



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

The Shofar

KISLEV / TEVET 5777 — DECEMBER 2016 — WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

As I write this column we are well underway in our Annual Campaign for 2016/2017. Last month we had a great speaker discussing the success of the Birthright Foundation and its role in strengthening Jewish youth and their connection to Israel.

Here at the Federation we are also committed to helping grow our donor base and cultivating the next generation of Jewish Community leaders. The leadership of the Federation has decided to invest in this very cause by allocating resources to help strengthen our community's involvement. We are working on forming a task force to help best decide how to utilize the resources to expand and energize our donor base. This may take the form of a community mission trip to Israel or other leadership opportunities. I am excited about the commitment the Federation is making to the community that it serves, and plan to keep everyone informed as to the progress of our task force. If anyone from within the community has a passion about Jewish leadership and Israel we would welcome your involvement in this process.



Dr. David Alfonso

As the end of the year draws ever closer I would like to remind everyone about the benefits of donating to your Federation. First, of course, is the benefit of knowing that your donations not only help with Jewish needs around the world, but also enhance the local Jewish community. If you are under 50 years old, any increase in your donation from the previous year is matched by two matching grants to effectively triple your increase. That is an extremely powerful way to make your dollars go further toward our campaign. In closing, I hope that all of our community members will consider donating a personally meaningful amount to help meet and exceed our goals for the upcoming year.

Shalom,
Dr. David Alfonso
JFGR Chairperson

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.

Like Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids on Facebook!

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Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.942.5553
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www.jfgr.org

Officers

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Paula Bojsen, President
Temple Emanuel
Rabbi Michael Schadick
Josh Wease, President
Chabad House
Of Western Michigan
Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

2016 has been a very busy year at your Jewish Federation. Here are a few examples. In the past year, the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids:

- Made Chanukah a little brighter for 20 families through our Adopt-A-Family program.
- Provided 190 rides for seniors to medical appointments, Jewish Theatre performances, and our monthly Lunch Bunch, via our Volunteer Driver Program.
- Awarded 15 camp scholarships.
- Presented a week of movies at the 18th Annual Jewish Film Festival, sharing Jewish culture with our West Michigan neighbors.
- Made significant contributions to needs overseas.
- Provided case management assistance to dozens of struggling families in our community.
- Supported Birthright Israel; more than 200 area young adults have taken the Israel trip since the inception of the program.
- Distributed our annual calendar of Jewish holidays to all the schools in the area to assist them in their school calendar-planning.
- Registered 102 children to receive Jewish-themed children's books through our PJ Library.
- Contributed to the United Jewish School, serving 150 students and their families.
- Held four cultural council events, bringing in speakers, musicians, chefs, and comedians, to enrich our Jewish life.
- Helped fund the delivery of dozens of kosher Shabbat meals.
- Supported the Temple Emanuel Food Bank.
- Delivered mishloach manot bags and money donations to 66 Jewish families in Flint affected by their city's water crisis.
- Welcomed 29 newcomers to our community.
- Contributed to Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids and Shir Shalom Choir.

Remember, we couldn't do it without you. If you have not donated, please consider investing in your Jewish community by giving a brand new gift. If you have given in the past, please consider an increase. Any new gift or increase will be matched dollar for dollar by generous matching grants. You can pledge today and pay next year. Federation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and your donation is tax deductible.

You are investing in your Jewish community and enhancing Jewish life at home, and abroad. Thank you.

STAFF:

Director of Social Service Resources: Ann Berman, ext. 206, ann@jfgr.org | Financial Administrator: Jennifer Stanton, ext. 203, jennifer@jfgr.org | Director of Donor Relations: Cathy Winick, ext. 204, cathy@jfgr.org



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 942-5553

www.jfgr.org

Live Generously.

Name _____

Address _____

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

I HEREBY PLEDGE TO THE FEDERATION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN THE SUM OF: \$ _____

DONOR'S SIGNATURE

- Method of Payment: Check Stock
Please Charge my: MasterCard Visa
 Discover American Express

Please consider a 10% increase

Exp. Date: _____ Card Number _____
CVV _____





Start with a Smile at
smile.amazon.com this Holiday Season

Support us and find all of your holiday essentials including gifts, decorations, and more.

You shop. Amazon gives.



You shop. Amazon gives.

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com and choose **Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids** as your charity.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 29, 2016

On November 29th, the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids participated in a national initiative called GivingTuesday. Its timing is after Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday, all of which help retail merchants' bottom line. The purpose of GivingTuesday is to help charities do the same thing.

GivingTuesday was initiated five years ago by New York City's 92nd Street Y. 92Y is a robust Jewish cultural center established in 1874. 92Y conceptualized GivingTuesday as a way of linking individuals and causes to strengthen communities and encourage giving. Truly a very Jewish concept!

So, if a volunteer in our community missed you with their call on Tuesday, November 29th. You still have an opportunity to make a pledge if you wish.

Thank you for joining us in this global conversation.



**Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
Chabad House of West Michigan
The United Jewish School**
Invites the entire community to the annual



Chanukah Bowling Party



UJS Students:

Buses will pick up at Temple Emanuel at 11:10am and take them to Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center. Parents must pick up students from Fairlanes.

Fairlanes
Family Entertainment Center

Date: Sunday 12/11/2016

Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm

**Location: 3335 Fairlanes Ave SW
Grandville, MI 49418**

Meet friends, have lunch, enjoy bowling in a family atmosphere. Our famous emcee, Avi, will be there to keep the ball rolling.

This event is free for all children up to 18 years old.

Adults: \$6.00 for kosher lunch

\$4.00 bowling and shoe rental

To RSVP and additional information call the Federation office:

616-942-5553 or email info@jfgr.org



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

The Cultural Council of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Presents



Singer/songwriter Joe Crookston was featured in the film *Blue Tattoo: Dina's Story, Joe's Song*. The film, screened at the Jewish Film Festival last May, explores the relationship between Joe, and Holocaust survivor Dina Jacobson. Through a series of events, a friendship was formed and a song was written. Together they developed a bond that would keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and the lessons of humanity relevant to this and future generations.

Joe, a prolific songwriter, will perform a variety of songs out of his extensive repertoire.

Joe is also a visual artist. The concert is preceded by a wine and cheese reception during which the attendees will be able to enjoy some of Joe's original paintings.

WHEN:
December 11, 2016
6:30pm-8:30pm

TICKETS
\$15 adults
\$5 College students
Age 18 and under free

WHERE:
East Grand Rapids Performing Arts Center
2211 Lake Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506



www.joecrookston.com

SPONSORS

CULTURAL COUNCIL OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GRAND RAPIDS, DONNA G. BOORSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND, THE ROSENZWEIG-COOPERSMITH FOUNDATION, JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL OF GRAND RAPIDS AND PRIVATE DONORS



Lunch Bunch

Last month luncheon was held at Olive Garden on 28th street and was a very successful turnout. Those in attendance were: Eileen Enoch, Diane Ginsburg, Margit Sarne, Susette Tauber, Sylvia Herman, Jim Siegel, Sandra Last, Bob Bergeron, Phyllis Horowitz, Meredith Brody and Celeste Kessler. The food was plenty and the conversations lively. Please join in on the fun at our next gathering.

Annual Chanukah Lunch

Thursday, December 22, 2016

Temple Emanuel

1715 Fulton SE

11:30am Cost: \$10

Please RSVP at the Federation office 616-942-555.

Rides are available by calling the office.



Paint 'n Sip!

Saturday, February 4, 2017

6:30 pm

RSVP to info@jfg.org or

616-942-5553

Brush Studio: 2213 Wealthy St SE

East Grand Rapids

ample free parking nearby

Who knows, maybe you will create next year's ArtPrize entry! A professional artist will instruct us in an enjoyable evening of painting and wine. Bring your partner or a friend. Paint together or create your own in a fun and casual atmosphere. Special price for us is only \$35 per canvas. Complimentary refreshments. Cash bar will be available.

Now infant through age 12!
Thank you to the Ravitz Foundation and
Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundation

A GIFT for
JEWISH CHILDREN
and their families.



WHAT? The PJ Library ("PJ" for "pajamas") program offers the gift of free, high-quality Jewish books and music each month to children ages 6 months through 8 years all across North America. The program is also available to children ages 6 through 8 in some communities.

WHY? PJ Library books celebrate important aspects of Jewish culture, values and tradition, and become cherished bedtime stories.

HOW? Signing up is easy!
To sign up for PJ Library visit
www.pjlibrary.org.

PJ Library is a gift from your Jewish community in partnership with local philanthropists and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



www.PJLIBRARY.org

A PROGRAM OF THE
HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



BRILL
A new play by David Wells
September 7 - 18, 2016

ONE WOMAN.
TWELVE LIVES.
ONLY ONE CHOICE.
IRENA'S VOW
A play by Dan Gordon
Jan. 12 - 22, 2017

Seniors of the Sabara
A Magical Comedy
by Barabara Pease Weber
May 18-28
2017

2016-2017 Season
You don't have to be Jewish to Love Jewish Theater
All performances are at GRCC Spectrum Theater
Thurs. & Sat. at 8 p.m.
Sundays at 3 p.m.
Tickets: 616-234-3946 or jtgr.org

Jewish Theatre GRAND RAPIDS

Like us on Facebook

Adopt a Family for Chanukah!!

Dear Community,

On behalf of Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, I am once again asking for financial donations toward our Adopt-A-Family at Chanukah program. The goal is to raise \$2,000 in cash donations, earmarked for our Adopt-a-Family Chanukah program. This will enable us to help those families who are struggling financially to purchase foods, candles and gifts for their families without the *embarrassment of going door to door*. Please consider helping Federation reach this goal by December 19, 2016 by mailing your pledge to JFGR at 2727 Michigan NE, earmarked "Adopt-a -Family". Chanukah begins December 24, 2016 at sundown. Please email or call Ann if you have any questions or referrals regarding the program: Ann@jfgr.org or 616-942-5553 x206.

Let's All Celebrate,
Ann Berman
Director of Social Service Resources

Hadassah Book Club

Our Next Meeting is:

When: TBD - you will need to call Flory or Sue for date and location

Time: 7:00pm

Continue reading: *After You* by Jojo Moyes

Looking forward to seeing all of you. Call Schuler Books on 28th Street, or your library for a copy.

We are as always your "BOOK ENDS." Eagerly waiting till we meet again in November.

Sue Remes 616-949-3505

Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766



SHALOM GRAND RAPIDS

A program of the Jewish Federation

- * Are you newish to Grand Rapids? Please let us know so we may welcome you.
- * If you know about somebody new to the Grand Rapids community, please let us know. **Shalom Grand Rapids** would like to welcome them.
- * If you are willing to host someone for a Shabbat dinner or otherwise welcome them as an ambassador of sorts

Please contact Cathy at the Federation office: 616-942-5553 or cathy@jfgr.org

Jewish Community Business Forum

Thursday, December 15

12:00pm -1:00pm

El Barrio Restaurant

545 Michigan NE

Everyone is welcome! A good networking opportunity to discuss business principles and to stay aware of resources available in our community.



MISSION TO ISRAEL!

Are you thinking of going on a trip to Israel?

The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is in the process of organizing a mission to Israel.

We would like to invite anyone interested to meet and brainstorm possible dates and areas of interest.

If you are interested, please contact our office:

[616-942-5553](tel:616-942-5553) or info@jfgr.org





United Jewish School

pam@templemanuelgr.org www.unitedjewishschool.org

December 11

11:30pm–1:30pm

“Winter Fun Bowling Ball”

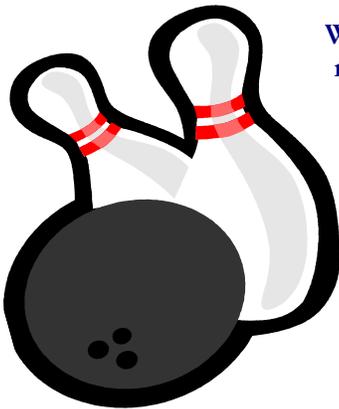
<http://www.fairlanesgrandville.com/>

3335 Fairlanes Ave SW Grandville, MI 49418 616-534-2695

Fairlanes
Family Entertainment Center

UJS Board:

Rhonda Pappas co-chair
Amy Winkelman co-chair
Paula Miller
Rick Rinzler
Elisabeth Rosewall
Amy Singer
Allyson Cole-Strauss
Erica Wikander



What a fun way to celebrate with the community! Buses will transport students from religious school to Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center. They will receive lunch, shoe rental and enjoy many fun activities. All parents and guests are welcome. This event is free for all students and staff of UJS.

UJS Students and staff: Free of charge

Adults: \$ 6.00 lunch \$ 4.00 bowling and shoe rental

Admission includes:

Kosher lunch

Bus pick-up Temple to Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center: 11:10am

Parent pick-up from Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center: 1:30 p.m.

UJS Mitzvah Mall – December 4 12:00pm till 12:30pm

Instead of buying gifts this holiday season that collect dust or are put in a closet and forgotten, parents and their children will have the opportunity “shop” at the Mitzvah Mall. Various organizations will be represented, selected by our older students including local, national or international non-profits. Families will shop together and make donations on behalf of friends, family or others on their holiday gift list, “buying” a gift that keeps on giving. All donations are \$5, and a great way to say “Thank you” or “have a great year”. Shoppers receive decorative gift cards to present to the person in whose honor the gift was purchased. The card will indicate that a donation has been made to provide a specific service. What is a *mitzvah*: resisting holiday consumerism, doing good deeds, bestowing a wonderful gift and having fun doing it. Honor your friends and family *and* the others you will be helping. Together we can help Repair the World – Tikkun Olam

UJS Donation

In memory of Sam Greenbaum

Grandfather of Ally Stein

Great Grandfather of Brandon and Andrew Weiskopf

What's Happening

Jewish Grand Rapids

December 2016 Calendar of Events

1	Temple Book club 7pm
4	Mitzvah Mall at UJS 12pm to 12:30pm
6	Men's Book Club at TE 7pm
8	Cteen Junior at Chabad House 4pm to 6pm
9	Shabbat-Luck Chili dinner at TE
11	Your Opinion Matters at TE 9am Annual Chanukah Bowling event 11:30am see page 4 Cultural Council Concert 6:30pm see page 5
13	Chabad Kid's Club 4:30-6:30pm
16	Temple Emanuel Chanukah Dinner 6:00pm
18	Temple Emanuel Pub Crawl 5:00pm Cteens at Chabad House 1:00pm to 3:00pm
21	Temple Emanuel Girls Night Out 5:00pm

Editor's Note – 'What's Happening' includes Jewish programming open to *all* members of our West Michigan Jewish community, whether offered by Federation, one of our congregations, cultural organizations or others. More information about these events can be found in *The Shofar*, on the Federation website, or from the other Jewish organizations

Temple Emanuel

12/1 - 7pm Temple Book Club will meet to discuss *The Incident At Montebello* by Patti Moed. The author (and Temple member!) will join us to talk about her writing process, research and other aspects of this book.

12/6 - 7pm Men's Book Club will meet to discuss *No End of Conflict* by Yossi Alpher.

12/9 Following Shabbat Services there will be a **Shabbat-Luck Chili** dinner. Please bring your favorite chili recipe, a salad or a dessert. A vegan chili will be provided for all. Dinner is \$3 per person.

12/11 - 9am Your Opinion Matters & Brunch. This month the discussion will be about end of life care and decisions. For those who have not seen it yet, at 9am the Frontline documentary "*Being Mortal*" will be shown. At 10:30am the discussion will begin with the book *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande that was featured in the documentary. The primary question will be: Who benefits most from end of life decisions--the patient or their loved ones?

12/16 - 6pm Chanukah Dinner and Concert. Join your Temple family around the table for a festive pre-holiday dinner. Adults \$15, Children under 13 \$6. Following dinner enjoy a concert of Chanukah music by the LeeVees! Contact the Temple office to make your reservations by 5pm on Tuesday, Dec. 13th!

12/18 - 5pm Pub Crawl. This month the destination is Greyline Brewing, 1727 Alpine NE. Join us for fun and friendship at yet another new brewery in Grand Rapids. Greyline is a cozy place that features a menu of great salads, sandwiches and pub snacks. Their beer styles range from lagers to stouts with great offerings everywhere along the line, plus hard cider. RSVP to the Temple Office so we can save enough seats for everyone!

12/21 - 5pm Girl's Night Out. Join Janice Fonger, Sylvia Herman and Linda Zizos at Houlihan's in Breton Village for an evening without the men. This is a fun, casual outing where all ladies are welcome! RSVP to one of the hosts by Friday, 12/16.

Congregation Ahavas Israel

Se'udah Shelisheet

Please join us late on four Shabbat afternoons in December (the 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th) at 4:45 p.m. for the Shabbat afternoon service (*minha*) service, a little food, the evening service (*ma'ariv*), and havdalah. The evening will conclude about 15 minutes following the havdalah time for that week, approximately 6:15pm. We look forward to your presence and participation. As usual, Cantor Stuart and the Religious Life Programming Fund will be providing delightful and interesting food to enjoy!

Torah Study Shabbat with Abbreviated Shabbat service, 2nd Shabbat of the month:

Please join us for a shortened Shabbat service preceded by Torah study on the 2nd Shabbat of each month. The next Torah study Shabbat services will be on November 12, and December 10.

The schedule will be:

9:30 a.m. Bagels and Torah study

10:30 a.m. Service

noon (approximately) Kiddush

Chabad House

Gan Yiladim Preschool – Kindergarten

For Jewish children ages 2-6

Registration is now open for the fall of 2016!!

Gan Yiladim is a Jewish preschool where we offer a stimulating and warm environment. Our children learn the “specialness” of being Jewish. Through stories and discussions, the precious legacy of their uniqueness as Jews is transmitted. Gan Yiladim School takes the best of both worlds – secular and Judaic - and blends them into a program that is at once rich, fulfilling, and stimulating.

For more information about our program, please feel free to contact Sarah at 616.375.9404

JLI-“How Success Thinks”

Jewish Secrets For Learning A Productive Life

Please join us for a remarkable six-week course from the Rohr Jewish Learning.

To register today, visit myJLI.com

Six Wednesday Evenings 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. | Began November 16th 2016

At the Chabad House 2615 Michigan St. NE
 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Fee \$99 (textbook included)

\$180 Sponsor

For more Info or to register, please contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.2770 or Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com

Cteen Junior

Date: DECEMBER 8TH | 4:00pm-6:00pm

Topic: The secret of the oil

Activity: Olive press & build your own Menorah

Giving back: Lift the spirit of soldiers In the IDF by writing Chanukah letters!

For Jewish Boys & Girls Grades 6th- 8th

Enrich your own Jewish pride while giving back to the community

Chabad Kids Club - Mini Chefs

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

“Latke Making”

Experience the joy of Kosher Cooking!

Learn the tricks of Latke making just in time for Chanukah!

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

For Jewish Boys & Girls ages 5-11

Time: 4:30-6:30pm \$10 per session (includes light dinner)

Cteen Grand Rapids

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18TH | 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Cteen Day:

Pre Chanukah Party - “Sufganiyot Wars” Just like we won the war against the Greeks lets see who will win this war!

Cteen International NYC Shabbaton

SIGN UP TODAY!

FEBRUARY 24TH - 26TH

The International CTeen Shabbaton is an annual weekend retreat for Jewish teens from around the world. For the past eight years, thousands of teens have forged new friendships while experiencing a meaningful Shabbat, all in one of the most exciting cities in the world- New York City.

To find out more about this amazing trip or to get a \$25 promo code

Call or message Rivka at 616.206.9654

For more information or to RSVP for Cteen Jr, Kids Club or Cteen

Contact Rivka at RivkahWeingarten@gmail.com or 616-206-9654

Endowment

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.

Chuck 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

*Thank you for supporting the
Grand Rapids Jewish Community*

Lois and Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund

In Recognition of Mike Present

from Ann Berman, Jennifer Stanton and
Cathy Winick

**Correction to our Annual Report
(August 2016):**

The names of Mark Finkelstein and Raleigh Finkelstein were misspelled.

Thank you for your understanding and your support!



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

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

Send article text to: Ann@jfgr.org

Phone: 616.942.5553

Fax: 616.942.5780

www.jewishgrandrapids.org

Email: info@jfgr.org

Next Issue's Information Deadline:

December 15, 2016



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.



You won't want to miss the
Jewish Cultural Council Event
on

December 11, 2016

6:30pm at East Grand Rapids
Performing Arts Center.

An evening of music, art, and
noshes.

See page 5 for details.