



The Shofar

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October 2020

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5781

This time of year is one of my favorites because of the holiday of Sukkot. I love the imagery of the sukkah, a temporary hut-like structure. The sukkah commemorates the time the Israelites spent in the wilderness after being freed from slavery in Egypt. By celebrating Sukkot and spending time in a sukkah, we have an opportunity to appreciate the outdoors (in spite of the colder and often rainy weather this time of year) and be thankful of all that we have.



Marni Vyn

Sukkot is also the season when we wave the lulav – made of palm, myrtle, and willow branches – and the etrog – a bumpy, citrus fruit grown in Israel. There are many interpretations of the symbolism of these four species, and here are two of my favorites:

- Each of the four species relates to a particular part of the body: the palm is the backbone, the myrtle are the eyes, the willow are the lips, and the etrog is the heart. This is a reminder for us to use our whole bodies for good.
- The four species represent different kinds of Jews – those who have both learning and good deeds, those who have one without the other, and those with neither. This is a reminder that real community is found by bringing all Jews together into the sukkah, under one roof.

The symbolism of Sukkot is reflected in the mission of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. I often refer to the Federation as an umbrella organization. But a better image is that of the sukkah, sheltering and bringing together all the Jews of our community.

Last month, we kicked off Campaign 2020 with the theme *Hineni, Here I Am*. Our campaign is more than a financial goal. Our reason – our “why” – for raising money is to build and support the local and global Jewish community. Your financial generosity toward our goal of \$500,000 will help us continue to engage and inspire a vibrant and flourishing Jewish community. Together, we transform Jewish tradition and values into action.

Whether caring for people in need or nurturing and sustaining Jewish identity for future generations, this is where our community comes together as one; where we, as a community, provide innovative responses to critical, often life-threatening issues; where those who need help can get it; where an energized Jewish community grows and celebrates; and where everyone, including you, can make a difference right now.

Like the symbols of the lulav, the etrog, and the sukkah, may we continue to do good for the Jewish community locally and around the world by supporting the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.

Happy Sukkot!

Marni Vyn
Board Chair

Like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram at [jewishgrandrapids](#) and on Twitter [@JewishFedGR](#)

Our Mission:

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

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

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Campaign 2020



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



I'd like to support my community and make a gift to Campaign 2020!

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Campaign Kickoff 2020

By Nicole Katzman, Executive Director

On Sunday, September 13, 2020, 35 cars drove into the Congregation Ahavas Israel parking lot for a 1950s style drive-in movie Campaign Kick Off 2020 event. 54 people watched this exciting event from home!

Participants were welcomed by Federation staff and volunteers. They received buckets of Kosher goodies and a program guide.

The movie began with a welcome from Julianna Schrier, JFGR Community Connector, *Hatikvah*, performed by Pam Rush, *Star Spangled Banner*, performed by Stuart Rapaport, greetings from Marni Vyn, JFGR Board Chair, who introduced Shir Shalom performing *Hallelujah* composed by Leonard Cohen, **Director:** Phil Pletcher, **Accompanist:** Paul Lesinski, **Soloists:** Lily Yost, Gary Moore **Sopranos:** Wende Cook, Theresa DeJager, Toby Weiner Dolinka, Marisa Krishef, Lily Yost, Megan Yost, **Altos:** Kreenah Dunsmore, Sheila Eppinger, Judith Subar **Tenors:** Gary Moore, Bary Nicola, **Bass:** Phil Pletcher.

Followed by a welcome from Chad Zagel, Campaign Chair who introduced the JFGR Showcase narrated by Nicole Katzman, Executive Director, JFGR and created by Arad Okanin, Campaign Coordinator.



Nicole Katzman

The highlight of the evening was honoring the Fox and Leven Families, followed by an outstanding performance by world renowned musician, Neshama Carlebach. It was an evening to remember.

If you did not get a chance to watch this fun event, visit <https://www.jewishgrandrapids.org/> Thank you to all of our performers, JFGR Board members and staff. Yasher Koach to all.

A big thank you to the Padnos Family, Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation and Mort and Peg Finkelstein for their matching grants. We could not reach the goal of raising \$500,000 without all of you. Hineni!



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From Generation to Generation

by Roberta and Michael Jacobson

Fifty years ago we purchased a summer home in Northport on Grand Traverse Bay that included a working cherry orchard, and the next year we began spending summers in Northport.

In 1973 local cherry growers were experimenting with growing grapes, and our farm manager proposed that we participate with him in the development of a vineyard in Omena, a small village between Traverse City and Northport. Soon thereafter, we planted our first grape vines, which were known as French Hybrids, known to resist cold weather but with names unfamiliar to wine consumers and without the popularity as those grown in France and California, Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Noir and others. The French- California varieties had virtually no experience growing in cold climates, and in 1976, in collaboration with Michigan State University, a portion of the vineyard was expanded to include an experimental planting of grape varieties from France and California to determine their ability to grow in our Northern cold climate.

In 1976, our grapes were ready to produce wine, and we formed Leelanau Wine Cellars, Ltd, the 11th winery licensed by the State of Michigan, and in 1977 production of wine commenced. The process was essentially manual with equipment acquired from other wineries. The initial wine were produced from our French Hybrid grapes as well as cherries from our orchards. The following year our new salesperson loaded his truck with cases of wine and began traveling throughout Northern Michigan to market our product. We had strong initial acceptance. That year we also opened a

tasting room in Traverse City, as Omena was far off the beaten track.

Sales continued to grow steadily until the mid-1980's when we felt competition from the 50 new wineries that had opened throughout the State. The new wineries, instead of growing the unfamiliar French Hybrid Grapes, used the better-known French-California varieties, particularly Riesling, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. We altered our course and developed a new strategy for use of our French Hybrid Grapes by creating wines with colorful labels, and instead of generic names, simple names like Winter White, Spring Splendor, Summer Sunset and Autumn Harvest. These wines are still well accepted, and several are top sellers. At the same time, we concentrated on growing and producing of the French- California varieties, all of which have now become a large part of our business. In addition, we added fun wines that have taken on lives of their own, one of which, Witches Brew, produced for Halloween is now sold throughout the year.

In 2006 we had outgrown the space of our tasting room and purchased, renovated and opened a new tasting room near the winery located directly on Grand Traverse Bay. Growth continued and we needed additional equipment and space. A cherry processing plant located near our winery closed, and we purchased and remodeled it in 2008, which more than tripled our original space. In 2012 we began shipping our wines to other states, adding Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin and this year our wines will be sold in additional mid-western states as



(Continued on page 5)



Ask Julianna

by Julianna Schrier, Community Connector

Shalom Grand Rapids Jewish Community! My name is Julianna Schrier, and I am the Community Connector at the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.

Do you ever wonder where the best deli is in Grand Rapids or have you been trying to navigate resources on mental or physical health online? Are you still uncertain how to renew your driver's license at the Secretary of State office during a global pandemic? Ask Julianna!

I will be answering questions in this column in the Shofar every month. As the Community Connector,

I am here to provide you information and recommendations on local, statewide, and national resources. Send me an email or call with your questions at julianna@jfgr.org or 616-942-5553 ext.206, and share any details that may be relevant.

I will keep all names anonymous, unless requested otherwise.



Julianna Schrier

From Generation to Generation *(Continued from page 4)*

well as 12 Western states reaching as far as the state of Washington.

Through these years, the wine industry in Michigan continued its growth, and today there are almost 150 wineries, 50 of which are located in the Traverse City area. To meet this growth has been challenging but exciting, and through it all we have become the largest winery in Michigan.

An important part of this challenge has been to properly add staff, while it may have been fate, in 1994, our son Bob graduated from the University of Michigan and was heading to Washington for an internship at the Department of Housing when he received a call advising him that internships had been canceled. Bob, who had worked summers in the vineyards during high school and college, headed north. He started working with our distributors and customers, became involved in production and grape growing and other aspects of the business, and in the

late 1990's, Bob took over the management of the winery, a position he holds to this day as its President.

This experience has been a fascinating path from its beginning 50 years ago with Northport continuing as a primary place for our family gatherings. We have now been joined by another generation, and it has been gratifying to witness the enthusiasm, love and respect that our entire family has for the Leelanau Peninsula together with their hope and desire to share with us our goal to protect this beautiful land for generations to come.

Michael Jacobson, born in Grand Rapids, and his wife Roberta of South Bend have been residents of Grand Rapids and Members of Temple Emanuel since 1962. Their 3 children have scattered, Karen and her husband Rob Miller live in Chicago, Wendy, and her husband Jim Keller and three daughters in Indianapolis and their son Bob in Ann Arbor and Omena, Michigan.



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A Little Preparation Goes a Long Way

by Karen Padnos, JFGR Board Member



Karen Padnos

I had the pleasure of listening to Karen Padnos, a JFGR board member, deliver this inspirational D'Var Torah at the September 9, 2020 JFGR board meeting. I would like to share her words of wisdom and spirituality with the community.

-Nicole Katzman

During the Month of Elul, preparation for the Jewish high holidays, we are encouraged to look inward at how we have responded to the blessings and challenges of the past year. It is a time of reflection, forgiveness and exploration.

Rabbi David Fine recently drew a book, *The Unthinkable, Who Survives When Disaster Strikes* by journalist Amanda Ripley, to my attention. This book is not Jewish, or even spiritual in nature, but rather psychological. As described in the title, Ripley attempts to characterize the attitudes of people who make it through catastrophes or in other words, what are the qualities which make someone truly resilient?

Community Calendar

is up and running!

Our community calendar is online and ready for you!

Please remember to post all of your virtual and in-person events in our community calendar. That way the entire Western Michigan Jewish Community will know what your organization has planned and when it's happening. This should help prevent overlapping programming. And don't forget to consult the calendar when planning a program.

For more information on the calendar contact Arad Okanin at arad@jfgr.org or call 616-942-5553.

When disaster strikes, there are two fairly obvious stages to our response as humans. First comes the reckoning, reality hits and we are paralyzed by the gravity of the situation. Next, and this is the stage that counts, comes the deliberation. Either we decide to take action, or we do nothing.

As it turns out, all people who have successfully weathered calamity have something in common. Regardless of the situation, and even more importantly, fault, these people chin up, and take an active role in determining what happens next. In other words, survivors are not passive.

As Jews, we are the embodiment of this mindset. As a people, we have survived over 5000 years of persecution, pogroms and genocide. In the wake of the holocaust, perhaps the most infamous mass murder in recorded history, our people were decimated. Instead of giving up or wallowing in self pity we fought, on our own, to restore the state of Israel.

Nowadays we find ourselves yet again in upheaval as COVID-19 continues to spread, with no sign of an end anytime soon. It is frightening how little control we as individuals seem to have over the outcome of this disease. Wearing masks and social distancing seem lackluster, and are a far cry from the magic cure we are all hoping for, but there is still much that we can do. This pandemic is causing real harm, not just to those who fall ill, but also the countless people dealing with food insecurity, depression or homelessness, all of which have no doubt been exacerbated.

Simply hunkering down and waiting for a solution to fall out of the sky is not the Jewish way.

When I begin my self reflection this year, I will not only look inward, at the person I have been, but also outward. How can I contribute, and where is my help needed the most? Even the small things, checking on a friend, or donating to a food bank, can go on to

have outsized impact, and allow us to play an active role in resolving the problems of today. May it be a year of health and peace for us all.

Shana Tova



Grand Rapids Jewish Film Festival

by Dafna Kaufman
Film Festival Consultant

We were delighted by the enthusiastic participation and feedback on our mini Film Festival, which recently screened the uplifting “Fiddler – a Miracle of Miracles”; and we appreciate everyone’s cooperation as we experimented with this virtual format for the first time. To satisfy your appetite while we patiently (yet optimistically!) look forward to our 23rd Annual Festival planned for next spring, we would like to share a couple of outstanding resources that provide a variety of ways to learn about and enjoy the incredible richness of Jewish history and culture depicted in film:

The Stephen Spielberg Jewish Film Archive at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is the largest collection of Jewish documentary films in the world. This non-profit organization archives over 18,000 titles from the time of the Ottoman Empire to this day. Amongst the various materials are rare documentation of Polish Jews on the eve of the second world war, the well-known film showing the foundation of the state of Israel and touching moments of Jews immigrating to Israel throughout filmed history. The Archive serves a wide audience: film producers and directors, researchers, students, university lecturers, schools, cultural centers, old age homes, and the general public. The Archive was founded in the late 1960s by Professor Moshe Davis and other historians of the Hebrew University. In 1987 a generous donation was received from Steven Spielberg, after which the Archive was renamed after him. In 1973 the World Zionist Organization (WZO) designated the Archive as the official depository of its films. Today the Archive is jointly administered by the University’s Avraham Harman Institute of

Contemporary Jewry and the WZO. For more information: <https://en.jfa.huji.ac.il>

The National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis University (NCJF) is an independent nonprofit motion picture archive, distributor, resource center and exhibitor. NCJF owns the largest collection of Jewish content film in the world, outside of Israel. The Center’s 15,000 reels of feature films, documentaries, newsreels, home movies and institutional films date from 1903 to the present. Each year, NCJF provides programming consultation and research assistance to 7,000 filmmakers, artists, educators, curators and organizations. The Center helped launch Jewish film festival movement and is responsible, in part, for the development of Jewish and ethnic film as a subject for academic study and public exhibition. Founded in 1976, NCJF is recognized as a world leader in the collection, restoration and exhibition of Jewish art and culture. The center has led the revival of Yiddish Cinema, rescuing these languishing films from oblivion. NCJF’s priority is the preservation and restoration of rare and endangered film materials. To date, the Center has restored more than 100 rare and orphan films that document the diversity and vibrancy of Jewish culture, including 44 Yiddish films. For more information: <http://www.jewishfilm.org>

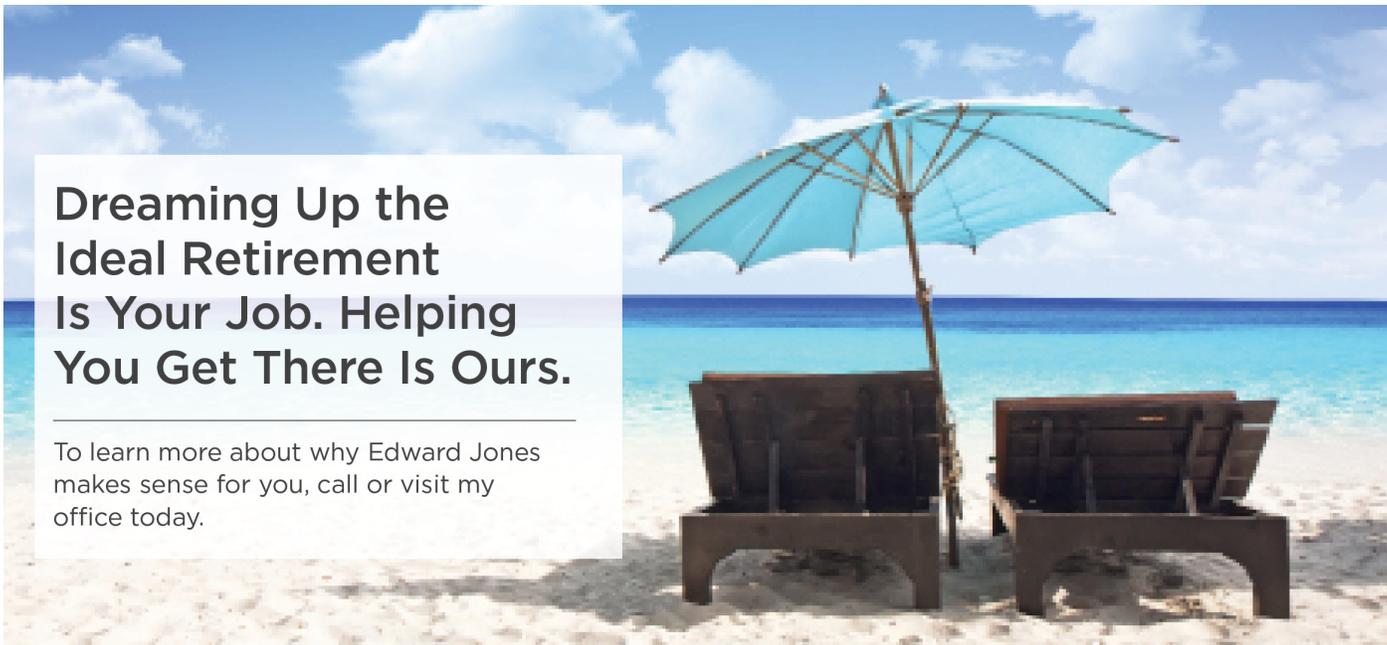


Dafna Kaufman

With warm wishes for a healthy, peaceful New Year - **Shanah Tovah!** See you (next Spring) at the movies!
~ Jewish Film Festival Committee



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JFGR Program Updates

by Marisa Krishef
Director of Programming



Marisa Krishef

In the coming months, we will continue to offer virtual programming due to the pandemic. Our goal is to continue to provide high quality, educational, and entertaining programs that are relevant to Jewish life. With that in mind, join us for an inspiring virtual event sponsored by the Maimonides Society, a program

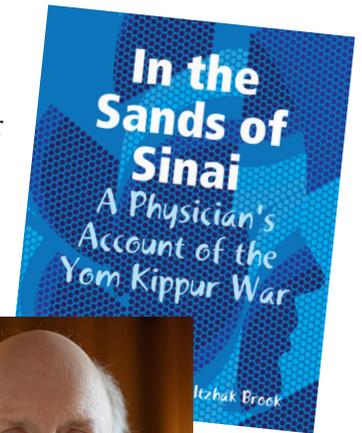
of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, on October 21, at 7:00pm, for a special virtual presentation by Itzhak Brook, M.D., entitled A Physician's Personal Account of the Yom Kippur War.

The presentation includes a description of the historical background of the Yom Kippur War and its effects on the Israeli society, as well as Dr Brook's personal experiences and challenges as a battalion physician in the Sinai. He will address the physical and psychological traumas his soldiers had to cope with, the effect of religion on them, the cost of war in human life and suffering, and the daily struggle for survival in the difficult war which threatened Israel's existence.

Itzhak Brook, M.D., M.Sc., is a Professor of Pediatrics at Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington DC. He was born and raised in Haifa, Israel and earned his medical degree from Hebrew University, Hadassah School of Medicine, in Jerusalem. He served in the Israeli army as a medic in the Six Day War in 1967 and as a battalion physician during the Yom Kippur war in 1973. Subsequently, he completed a fellowship in adult and pediatric infectious diseases at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine. He served in the medical corps of the US Navy for 27 years.

Dr. Brook has authored several hundred publications in scientific journals and ten textbooks. He authored the books: In the Sands of Sinai- A Physician's Account of the Yom Kippur War and My Voice - A Physician's Personal Experience With Throat Cancer.

Dr. Brook is a speaker for the Israeli Embassy in Washington DC. There is more information about the talk and his background on the Israeli Embassy website at <http://www.israelemb.org/washington/Speakers-Guide/Society-and-Politics/Pages/Itzhak-Brook.aspx> Those interested in reading his book In the Sands of Sinai- A Physician's Account of the Yom Kippur War prior to or after his presentation can obtain it at <http://amzn.to/1chHEQi> For more information about this program, contact Marisa at markay@jfgr.org or 616-942-5553.



Stay tuned for more exciting programs in November!

2020 Hanukkah Stamp



The 2020 Hanukkah stamp will be issued on October 6, 2020 and should be available at all post offices on October 7th. This design is only the eighth new design in the 25 years since the first Hanukkah stamp was issued in 1996.



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Financial Focus

How Can You Prepare for the “New Retirement”?

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



Chad Zagel
JFGR Board Member

A generation or so ago, people didn't just retire from work – many of them also withdrew from a whole range of social and communal activities. But now, it's different: The large Baby Boom cohort, and no doubt future ones, are insisting on an active lifestyle and continued involvement in their communities and world. So,

what should you know about this “new retirement”? And how can you prepare for it?

For starters, consider what it means to be a retiree today. The 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study has identified these four interrelated, key ingredients, along with the connected statistics, for living well in the new retirement:

- **Health** – While physical health may decline with age, emotional intelligence – the ability to use emotions in positive ways – actually improves, according to a well-known study from the University of California, among others. However, not surprisingly, retirees fear Alzheimer's and other types of dementia more than any physical ailment, including cancer or infectious diseases, according to the “Four Pillars” study.
- **Family** – Retirees get their greatest emotional nourishment from family relationships – and they'll do anything it takes to help support those family members, even if it means sacrificing their own financial security. Conversely, retirees lacking close connections with family and friends are at risk for all the negative consequences resulting from physical and social isolation.
- **Purpose** – Nearly 90% of Americans feel that there should be more ways for retirees to use their talents and knowledge for the benefit of their communities and society at large. Retirees want to spend their time in useful, rewarding ways – and they're well capable of doing so, given

their decades of life experience. Retirees with a strong sense of purpose have happier, healthier lives and report a higher quality of life.

- **Finances** – Retirees are less interested in accumulating more wealth than they are in having sufficient resources to achieve the freedom to live their lives as they choose. Yet, retirees frequently find that managing money in retirement can be even more challenging than saving for it. And the “unknowns” can be scary: Almost 70% of those who plan to retire in the next 10 years say they have no idea what their healthcare and long-term care costs will be in retirement.

So, if you're getting close to retirement, and you're considering these factors, how can you best integrate them into a fulfilling, meaningful way of life? You'll want to take a “holistic” approach by asking yourself some key questions: *What do you want to be able to do with your time and money? Are you building the resources necessary to enjoy the lifestyle you've envisioned? Are you prepared for the increasing costs of health care as you age? Have you taken the steps to maintain your financial independence, and avoid burdening your family, in case you need some type of long-term care? Have you created the estate plans necessary to leave the type of legacy you desire?*

By addressing these and other issues, possibly with the help of a financial professional, you can set yourself on the path toward the type of retirement that's not really a retirement at all – but rather a new, invigorating chapter of your life.

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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Remembering the Holocaust: A New Website

by Rob Franciosi



Rob Franciosi

From ordering groceries to hosting Zoom cocktail parties, it seems that 2020 will be remembered as the year when the line between screen and life disappeared.

I only just understand the Web and the Cloud, but do know they have opened vast resources to anyone with a

networked computer. How did we ever take on home-repair projects before YouTube? Or get answers to the most esoteric questions without Google?

But for me the internet's great gift has been as a limitless storehouse of human memory, an ever-growing repository to which any person or community can contribute. My teaching and research on the Holocaust would be almost unimaginable without today's online resources, which is why I recruited students over the past few years to contribute to the "History Unfolded" project of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

A major crowd-sourcing initiative which draws upon the efforts of citizen historians, "History Unfolded" aims to chart "what was possible for Americans to have known about the Holocaust as it was happening and how Americans responded." Volunteers choose from thirty-four events between 1933 and 1945, search microfilms of their local newspapers, copy relevant articles as pdfs, and then upload them to a national database. Students in my Honors seminar, "America and the Holocaust," have contributed to History Unfolded by researching the *Grand Rapids Press* and the *Grand Rapids Herald* at Grand Rapids Public Library. As of September 17, 2020, this digital clip file contains 29,482 entries, with 636 from Michigan--124 of those from Grand Rapids.

Before the pandemic hit in March, my class was beginning to examine events outside the war years, to trace how the Grand Rapids community responded from 1945 onwards to a growing comprehension of what had been perpetrated. Although my best-laid plans were frustrated by the mid-semester chaos, the students' initial efforts showed much promise.

It was in the wake of that shutdown that I joined an informal Zoom group from the Jewish Federation to discuss ways of honoring survivors who had settled in the Grand Rapids area and to foster Holocaust education within the community.

Confronting the Holocaust presents many challenges, I know, but two seem especially difficult: to sift through mountains of primary sources—documents, books, video testimonies, photographs, films, artifacts—as well as an ever-growing scholarly literature; and to engage within these sources the overwhelming nature of mass death without forgetting the significances of individual lives.

Almost as an after-thought during the meeting, I suggested that a web site could both tell the story of how the Jewish community of Grand Rapids confronted the Holocaust and its memory, as well as highlight the stories of local survivors.



Several months later a passing comment has evolved into an exciting project. By drawing upon such rich local resources as the Peg & Mort Finkelstein Historical Archives and the Grand Rapids Public Library, we hope to illustrate how the Jewish community faced both the Holocaust and its aftermath. And by incorporating the stories of survivors who made their homes here, we plan to honor their memories and preserve those accounts for future generations.

Much like the History Unfolded initiative, this web site will depend upon the efforts of citizen historians who are willing to share materials or to do research and writing for the site. We are especially interested to hear from people familiar with the small number of survivors who came to Grand Rapids. I will be coordinating the group effort and expect to involve some Grand Valley students, but your participation in launching this project would be most welcome.

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



Making Masks....Remembering Clara

by Yehudit Newman

In 1987 the JCC in Ann Arbor moved into a building they had purchased from the public school system and for several years I developed and ran the older adult programs. Clara Gray was a Senior Citizen who lived adjacent to the JCC and she became one of my best volunteers and a dear friend.

Clara somehow got fabric samples from an interior design studio and we organized a group of women and began making quilts for babies with AIDS. Over the years we made hundreds of baby quilts and donated them to many organizations. Not all the fabric was suitable for babies and Clara had an amazing collection of fabric. I remember seeing a tee shirt once that said, "She who dies with the most fabric wins", and Clara may have won.

I inherited a lot of Clara's fabric, and now, years later, I began to make masks. I am getting close to 400 masks now and still sewing. I've donated most of them, mailed them all over the country, many of them were made with the inherited material. Many of you around Grand Rapids are wearing masks made with Clara's fabric.

Clara would watch my oldest son, now 35, when he was



a toddler on the playground if I had paperwork to finish up after the preschool closed. Clara was from Budapest and made wonderful European pastries for his Bar Mitzvah. She even came to Temple for the ceremony, although she usually refused because she said G-d had forsaken her when she had been in Auschwitz as a young woman. By the time my younger son was Bar Mitzvah, Clara was gone.

During this time of staying isolated, making masks has given me purpose and given me focus, and I am grateful for the task. While I sew, I think of Clara, May her memory always be a blessing.

Deet is the Art teacher at United Jewish School. She studied occupational therapy at Eastern Michigan University and live in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



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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.



A Recipe for Autumn

I had an abundance of carrots, so I challenged myself to create a carrot bisque without looking for inspiration online or at a cookbook. The experiment turned out much better than expected, so it became the first course for our Rosh Hashanah dinner. This bisque features the subtle flavor of garam masala, a spice blend that includes coriander, black pepper, cumin, cardamom and cinnamon. It's very warming and perfect for fall and winter get-togethers. An added bonus: it's super easy to prepare and can be made ahead of time.

Makes 6 servings.



Kris Siegel

Vegan Carrot Bisque

(This recipe requires a high-speed blender)

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. carrots, scrubbed and cut into chunks
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion (about one medium onion)
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 T. olive oil (or canola oil, or grapeseed oil)
- 2 tsp. sea salt
- 1 tsp. garam masala
- 1 quart vegetable stock
- 1/2 cup light coconut milk (from a can)

To Do:

1. Prep the veggies: scrub or peel the carrots and cut into chunks. Chop the onion and garlic cloves. It's going to be blended, so the pieces don't have to be uniform or pretty.
2. Add oil to a 5-quart Dutch oven or soup pot, and warm to medium heat. Add the chopped onion, garlic, and 1/2 tsp sea salt to the pot and sauté low and slow for 5-8 minutes, until onions are translucent, stirring occasionally. (Don't let the onions brown, or it will add a bitter flavor to your soup. A bit of salt brings out the onion and garlic juices.)
3. Add the carrot chunks, stock, remaining salt and garam masala. Bring to a boil and then lower heat to a gentle simmer for 30 minutes, until carrots are softened. Partially cover the pot so the stock doesn't boil off.
4. When carrots are soft, transfer the carrot/stock mixture to a high-speed blender, add the coconut milk and whiz it up until it's smooth and creamy. Add more stock or milk if it seems too thick. Adjust seasonings to taste.
5. Garnish with a sprinkle of pumpkin seeds, or whatever you fancy, and serve.

Notes:

- I made this soup many times, but once I forgot to add the coconut milk. It tasted just fine! Therefore, the coconut milk is nice, but optional.
- When I was out of coconut milk, I used plain soy coffee creamer with the same result.

Happy cooking and eating!
Kris Siegel





Beit Sefer B'yahad United Jewish School

1715 Fulton St E | Grand Rapids MI 49503
616.459.5976

UJS Kicks off New School Year

With many protocols in place for a safe learning environment the United Jewish School began a new school year on Sunday, August 30. UJS serves the children of Congregation Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel. Membership at one of these communities is a prerequisite for attendance.

For the first time in our history classes were held at both campuses at the very same time. This will be our plan for the coming year as we meet in the largest spaces of both synagogues to ensure proper social distancing as Covid-19 continues to challenge us. Grades pre-K through 4 will meet at Temple and Grades 5-10 will meet at Ahavas Israel.

Many families decided to enroll their children in a completely virtual option that we are offering. This program runs concurrently with classes on both campuses. These classes are for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8.

We are blessed with a wonderful teaching staff for all our programs. This includes some energetic teens who work with our youngest students as madrichim. We could not educate as many children as we do without the commitment of everyone who teaches on Sunday.

This year our enhanced Hebrew program was moved from in-person to virtual. Students will have the opportunity to work with one of our teachers during the week and at a time that fits best into busy schedules. We are blessed too with wonderful Hebrew instructors.

With all the falls holidays falling on weekends this year our schedule is unusual. As of press time classes have been held on two Sundays. We will not meet again until Sunday, October 18.

It is not too late to sign up for the 2020-2021 school year. If your family is new in town or if you simply have not yet chosen to be a part of UJS before this year please contact us and we would be delighted to talk to you about our school program.

On behalf of the UJS board, comprised of members from both congregations, we wish everyone all the best for the New Year. Shanah Tovah.

Interim Directors,

Rabbi David Krishef/Congregation Ahavas Israel

Rabbi Michael Schadick/Temple Emanuel

CHABAD OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

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

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

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

OWN YOUR OWN LULAV & ETROG THIS SUKKOT!

"You shall take for yourselves...the fruit of a citron tree, the branches of date palms, twigs of a plaited tree, and brook willows." (Leviticus 23) During the Holiday of Sukkot, we observe the Mitzvah of the Lulav & Esrog (The Four Kinds). We are pleased to make this beautiful Mitzvah available to every family in our community. We are offering a special opportunity of ordering your own Lulav and Etrog set from the Holy Land, Israel. To purchase a Lulav & Etrog set, please visit our website at www.ChabadWM.com/Lulav or call Saadia at 616.813.4827.

SUKKOT PARTY

Join us for a fun socially distant Sukkot celebration for the whole family!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH 2020 | 5:00-7:00PM

With THE KOSHER FALAFEL TRUCK at the Chabad House: 2615 Michigan St.

RSVP required. www.ChabadWM.com/SukkotParty or contact us for more info.

CTEEN GRAND RAPIDS (Jewish High School teens)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH | 5:45PM

Sushi in the Sukkah!

OUTDOOR SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH | 12:00PM

Dance the afternoon away with social distance L'chaim, flags for the Children, and a delicious individually packed HOT Lunch! Celebrate the completion of the Torah reading! Come receive a free dosage of Jewish Pride and joy that will last you the rest of the year!

CTEEN JUNIOR (For Jewish Teens Grades 6-8)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH | 4:00PM

CTeen Junior Kickoff Event!!

JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE

MONDAY OCTOBER 26TH | 8:00PM

The Jewish Women's Circle presents an evening with Graphologist Chani Zirkind. Discover the intriguing world of handwriting analysis and learn what your handwriting says about you!

Email Nechamy at Nechamy8@gmail.com to RSVP and receive zoom information.

CKIDS CLUB/MINICHEFS (For Jewish boys & girls, Ages 5-11)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH 2020 | 5:00-6:00PM

Mini Chefs is a unique culinary experience that gives your children the opportunity to cook, bake and decorate fabulous Jewish themed foods and take home their own handmade creations. Experience the joy of Kosher Cooking!



CTEEN GRAND RAPIDS (*Jewish High School teens*)
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST | 1:00PM CTeen Challah Bake!

VIRTUAL TORAH & TEA

For the connection we all need right now.

A Torah Study for Woman with Nechamy.

MONDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

Meeting ID: 966 6623 3600 Password: jwc

JLI CLASSES

Experience Jewish learning like never before.

JLI makes Jewish learning accessible & personally meaningful to every Jew, regardless of background or affiliation.

TUESDAY EVENINGS ON ZOOM AT 8:00PM

Meeting ID: 915 0324 9816 Password: 180

JEWISH TRIVIA GAME FOR ADULTS IN WESTERN MI!!

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 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!

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 live in West Michigan and would like to join?! Text "CTEENGR" to 616-207-1218 to be let in on the fun!

GAN YILADIM PRESCHOOL – KINDERGARTEN

New!! This upcoming 2020/2021 school year - We will be offering a full day program option!!

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

For over 40 years, Gan Yiladim has been serving the Grand Rapids and nearby Jewish communities, offering a joyful and enriching educational experience to our students while fostering a love for their Jewish heritage.

Gan Yiladim takes the best of both worlds – secular and Judaic – and blends them into a program that is at once rich, fulfilling, and stimulating.

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

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

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



SUKKOT SERVICES

Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4, Sukkot

Shaharit 10:30 a.m.

Followed by Kiddush (wine/grape juice only) in the Sukkah

Shemini Atzeret/Simhat Torah services

Saturday, October 10, Shemini Atzeret

Shaharit, including Yizkor 10:30 a.m.

Saturday night, October 10, Simhat Torah evening

Ma'ariv 7:45 p.m.

Is it possible to celebrate Torah with masks and socially distant dancing and singing? To dance seven circuits with seven Torah scrolls, one per hakafah? We think so! Please join us to help make the minyan.

Sunday, October 22, Simhat Torah

Shaharit 10:30 a.m.

AHAVAS ISRAEL BOOK GROUP

Our next book discussion will be Thursday, November 12, to discuss *Wandering Dixie: Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South* by Sue Eisenfeld

Nonfiction. The idea that Jews could be Confederates was unthinkable. Eisenfeld planned a series of road trips to a variety of historic sites in the South. Eisenfeld demonstrates that conforming to the dominant culture meant survival and prosperity for southern Jews. In Selma, Eisenfeld discovers Jews who did not care for the interference of northern Jews, since it often threatened their sense of security.

Also mark your calendars for future Book Group reads:

Wednesday, February 17 - *A Rabbi's Daughter*, by Avigail Graetz

Thursday, May 20 - *Levittown: Two Families, One Tycoon, and the Fight for Civil Rights in America's Legendary Suburb* by David Kushner

Wednesday, August 18 - *Not Our Kind* by Kitty Zeldis

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Taught by Rabbi David Krishef

Beginning Monday, October 19, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$70/members and B'nai Noah affiliates, \$95/non-members (includes a copy of the sourcebook)

A basic introduction to Jewish history, beliefs, rituals, holidays, and life cycle celebrations, taught in partnership with the Miller Intro to Judaism Program at American Jewish University. The syllabus will be available for download from AhavasIsraelGR.org under Adult Education Programs (or call the office to have it mailed/ emailed to you).

This class will be offered by Zoom and in person. Those coming in person will need to wear masks. Seating will be appropriately socially distanced



TEMPLE
EMANUEL

WOMEN'S MUSSAR STUDY GROUP THURSDAYS AT 7:00

We invite our female members to join Kreenah Dunsmore and Elisheva English via Zoom for a weekly Mussar discussion. Mussar is the study and practice of how we enhance our inner selves by embracing Jewish virtues, known as middot. The group will use the text of the book *The Spiritual Practice of Good Actions* by Greg Marcus.

After our break for the High Holidays, we will resume on Thursday evenings starting October 15th.

October 15 & 22: Chapter Eleven: Honor

October 29 & November 5, Chapter Twelve: Gratitude

November 12 & 19, Chapter Thirteen: Order

NO Mussar on November 26, Happy Thanksgiving

For more information please contact

Elisheva English - atolstoywoman@hotmail.com

Kreenah Dunsmore - karenyonkers@yahoo.com

Join Zoom Meeting!

Meeting ID: 844 2424 9193

Passcode: Mussar

FRIDAY SHABBAT SERVICES: Join us to welcome in Shabbat together Fridays at 6:00 PM. Join the meeting at 5:30 for a virtual social hour, then either stay in the Zoom meeting to watch Shabbat Services live from our sanctuary or go to the Temple Emanuel Private Facebook Group to watch. We will be using the Mishkan T'filah Flipbook which is available at: www.ccar.org

Join the Zoom Meeting!

Meeting ID: 795 261 435

Password: Challah18

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY SATURDAYS AT 9:30

AM Join us for a weekly discussion of the Parsha and its related commentary. All are welcome! We will be studying selections from Rabbi Steven Bob's book, *Jonah and the Meaning of our Lives*.

Join the Zoom Meeting!

Meeting ID: 821 1011 1186

Password: Parashah

FOOD BANK UPDATE The next Food Bank distribution will be Wednesday, October 21st from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Volunteers will be on hand to help load groceries and other essentials into cars at the front doors of the Temple. If you have any questions, please contact mcubed4300@gmail.com, or bbach2137@gmail.com. Our food pantry is open to all who are in need.

As we begin the year 5781, the food bank is so grateful to the community for your outstanding generosity and support. Perhaps you donated diapers, food, cash, or your time, please know that you have made some baby more comfortable, some child or senior less hungry, and parents a little less stressed. We look forward to your continuing support of this *Tikkun Olam* project in 5781. May you and all those you love enjoy good health and serenity in the coming year. L'Shanah Tovah! If you have any questions, please contact mcubed4300@gmail.com, or bbach2137@gmail.com. Our food pantry is open to all who are in need.

October Service Schedule

Friday, October 2

Shabbat Services at 6:15 PM

Welcoming Sukkot

Friday, October 9

Shabbat Services at 6:15 PM

A Simchat Torah Celebration

Hakafot Around the Parking Lot at 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 10

Shabbat Services at 10:00 AM

Celebrating Simchat Torah

Yizkor Observance

Friday, October 16

Shabbat Services at 6:15 PM

Janice Fonger Leads

Friday, October 23

Shabbat Services at 6:15 PM

Family Prayer Book

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Friday, October 30

Shabbat Services at 6:15 PM

Torah will be read



**Come Eat,
Bubbeleh!**

**Get yourself a nice
sandwich at our Deli
Drive-Through
Fundraiser**

Sunday, October 25th

Pick Up in your car at the Temple Front Doors

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Pre-Orders ONLY.

\$25 per box includes either a corned beef or pastrami sandwich on Jewish rye bread, Rabbi Schadick's famous potato salad and coleslaw, a half sour pickle, and a generous piece of homemade mandelbread for dessert!

Submit your orders online by Oct. 20th at:

www.squareup.com/store/temple-emanuel-grand-rapids

Or Call the Temple Office at 616 459-5976

Not getting out and about these days? No problem! Get yours delivered! Call the office to request delivery.

Hey! You can pick up your order and volunteer to deliver to someone who can't get out and about. Email Cat@grtemple.org to volunteer.



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 Buddy Joseph

May his memory be for a blessing

William Boorstein

Nancy and Chuck Olender

Louis & Louise Weiner Fund

Jerry & Judy Subar Endowment Fund

Charles and Maxine Shapiro Endowment Fund

Woman of Valor Endowment Fund

Leven Family Endowment Fund

David & Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund

Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund

Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund

Sam and Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund

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.

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

JFGR Endowment Fund Donation Form

Donation from: Name _____

Fund (pick from list) _____

Donor Address _____

In honor of _____

Donor City/St/Zip _____

In memory of _____

Send card to: Name _____

Notes: _____

Send card to address _____

Send your donation and this form to:

Send card to City/St/Zip _____

2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

The Shofar

A monthly publication issued 12 times a year.

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1240

Send article text to: info@JFGR.org
Phone: 616.942.5553
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Next Issue's Information Deadline:
October 15, 2020

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Days of Awe

These are days for: reflection and renewal.
Hope for a safe and more just world.
Rededicating ourselves to our mission of enriching
the lives of Jewish people in our
Grand Rapids community,
Israel and around the world.

From our Federation family to yours,
we wish you a
sweet, happy and
healthy New Year, 5781.

Shana Tovah u'metukah

