



**A Purim Message:  
Triumph over Adversity**

by David Alfonso, MD, JFGR Board Chair



David Alfonso, MD

As we approach the holiday of Purim we are reminded about the triumph of our people over adversity and attempts at our destruction. We read the Megillah recounting the story Mordechai, Queen Esther and of course Haman. Although the events are long in the past, we still have threats to our people. Some of these threats are external and some internal. The internal threat involves the general state of apathy towards Judaism as both a religion as well as an identity. Many demographic studies have demonstrated that high rates of intermarriage as well as lack of identity with Judaism and its beliefs threaten the long term identity and growth of Jewish populations. The external threat involves various extremist groups or individuals that wish to harm Jewish people as well as institutions. We all saw this in January in Texas as an extremist held a rabbi and a handful of congregants hostage for hours. Thankfully, all of the hostages were able to escape unharmed. When we see an event as disturbing as this we often think about our own community and our level of protection. The JFGR has been involved with the religious institutions in our community to help share security information as well as utilizing resources on the national level that help monitor extremist organization. The challenge is always providing an acceptable level of security while still creating a warm and welcoming environment. Various methods have been implemented by our houses of worship to help strike this delicate balance. Moving forward, the JFGR plans to collaborate with Temple, Ahavas, as well as Chabad House on security measures as well as facilitating professionals from national organizations to provide resources and insight as to how best to implement these measures. Thankfully, due to the forward thinking of the various institutions, many of these best security practices have already been implemented.

We all would like to return to the days not so long ago when security concerns were less on the forefront of our minds when we worship. Unfortunately, we live in a new world that has forced us to adapt and overcome. That ties in with the lessons of Purim, persevering in the face of threats as uncertainty. As we celebrate the holiday this year lets all take a moment to reflect on the lessons we read in the Megillah and how they are relevant in today's world.

David

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**Our Mission:**

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

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

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**Campaign Update**  
from **Linda Pestka,**  
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*It's hard to believe that we are in the final weeks of Campaign 2021. For those of you who wait until the last minute to spring into action, the time is now! The good news is that we are only \$11,500 from our goal of \$500,000. The bad news is that time is running out. Soon we will be turning our attention to other Federation business and, believe it or not, we'll begin planning Campaign 2022.*

*We are so close to our goal. Consider this a call to action! If you have not yet supported Federation, make your gift now. Remember, any amount you increase - and any NEW pledges - will be matched by a generous grant from the **Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation**. And, if you are under 50 years of age, it will ALSO be matched by a generous grant from the **Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation**.*

*In these trying times, the art of giving comes as a soothing balm. Tzedakah enriches the soul, benefits health and happiness, improves the lives of others and, of course, is one of the most important Jewish obligations, or mitzvot. Our community has long set an example of generosity, compassion, and empathy. We are counting on your support to help us finish strong. Each and every one of your donations is greatly appreciated!*

*Linda*

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## Federation Welcomes Two NEW Lions of Judah: Roberta Jacobson and Peggy Leven



The Lion of Judah Society welcomes Roberta Jacobson. Roberta has been and continues to be a strong leader in Jewish causes and women's philanthropy. Since 1962, Roberta and her family have been Temple Emanuel members. Roberta served on the Temple Board, volunteered for many projects and was named Congregant of the Year.

Roberta also served as president of the Grand Rapids Chapter of Hadassah. In addition to Roberta's service to the community, she and her family own and operate Leelanau Wine Cellars, Ltd, Michigan's largest winery.

Roberta and her husband Michael have been married for 62 years and have three grown children: Karen, Wendy and Bob. Roberta and Mike spend their time in Grand Rapids, Northport, and Sanibel Island Florida. Roberta is a proud mother and grandmother of 3 granddaughters and takes enormous pride in her family.



The Lion of Judah Society also welcomes Peggy Leven. Here is Peggy's journey in her own words.

*As a convert to Judaism, my journey began in Ann Arbor when I started attending a temple in Ann Arbor with a friend, who had also converted before marrying her Jewish husband. The temple shared a building with a church - services on Friday and Saturday were for the Jewish community and Sunday was reserved for Christians. There was a female rabbi, which was an eye-opener for me, growing up in a relatively conservative church. I always knew that Judaism was where I belonged.*

*After meeting my husband, Marc, while we were both living in the Detroit area, it was a natural progression for me to officially convert to Judaism. Rabbi Lewis facilitated the process and I immediately felt at home in the more open minded, progressive Jewish community when we made a decision to move to Grand Rapids.*

*Three children followed - Jessica, Josh and Jordan. We traveled to Israel twice and most recently toured Eastern Europe, as I wanted to experience the historical neighborhoods, museums, memorials and.... Auschwitz. My commitment to speaking out against racism, anti-semitism and the growing hate movements. I became a political activist.*

*In my quieter moments, I enjoy sewing, traveling, boating on Lake Charlevoix and Lake Michigan, skiing and most of all - hanging out with my five grandchildren. We have recently taken up ice skating and hockey, jewelry making and crafting together. I am enjoying teaching them how to sew.*



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### WHO WE ARE

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

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



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

For more information, contact Evan Rossio,  
Campaign Director at [evan@jfgr.org](mailto:evan@jfgr.org)

## Senior Schmooze is back!

Thanks to the Louis & Louise Weiner Fund, Senior Schmooze will return for a few select dates this Spring.

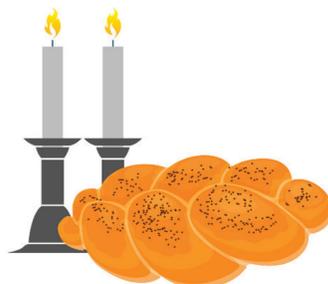
### Delivery Dates:

March 18

April 8

May 13

Senior Schmooze is a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids for our retired community members (65 and up). Sign up to have a KOSHER Shabbat meal delivered straight to your door! Meals will include fresh challah, matzo ball soup, a cookie and other tasty treats.



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(616) 942-5553 to RSVP



# Lessons from Colleyville and Actions We Must Take

by Carolyn Normandin  
ADL Regional Director, Michigan Office

It has been a little more than 30 days since a man walked into Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, and took four hostages. Our otherwise quiet Shabbat was disrupted, and many of us were glued to the news coverage the rest of the day, praying the congregants would be safe. Thankfully, they were, but it was a very arduous day. The past several weeks has gone by swiftly – as requests have come in for security checks, additional presentations, and lengthy discussions on what we can learn from the ordeal.

One of the most important lessons from January 15, is that the notion of Jewish Power is alive and well and thriving over traditional -- as well as social -- media. The idea of Jewish power connects directly to *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* – an elaborate fabrication that was *debunked a century ago* – and yet, the Colleyville attacker believed that Jews wield tremendous influence, and that if only he could get to the “right” Jew, his demands could be met.

During an incident like Colleyville, Jewish communal professionals spring into action. We all have individual roles to play, and we all collaborate with one another. Since Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker grew up in Michigan, the ADL team in our state reached out to connect Rabbi Charlie’s family with key law enforcement and homeland security professionals who could 1) ensure their safety; and 2) provide family members with the latest information available. Rabbi Walker participated in an ADL online seminar on January 20.

## Staying Vigilant

Unfortunately, there is no “let up” when it comes to being vigilant. Not only is it human nature to review and rehearse protocols after an incident such as this; it is a good habit. We must continually hone our skills, so we know what to do in an emergency. It’s also why we work to make friends *before* an incident occurs – why, at ADL, we continually work with Law Enforcement. We are constantly trying to make allies and build trust.

## What Can the Average Person Do?

Some of the same rules apply to the public at large. Building collaborations, as well as recognizing antisemitic incidents are occurring, and not allowing them to be minimized, is an important part of the process. This does not mean going it alone. ADL has a number of resources available on its website: [adl.org](http://adl.org). (A

few links are also below.) The only way we can know what is going on, is for people to report incidents and urge friends and relatives to do so as well. It takes just a few minutes to report an incident, and ADL staff members review *all* cases – whether they are antisemitic or other forms of hatred. Please know this: data drives decision-making. So, when we advocate on behalf of the Jewish community – or on behalf of others – having real-world data is critical.

There is one more crucial action, and that is to join the push for the Senate to confirm Dr. Deborah Lipstadt as U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. The need for an antisemitism envoy has never been more vital, and Dr. Lipstadt is eminently qualified.

Throughout history Antisemitism has been *our* history. But we must not give up securing our safety and we must work together to continuously fight it. ADL is unwavering in its commitment to support the community of Grand Rapids – and all communities – as we *Fight Hate For Good*.

[Antisemitism Uncovered: A Guide to Old Myths in a New Era](#)  
[Responding to Bias Incidents in Middle and High School](#)  
[6 Ways to Be an Ally](#) (English and Spanish)

*Visit the Federation website: [jfg.org](http://jfg.org) for access to links.*

*Carolyn Grant Normandin is the Regional Director of the Michigan ADL (Anti-Defamation League). Normandin is responsible for leading ADL’s Michigan Regional Office, which focuses on combating anti-Semitism and bigotry of all kinds through advocacy, community service and anti-bias education.*

*Prior to joining ADL, Normandin was Senior Vice President leading Operations, Marketing and Sales at The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Normandin also worked for General Motors in a variety of areas, including the GM Foundation, Public Policy, Brand Communications and Diversity & Inclusion.*

*Born in Detroit and raised in Southeastern Michigan, Normandin earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Communications from Michigan State University and she is a graduate of Leadership Detroit Cohort XXXVI. Normandin is on the Board of Directors for Alternatives For Girls and serves on the Executive Committee of the Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity. Normandin also serves as a Shiva Leader for Temple Israel in West Bloomfield.*



Carolyn Normandin



**JOIN US**

Join GR Area Jews in their 20s, 30s, and 40s for services and let's go out afterward!

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**News from the Nosh**



*We are officially under construction!*

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

*A reminder that we are accepting recipes and content via [www.JFGR.org](http://www.JFGR.org), mailing to the Federation office, or by email: [evan@jfgr.org](mailto:evan@jfgr.org). Keep them coming!*



**The PJ Library, a program of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids now has 120 children enrolled with 83 families. To enroll your child, visit [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org).  
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*Judith Joseph's great granddaughter, Beverly, playing with her new Torah toy.*



## ***Highlighting Some of Our Wonderful Volunteers!***

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids would not be able to facilitate programs like the Senior Schmooze without its volunteers from the community. We would also like to thank our volunteer drivers who have been able to assist community members with rides. Your contributions are invaluable!

### ***A Special thanks to:***

Bill Lewis    Lynn & Mel Brenner    Burt Bach  
Mary Kineti    Sheri Zheutlin



*Julianna Schrier and Michal Ravid assembling Shabbat meals.*



*Burt Bach and Judy Zuppke*



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# HAPPY Purim

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## Financial Focus

# Consider These Types of Tax-Smart Contributions

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



Chad Zagel JFGR  
Board Member

This year's tax-filing deadline of April 18 is not that far off, but you still have time to make some moves that could favorably affect your tax returns. So, you may want to consider making some tax-smart contributions.

You have until the April 18 filing deadline to contribute to an IRA, or to open one for the 2021 tax year. When you invest in a traditional IRA, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis and your contributions may be tax deductible, depending on your income level. And as a result of recent legislation, you can now fund a traditional IRA past age 70½, as long as you have earned income.

If you invest in a Roth IRA, your contributions aren't tax deductible, but your earnings can grow tax free if you don't take withdrawals until you're at least 59½ and you've had your account for five years. For the 2021 tax year, you can put up to \$6,000 in an IRA, or \$7,000 if you're 50 or older. (If you're a high earner, the amount you can contribute to a Roth IRA may be reduced or eliminated, while contributions to a traditional IRA may not be tax deductible.)

If you were eligible to contribute to a health savings account (HSA) last year, you can also contribute to that for the 2021 tax year, up to the April 18 deadline. An HSA has triple tax advantages: Your contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, so they can reduce your taxable income for the year; your earnings grow tax-free; and your withdrawals are tax-free, provided

the money is used for qualified medical expenses. For the 2021 tax year, you can contribute up to \$3,600 to an HSA as an individual, or \$7,200 for a family. And if you are 55 or older, you can contribute an extra \$1,000 to your HSA. The contribution limits do include the amount your employer puts in, so, for example, if your employer has already kicked in \$1,000, you can only contribute \$2,600 to your individual HSA or \$6,200 for your family. (Again, you can add \$1,000 more if you are 55 or older.)

And, as you know, one of the big advantages of an HSA is that it is not subject to "use it or lose it" rules – you can roll over your savings from year to year. As such, an HSA can be a valuable account for helping you build resources for retirement, when your health care costs will undoubtedly go up.

In looking beyond the 2021 tax year, you may want to consider other ways to make tax-smart contributions. For example, in addition to contributing to your IRA and HSA, you may have access to a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. In 2022, you can put in up to \$20,500 to your 401(k), or \$27,000 if you're 50 or older. And, if your employer allows it, you can exceed these limits by making after-tax contributions. Also, if you need to save for education, you might want to consider a 529 education savings plan, which offers some tax advantages.

To learn more about how your contributions, in various forms, can affect your taxes, consult with your tax advisor. The more you know, the better your decisions.

*Chad Zagel, CFP®, AAMS®, is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, a University of Michigan graduate, and in his free time, Chad enjoys spending time with his family and volunteering.*

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TICKETS: [redfordtheatre.com](http://redfordtheatre.com)  
TRAILER: [vimeo.com/590676645](https://vimeo.com/590676645)



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## When Hate Vents its Fury

By Rob Franciosi

Recent Holocaust-related controversies that pulsed through the media caused me to question the title of the traveling exhibition “Auschwitz: Not long ago/ Not far away.” Despite decades of educational efforts and memorial initiatives, the meaning and significance of the Shoah continues to fade, even to be undermined, whether by a Tennessee school board, the Polish legislature, or members of the U.S. Congress.

Unfortunately, the recent furor over Whoppi Goldberg’s assertion that the Holocaust was about inhumanity, not race, produced far more heat than light, never really moving to the kind of “teachable moment” that our culture supposedly values. And in a time when mask mandates are equated with Germany’s forcing Jews to wear Stars of David, or when vaccination is declared the first step on the road to a new Auschwitz, one wants altogether to reject analogies made between Nazi crimes and the latest cause de jour.

Yet to build an impermeable wall around the catastrophe seems not only counter-productive, but



even a betrayal of those who perished, casting their suffering into a long ago and far away world. So, when is it appropriate to compare the Holocaust to other events?

In part to engage this question, Grand Valley State will host a

performance on March 24<sup>th</sup> of *Anne and Emmett*, staged by the Ebony Road Players. A provocative drama which imagines a conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till, the piece by Jane Langhart Cohen’s and brings together two young victims of hatred who died in obscurity, yet whose lives are today remembered all across the globe.

Nearly everyone has some understanding of Anne Frank’s story and, at least among the generation that fills my classrooms, many know the outline of what was perpetrated against Emmett Till. His murder in August 1955 at the hands of two Southern racists became a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s, one comparable in its effects to the arrest of

Rosa Parks on a Montgomery bus several months later. *Anne and Emmett* succeeds because it imagines the Chicago boy and the Amsterdam girl on the same stage for ninety minutes, allowing us to engage them together, to contemplate just how these two young people were enveloped by history’s maelstrom.



Rob Franciosi



Anne’s famous diary convinces many young readers they know the author, though her life and death in Europe remains alien to them, so that transforming her into a “relatable” American teen seems a disservice to her memory. Similarly, Emmett Till’s fate in the Jim Crow South requires a leap of imagination for those with no memory, let

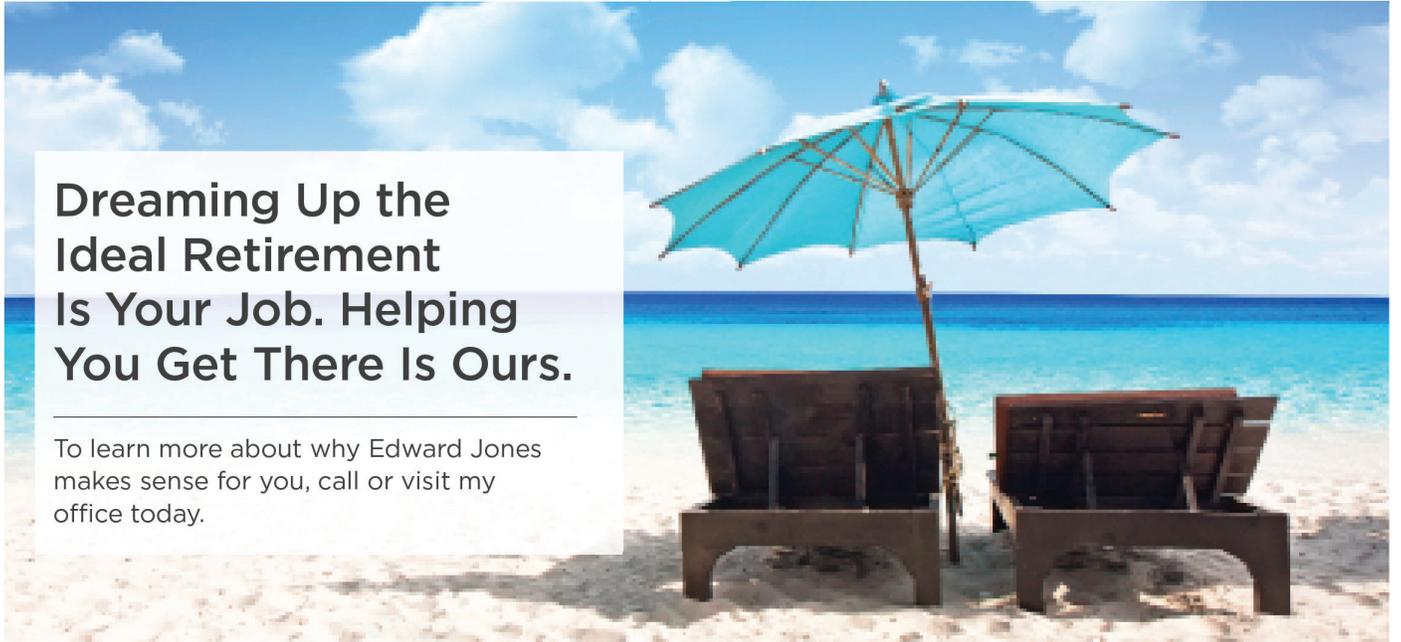
alone experience, of legal segregation, though studying American history or reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* may lessen the gap between their knowledge and Till’s story. Yet for all the distance between the worlds of Anne and Emmett and our own, the continuing stains of racism and anti-Semitism which destroyed them add a measure of urgency to setting their stories side by side.

No doubt some viewers of the play will object to drawing parallels between genocide and 1950s Mississippi barbarism, but asserting the Holocaust’s incomparability has not prevented its misuse. To link it to another event, I think, is justified when the connection enhances understanding of both, providing what critic Michael Rothberg calls instances of “multi-directional memory.”

Aligning the crimes of Nazi Germany to those of the Jim Crow South can in fact deepen our understanding of the larger forces which engulfed both Anne Frank and Emmett Till.



(Cont’d on page 13)



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(Cont'd from page 11)



The Nazis, for example, often cited lynching in the South as evidence of the need for a more “orderly” and legal solution to the so-called Jewish question. And when W.E.B. Dubois, noted author of *The Souls of Black*

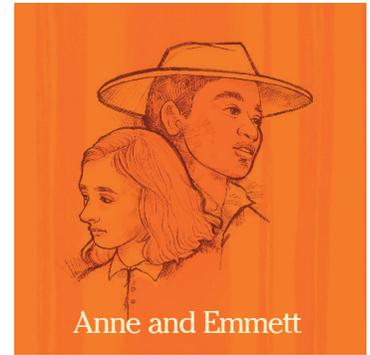
*Folk*, who had declared “the color line” as the issue of the twentieth century, visited the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto, he came away with a new view of the race problem, “one that cut across lines of color and physique and belief and status and was a matter of cultural patterns, perverted teaching, and human hate and prejudice.”

While watching the streamed version of *Anne and Emmett* last year, I was especially struck by their youth. Maybe it’s the sophistication of Anne’s prose, or the alleged sexual affront that enraged Emmett’s murderers, but we too easily forget that both were just children when they died. For decades Anne Frank has signified all Holocaust victims, but a small memorial in the conservatory at Meijer Gardens, dedicated to her memory and to the 1.5 million murdered Jewish children, poignantly reminds us that in the hells of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, she was only fifteen-years old. Similarly, the slaying of Emmett Till, though often placed within the larger pattern of lynching across the South, obscures that he had just turned fourteen the month before his murder.

Anne Frank alone amidst the dead and the cold winds at Bergen-Belsen. Young Emmett Till facing the adults about to drag him into the suffocating heat of an endless night. These haunting scenes not only warrant comparison, but warn us of a human evil which cuts across matters of race, religion, gender, and ethnicity—

when hate vents its fury upon children.

*Anne and Emmett* will be staged on March 24, 2022, at 7 p.m. in the Loosemore Auditorium on GVSU’s downtown Pew Campus. Admission is free and no tickets are required. Please contact Rob Franciosi with any questions.



*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)*

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**In these uncertain times, we're continuing to provide  
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- ◆ Assist Community Members in Need
- ◆ Educate Children and Foster Jewish Identity
- ◆ Promote a Just Society Through Social Action
- ◆ Provide Jewish Arts & Cultural Programming
- ◆ Offer Aid and Education Overseas

*Support Campaign 2021 and make your gift today visit*

<https://www.jewishgrandrapids.org/> or call 616-942-5553 to make your gift



**The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish Film Festival (Virtual)**  
**April 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**



**We're excited to share a sneak preview of our fabulous line-up:**

**Image of Victory:** A powerful drama based on the Battle of Nitzanim – a little-known story during Israel's War of Independence—when young, outnumbered kibbutz members were pressured to hold the line against approaching Egyptian forces. The film, told from both sides of the story, focuses on two real figures: an idealistic Egyptian filmmaker, Mohamed Hassanein Heikal, sent to obtain an image of victory for King Farouq and an idealistic Israeli radio operator, Mira Ben Ari, fighting for the survival of her besieged kibbutz. (Israel 2021).

**Rose:** In this warm-hearted, life-affirming film, Rose (the legendary French actress Françoise Fabian), is a recent widow whose sorrow gives way to a deep thirst for life. When a chance attendance at a dinner-party re-ignites her joie-de-vivre, Rose's children are unsure how to deal with this new vivacious version of their 78-year-old mother. The film is based on director Aurélie Saada's own Tunisian Jewish family's experience. (France 2021)

**Neighbours:** It's the 1980s, and charming little Sero lives with his family in a Kurdish community near the Syrian/Turkish border. He's very fond of his lovely Jewish neighbors and perplexed when a new Syrian teacher propagates Assad's fiery nationalism and anti-Semitism. The film's writer and director, Mano Khalil, a Kurdish refugee now living in Switzerland, takes us back to his former homeland, where Kurdish Jews once lived in harmony with their Muslim neighbors. (Switzerland, 2021)

**Plan A:** Based on a true story of the underground group Nakam (Hebrew for *Vengeance*). The film tells the unimaginable — and untold — tale of 45 young Holocaust survivors who, in 1945, planned a bold, dangerous and secret-operation to kill millions of Germans and Nazis by poisoning Germany's water mains in revenge for the murder of millions of Jews. Starring Michael Aloni, more known as "Shtisel". (Israel; Germany, 2021)

**Love and Mazal Tov:** In this warm-hearted and witty romcom by the multiple award-winning director Wolfgang Murnberger, Daniel pretends to be Jewish to impress Anne. His initially small con turns into an unmanageable web of white lies that Daniel can't get out of. Will Anne still love him when she learns that he is not Jewish at all? (Germany, 2020)

*With much gratitude to **The Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation** for their continued support, which enables our community to experience another outstanding festival of Jewish cinema!*

**More details coming soon!**

**Your 2022 Film Festival Committee**

Jeff Bootzin, Sheila Frank, Michele Kanig, Dafna Kaufman (Chair),  
Beverly Niedelson, Marisa Krishef, Michal Ravid, Mort Zukerman



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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.



# Still Buried in an Avalanche, Even Though the Spring Thaw is Coming?

By John Robinson



Coach John Robinson

Living in Michigan, many of us are used to big snow and being buried. Many of us can also relate to feeling buried in our lives. Let's talk about how to get out from under that and improve our lives.

When the big snow storms come, we can literally and figuratively feel buried. When we know it's coming, we get out and get our supplies to weather the storm. Better yet, we've gotten them in advance because we know storms do and will come. In either case, we still have to deal with the snow.

The big storms leave homeowner's with walks and driveways deep in accumulation. The streets need clearing as well. Sometimes we need neighbors or a service to help dig us out. Other times we are fortunate to have a snow blower to make our own way easier. Sometimes we just have a shovel and just have to start digging. And digging our way out, we need the big plows to come by to clear the streets, yet they often leave us with having to dig out our driveways once again. In any case, just waiting for a thaw isn't an option for the majority of us.

Life can be like that. An obstacle that comes into our life calls for us to start digging. We have to muster our strength and get going. Even if we don't feel at full strength, even if we don't feel the motivation, we can find our way through picking one thing that is most important to start with. By finding that One Thing (a focus that gives us a great deal of impact), we can find a place to start digging. While we might not have multiple days to chip away at the snow and ice, with our life challenges that daily effort is exactly what is needed. We pick our Power Hour (a time early in the day to give our effort) and get digging.



There are life problems that we can't do alone. In these cases, it is good to have our super friends. Those may be trusted friends or family, coaches, advisors, or clinicians. They have the time, willingness and/or knowledge to walk alongside us, lean in, and help us make our way where

we could not alone.

Yet sometimes digging ourselves out, another load of snow from either plows or a fresh storm. In life, we need to find within ourselves the will and determination to begin and keep going. Only through this effort, and the efforts of others who we may be able to bring to our aid, will those extra loads upon us melt away.

The takeaway here is that the storms will come. We have to find our focus, dig deep inside ourselves and start picking away. Call your friends if you must, and have them available. In any case, find your will and your way, and start digging. You can do it!

FREE Gift: Do you have trouble imagining success



getting through the storms? Are you afraid to believe in it because you are scared of disappointment? Do you feel fatalistic or lack belief in yourself? Let's change that. Here's a FREE gift, access to The Win or Learn Program. It is a

2-week mindset paradigm for an optimistic life. It will help you reframe daily slip-ups, reflect on goal success and recognise stresses that stop you from winning. Get your access today at [bit.ly/WinOrLearn2022](http://bit.ly/WinOrLearn2022).

*Feeling stuck? Want to improve your health, wealth or relationships? Coach John serves as an Executive & Personal Leadership Coach. He takes a stand for passionate people with a dream, to help them feel supercharged and ready to launch to the next phase, even when they feel lost or unsure. Your dreams absolutely can come true! Reach out at [info@CoachJohn.help](mailto:info@CoachJohn.help) with questions or comments.*





## Volunteers Needed!

Interested in Joining us?

Email [Julianna@ifgr.org](mailto:Julianna@ifgr.org)  
Or call (616) 942-5553  
ext. 206

Looking forward to your help!



We Need Help With:

- Driving community members to appointments.
- Delivering items to those in need.
- Assisting with in-person programs.

**VOLUNTEERS**  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
SIGN UP TODAY!

## 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](mailto: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.





**Mark L. Jesin, DDS**



**A.J. Lytle, DDS**



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At **Advanced Oral Surgery & Dental Implant Studio**, patients achieve healthier, happier smiles. We operate in-house as both a surgical office and dental lab, bringing patients expedited care and personalized results. We are passionate about delivering a phenomenal patient experience and use advanced technology in all facets of surgery, including dental implant surgery under computer guidance, full mouth smile reconstructions, wisdom teeth removal, and many other procedures. If you have any oral surgery needs, our board-certified oral surgeons are here for you and dedicated to your smile and oral health.



# Walnut or Almond Turnovers

By Evan Rossio, Campaign Director, JFGR



Evan Rossio

It's common knowledge that Ashkenazi Jews eat hamantaschen on Purim. If you grew up in a Sephardic family, your Purim traditions were definitely different, and depended upon the country from which your family originated. Turkish Jews have many variations of turnovers, both sweet and savory, and on Purim, often make a sweet turnover stuffed with almonds or walnuts.

## Walnut or Almond Turnovers (Borekas de Nuez u de Almendra)

### Pastry

- 2 beaten eggs
- ½ c sugar
- ¼ c corn or vegetable oil
- 2 T margarine or vegan butter, melted
- 2 c (240g) all-purpose flour
- 1 egg yolk mixed with 1 t water for egg wash

### Stuffing

- 6 oz shelled walnuts or almonds, chopped fine in a food processor
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 T sugar
- ¼ c strawberry, cherry, or raspberry jam
- ⅛ t cinnamon

- Mix all pastry ingredients, except for egg glaze, and knead well for a soft, manageable dough, adding enough flour to produce a proper consistency. Cover and set aside while mixing the stuffing ingredients together thoroughly.
- Roll out about 1 heaping tablespoon of the pastry on a floured surface to about 3-4 inches in diameter for each boreka. Put 1 T of the nut mixture on the bottom half of each pastry round, and fold the top over to shape a half-moon. Seal the edge with the tines of a fork. Glaze with the egg wash.
- Place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, and bake in a 350 degree oven for 20-30 minutes, until lightly browned. Serve at room temperature with tea or Turkish coffee.



*Recipe inspired by "Sephardic Cooking" by Copeland Marks (1992)  
I made mine with almonds and Michigan cherry preserves.*

\*Correction to the Lentil-Bulgur Salad recipe in a previous Shofar. The amount of lentils is one cup simmered until tender in two cups of water. Thank you to Judy Joseph for pointing out the omission.



## Download the JFGR App Today!

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is excited to introduce our new app. Now you can stay connected and up-to-date on everything Federation from your iPhone or iPad. Programming, news, social services, and volunteering opportunities are now just a click away.



Download on the App Store



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Jewish Federation Grand Rapids

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### CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

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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!**

### WEEKLY VIRTUAL TORAH & TEA

For the connection we all need right now.

A Torah Study for ladies with Nechamy.

### MONDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

Meeting ID: 966 6623 3600 Password: jwc

### VIRTUAL TORAH CLASSES

### TUESDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 7:30PM

For more Info or for zoom information, please contact

Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.2770 or [Rabbihaller@](mailto:Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com)

[chabadwestmichigan.com](http://chabadwestmichigan.com)

### MASKUERADE & MEGILLAH READING!

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> | 7:30PM | AT CHABAD

PURIM DRUM PARTY WITH JOSH DUNIGAN

Crafts, Multimedia presentation & Megillah reading

Enjoy a light dinner & delicious Purim treats in a bag!

Come dressed in your most original costume and receive a prize!

Fun for all ages! Free of charge!

RSVP at [chabadwm.com/purimparty](http://chabadwm.com/purimparty)

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

39th Annual Purim Celebration Dinner

### PURIM IN THE ROARING TWENTIES

Come join us for A Retro Evening of Joyous Celebration.

### PURIM DAY • THURSDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> 2022 | 5:30PM

At the Chabad House 2615 Michigan St N.E.

Hors d'oeuvres 5:30pm | Megillah Reading 5:45pm | Dinner 6:15pm

Donation \$36 per person | RSVP is Required | Register online at [www.chabadwm.com/purimdinner](http://www.chabadwm.com/purimdinner) | Limited seating.

Due to Covid-19 we will be doing our very best to keep this a safe environment.

There will be limited seating. Masks will be required.

Negative Covid-19 tests will be required on site, before entry.

Drive through Covid testing starting at 5:00pm.

### CTEEN GRAND RAPIDS UPCOMING EVENTS:

CTeen is a part of the fastest growing teen network in the world! It's the place for ALL Jewish high school teens!

For more information about CTeen or to RSVP, contact

Rivka at 616.206.9654 or [Rivkahweingarten@gmail.com](mailto:Rivkahweingarten@gmail.com).

### WEEKLY VIRTUAL CTEEN LOUNGE NIGHT:

### SUNDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

Meeting ID: 970 8155 3747 Password: 7Fqhvfln or text Rivka for the link.

### COMMUNITY PURIM BASH

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> | 7:30PM

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

### CTEEN & CTEEN JUNIOR: ESCAPE FROM EGYPT

### MONDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> | 7:00PM | RSVP by April 4<sup>th</sup>

Embark on a live and interactive escape room adventure!

### CTEEN DAY: COOKIES FOR COPS

### SUNDAY, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> | 1:00PM

Let's thank the cops at the GRPD for protecting us!

### CTEEN JUNIOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

### CTEEN & CTEEN JUNIOR: ESCAPE FROM EGYPT

### MONDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> | 7:00PM | RSVP by April 4<sup>th</sup>

Embark on a live and interactive escape room adventure!

### CTEEN JUNIOR: PAINT NIGHT

### SUNDAY, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> | 4:00PM

Explore your creativity and join us for a fun afternoon!

### MODEL MATZAH FACTORY

### SUNDAY, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> | 12:00PM | At Chabad

It's MATZAH Time! Grind your own wheat and bake your own Matzah!

At the Model Matzah Factory

For more information please call 616-375-9404

### JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE:

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

### PASSOVER COOKING WITH THE PRO

### MONDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> | 7:00PM

Join us for an enriching and entertaining evening of quick, Kosher and delicious holiday cooking with Michal Ravid of Tahyeem- Middle Eastern Israeli Cuisine

For more information or to RSVP to [Nechamy8@gmail.com](mailto:Nechamy8@gmail.com)

### NEW 6 WEEK JLI COURSE

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

### **Beyond Right. The values that shape Judaism's civil code.**

This course—approved for legal credits—combines the study of Jewish values with the exploration of practical and relevant halachic questions. In the six lessons of this course we discuss fundamental Jewish values such as *lifnim mishuras hadin*, *arvus*, and *teshuvah*—and demonstrate how these values guide and shape Jewish civil law. The goal of this course is to teach students the true meaning of Jewish values and what makes Jewish civil law uniquely Jewish.

### SIX WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: 7:30-9:00PM | CLASSES

BEGINNING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

VIRTUAL OPTION ON TUESDAY EVENINGS VIA

ZOOM | STARTING ON MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 AT 7:30PM

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

For more Info or to register go to [Chabadwm.com/JLI](http://Chabadwm.com/JLI) or contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.7916 or [Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com](mailto:Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com)



### 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 20<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2022 | 9:00AM - 3:30PM

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

THE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL ENDS ON MAY 1ST 2022!

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

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 the best part is?

**YOU ARE COMPETING TOGETHER WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS!**

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

**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**



### INSTALLATION OF CANTOR DAVID FAIR

Shabbat evening, March 4th, 2022, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Temple Emanuel

Shabbat morning, March 5, 9:30 a.m., Ahavas Israel

We will formally be installing Cantor David Fair into his position as the Cantor of Temple Emanuel and Ahavas Israel. Cantor Richard Cohn, the director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union-College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City will be the guest speaker on Friday evening.

Please join us on Shabbat morning as we continue the weekend celebration with a formal installation of Cantor Fair at Ahavas Israel.

### JOIN THE COMMUNITY PURIM CELEBRATION AT AHAVAS ISRAEL!

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 6:30 P.M.**

[See ad on page 22]

The Purim morning minyan on Thursday, March 17, will be in person, beginning at 8:00 a.m., in the social hall. It will include a Megillah reading. We will broadcast the minyan using our regular zoom link, but we cannot guarantee the quality of the stream.

### RABBI KRISHEF'S WEEKLY STUDY GROUP

Sunday mornings, 9:00 - 10:00

"Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism."

Meeting at Temple Emanuel in a classroom, second from the end of the school wing, on the left side.

### SPIRITUAL CHECKUP

Make sure your spiritual life is in good health. Rabbi Krishef has begun scheduling Spiritual checkups. Call or email to schedule yours.



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*Temple Emanuel was established in 1857. We are the fifth oldest Reform Congregation in America. We extend a warm welcome to the Jewish community to join us for meaningful worship.*

**Friday, March 4**

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM  
Installation of Cantor David Fair  
Guest Speaker: Cantor Richard Cohn, Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11**

Family Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM  
Using a family-friendly prayer book, services are perfect for children of all ages.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 13**

We are delighted to partner with Congregation Ahavas Israel for a Purim Fair, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on the Temple Emanuel campus. Games, Vendors, Crafts, Costume Contest and lots of fun for everyone.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16**

We are delighted to partner with Congregation Ahavas Israel for a Purim Celebration on the campus of Ahavas Israel. The evening begins at 6:30 PM with a very musical Beauty and the Beast shpiel, featuring clergy and members from both congregations. Two Megillah readings will follow, a MAD LIB Megillah reading with Rabbi Schadick, and a traditional Hebrew Megillah reading with Rabbi Krishef and Cantor Fair. Hamantaschen for everyone to take home and enjoy.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18**

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM  
Join us for beautiful worship to welcome Shabbat.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 19**

Join certified yoga and mindfulness teacher Corey Dane to explore the themes of the portion of the week at Yoga & Meditation Shabbat. This program is from 10:00 AM to Noon. Entrance is through the front of our building. There is an \$18 fee for those who are not members of Temple Emanuel.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 25**

Shabbat Services at 6:00 PM  
Join Rabbi Emeritus Al Lewis and Cantor David Fair for a beautiful celebration of Shabbat.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26**

Tot Shabbat at 10:00 AM  
Our youngest members of the Jewish community and their parents and grandparents are invited to join Rabbi Schadick for an age appropriate Shabbat observance that includes a story, a craft, songs, and lots of fun.

**INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM**

Rabbi Schadick continues his discussion of the basics of Jewish life from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

**Sugar Momma's Bakery  
to Bake Hamantaschen**

Purim begins on Wednesday night, March 16. Sugar Momma's Bakery, at 6504 28<sup>th</sup> Street in Cascade, is happy to announce they will be baking raspberry, apricot, and strawberry hamantaschen this year. This is a new endeavor for Sugar Momma's. They are trying to gauge demand and interest in the Jewish community. The cost is \$1.00 each. Pre-orders only by Wednesday, March 9. Their phone number is 957-2122. Sugar Momma's also bakes fresh challah each Friday.

**Wednesday  
March 16, 2022  
6:30 PM**

**Happy Purim!**  
Congregation Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel  
celebrate Purim together this year on Wednesday night,  
March 16, 2022 on the Ahavas Israel campus.

*6:30 pm - A Beauty and the Beast Shpiel*  
Featuring clergy and members from **both** congregations.

**7:15 PM - Two (2) Megillah Readings**

<b>Option A</b>	<b>Option B</b>
Mad Lib Megillah with Rabbi Schadick	Traditional Purim Service & Megillah Reading with Rabbi Krishef and Cantor Fair

**Take-Home  
Hamantaschen!**

**Location: Ahavas Israel**  
2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506



## Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

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

**Julian and Judith Joseph Endowment Fund**

*In memory of Alvin Fixler*

David A Fixler

**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**

*In memory of Ron Boorstein*

Toby Dolinka

**Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund**

**Fox Family Fund**

**The Finkelstein Brothers Fund**

**Henry Pestka Memorial Fund**

*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.

**Fox Family Fund** To ensure that the PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, for children ages 6 weeks- 12 years old, remains in the Western Michigan community and to provide high-quality educational children's programs.

**The Finkelstein Brothers Fund** Mort, Raleigh and Edward's commitment to educate the residents of Michigan about the Jewish families that settled in West Michigan during the mid 1800s through community events and educational programs.

**Henry Pestka Holocaust Memorial Fund** To make certain that the Holocaust is an essential part of the human story forever through educational programs and events that teach awareness, compassion and to ensure these inhumane acts against humanity never happen again.

### JFGR Endowment Fund Donation Form

Donation from: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fund (pick from list) \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address \_\_\_\_\_

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