616) 942-5553



**Need help leading or celebrating a Passover Seder this year?**  
Watch for Ahavas Israel's Passover Seder video, coming soon! We'll guide you through a basic 45 minute - 1 hour long Seder from beginning to end. You'll play the video, read the Haggadah, say the blessings, and eat matzah, marror, and haroset along with him, step by step. Sing along with Cantor Stuart and learn some new melodies. Contact Rabbi Krishef for more information, Rabbi@ahavasisraelgr.org.

**Mekhirat Hametz - Selling Hametz**

If possible, all hametz -- leavened products, foods not acceptable during Pesah, or materials containing such unacceptable food -- should be destroyed or given away before the holiday begins. Should this be impossible, the hametz may be stored in such a way that we are sure not to use it during the holiday and its actual ownership is transferred to a non-Jew until the holiday ends. Please return the mekhirat hametz form for the sale of leavened products (download from AhavasIsraelGR.org or contact the synagogue office, 949-2840) to Congregation Ahavas Israel NO LATER THAN 12:00 noon on Friday, March 26. It is customary to make a donation to a Ma'ot Hittim fund at the time of mekhirat hametz to help others fulfill the mitzvah of Pesah.

**Ahavas Israel Book Group**

Our next book discussion will be Thursday, May 20 - Levittown:

*Two Families, One Tycoon, and the Fight for Civil Rights in America's Legendary Suburb* by David Kushner  
Nonfiction. A multilayered tale of public policy, personal desire for a better life, McCarthyism, and Communist Party support for civil rights.

Future reading group title  
Wednesday, August 18 - *Not Our Kind* by Kitty Zeldis  
About a Jewish woman working as a tutor for a Protestant family.

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office 616.575.0118  
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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.



## ABRAHAM: DID HE DO THE DASTARDLY DEED?



**Join Rabbi Albert M. Lewis for a pair of lectures and discussions about this pivotal story. We will explore topics including:**

- Who was Abram/Abiram/Abraham, where did he come from, and why is his “birthplace” important?
- How far is it from Haran to biblical Canaan?
- What are some of the more recent interpretations of “Lech Lecha?” Let’s look at Midrash by women rabbis.
- What does it mean when Abram becomes Abraham, and Sarai becomes Sarah?
- How might we understand “circumcision” and the swearing of oath phrase “Simna Yadecha Tachat Y’raycha?”
- Did Abraham lie to Pharaoh when he (Abraham) said of Sarah “She is my sister!”
- What is a possible interpretation of “sister?”
- What is the meaning of the name “Isaac” and why is Ishmael despised by Sarah? And what is the “issue” with Hagar? What is meaning of “Ishmael?”
- What about the grave at Machpelach?
- Abraham in modern and medieval art? What did he look like?

**Tuesday, March 9, and Tuesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.**

<https://forms.gle/kbyeWpvCcQh4p5cMA>



## Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

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

*In honor of Marni Vyn, thank you so much for all of  
your great work for an important cause*

Hilit Kravitz

*In memory of Rosalie Kurtz, mother of Marisa Reed*

Barb Wepman

### Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund

### Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

### Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund

### Charles and Maxine Shapiro Endowment Fund

### Woman of Valor Endowment Fund

### Leven Family Endowment Fund

*In honor of Dr. Marc Leven, thank you for taking  
care of Sophie*

Sylvia Belfer

### 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

*In memory of Ed Finkelstein*

Joan Lubner

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 provide educational and cultural programming for our Jewish community.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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**Next Issue's Information Deadline:**  
**March 15, 2021**

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