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CHESHA / KISLEV - 5780 — DECEMBER 2019 — WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

The Shofar

Tom and Mickie Fox Family Makes Generous Gift to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids by Nicole Katzman, JFGR Executive Director

It is very exciting to announce that community philanthropists Tom and Mickie Fox have made a significant gift to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. This gift will allow Federation to continue to provide a variety of outstanding social, cultural, and educational activities that celebrate family, foster health and well-being, embrace tradition, create friendships and expand cultural horizons. Everyone in our Grand Rapids Jewish community will benefit from the generosity of the Tom and Mickie Fox Family.

Philanthropy is not new to Tom and Mickie Fox, they have been active members and supporters of Temple Emanuel and have supported the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Junior Achievement of Grand Rapids, March of Dimes, Hospice of Michigan and many other local organizations. The Foxes are especially noted for their role as champions of surgical robotics in Grand Rapids, effectively bringing the technology to all three acute care hospitals in the area. (continued on page 5)



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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**Jewish Federation of
Grand Rapids**

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P2G / Partnership2Gether by Marni Vyn, Board Chair

Since 1994, three Michigan communities (Metropolitan Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids) have partnered with three municipalities in Israel: Migdal HaEmek, Nof HaGalil, and the Jezreel Valley located in the Central Galilee region.

As one of 46 Jewish Agency Partnership2Gether parings throughout the United States, the program originally was designed to address needs in Israel. Today, the Partnership strives to build significant opportunities and sustain long-lasting, people-to-people relationships through a variety of collaborative programs and shared resources strengthening both communities.

Missions, exchanges, and support of English Language instruction are today's primary focuses. Over many years, the Michigan communities and Central Galilee counterparts have become more than partners. We are inspired to connect our next generation. We are family. Two communities, one future.

On October 25, the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids welcomed a delegation of 15 Israelis and 10 lay leaders from the Federations of Metro Detroit and Ann Arbor. They came to learn about our community and help Grand Rapids more deeply engage in the P2G program. We are excited about the opportunities to strengthen our connection to Israel!



STAFF: Executive Director: Nicole Katzman, ext. 207, nicole@ifgr.org

Director of Programming: Marisa Krishef, ext. 205, markay@ifgr.org | Director of Donor Relations: Cathy Winick, ext. 204, cathy@ifgr.org



GOAL: \$500,000.00
\$176,000
from 171 donors



*Lanny Thodey
Campaign Co - Chair*

Our 2019 Campaign is well under way ... and we're pleased to announce that we are more than 1/3 of the way to our goal of raising \$500,000 this year! ... Our hope is to have all pledges received by January ... with the actual donations due before April of 2020.

Do most of you try to make your donations before year end? ... so you can take advantage of the tax deduction in this year? Then, maybe you'd like to send your check in with your pledge before year end.

... Or are some of you at an age where you are required to take distributions from your retirement account(s)? Are you aware that sending the donation directly from your retirement account saves you from reporting that income and might place you in a lower tax bracket?

We hope you will be generous as you reflect on all that Jewish Federation Grand Rapids does for our local community as well as supporting causes in Israel and around the world. Our goal this year is an increase of "chai" (18) percent over last year's campaign ... we hope you'll be able to increase your pledge over last year to help us achieve that goal. 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.

Bill Boorstein and I are the volunteer co-chairs for the campaign this year ... we both wish a happy Chanuka and thank you for your generosity ... together we all can accomplish a lot!



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 942-5553 info@jfggr.org
www.jfggr.org

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

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DONOR'S SIGNATURE

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☐ Discover ☐ American Express

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Security (CVS) code: _____

Why The Federation?

Rachel Lutwick-Deaner

Jewish kids, growing up here in Grand Rapids, MI, can't even begin to imagine what it was like growing up in Hewlett, NY, where I spent the formative years of my life. Jewish life in Hewlett was so vibrant, I didn't think about Israel very often.

I'm embarrassed to say it now; but, the idea of Israel actually seemed extra to me. But I had no need for Israel. Why would I? There was a synagogue on almost every street in my home town. Kosher food everywhere. The deli was still alive and well in my town. You could get matzo ball soup for dinner every day of the week if you chose. And with all of these fixtures came all the Jewish kids. And Why do I need to say all of this?

Well, I can't answer the question "Why The Federation?" without explaining why in the first 18 years of my life I didn't need Federation. Any Federation. But now, in the absence of an almost entirely Jewish world around me, I need Federation. I need Federation's community events—like speakers and holiday parties. I need Federation's support for our seniors and people in need. I need Federation's support of our kids, going to camp and through PJ Library. I need the representation that Federation provides, in a larger community, in which Jews are largely invisible.

More than anything, I am grateful to Federation for helping to send me to Israel, on the Momentum trip, last year, although I didn't know it, until I was there, and I was reminded what I have lost over the last 25 years or so—a rich and encompassing Jewish community. I need Federation to be the foundation of Jewish life where I live now—Grand Rapids. Lovely as it is, it feels like the diaspora—compared to New York.

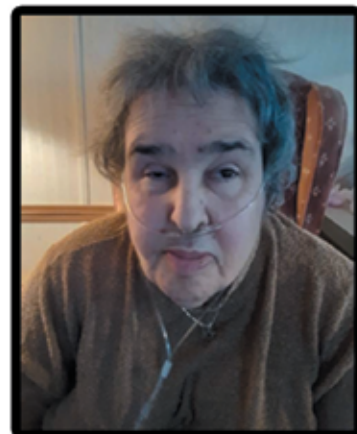


Elaine Lipshutz

Jewish Federation means community. Jewish Federation means exposure to different ideas and experiences. Jewish Federation means being able to experience all the different foods at events throughout the year. And Jewish Federation helps take me to these events, too, and to appointments. This is what Jewish Federation means to me.

Beverly Ellman

I love the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. They do a lot for me. They help me fill out forms for my benefits, and things like that. I have diabetes and low vision, and Stuart (Rapaport) told me to call the Jewish Federation- he said they could help me. I used to have to try to go to the Department of Social Services on Franklin and I have trouble getting around so that was not easy. Thank you, Jewish Federation.



(Continued from page 1) Tom Fox, a Grand Rapids native, was named after his grandfather who owned a jewelry store in London, Ontario. Tom's father, Martin, originally worked for his father's store but eventually moved to Grand Rapids where he opened his own store in 1917. Tom graduated from East Grand Rapids High School and attended college in Grand Rapids and New Jersey. While still in high school, Tom worked for his father, and after college, he joined the business full-time. Tom sold his thriving jewelry business and retired in 1990.



Tom & Mickie Fox
with their children,
Janet, Tommy,
Julie, & Joan



Paisley, Service Dog

Tom and Mickie Fox set the bar for being incredible role models. They have a loving marriage of 64 years, have four grown children, Janet, Tommy, Julie and Joan, along with grandchildren, great-grandchildren and an extremely intelligent service dog named Paisley. Tom and Mickie spend their time in Grand Rapids and Florida.

Three Grand Rapids Women Become Members of the Pomegranate Society!

At this year's campaign kick-off event on September 19, three women in our community stepped up to become donors at the Pomegranate level.

Here's the story of the Pomegranate Pin:

More than a beautiful piece of jewelry, the Pomegranate Pin is a symbol of a woman's commitment to, and compassion for, the Jewish people. In 1981, the women of Allentown, Pennsylvania, introduced the Pomegranate Pin as a way to inspire giving from women. Almost four decades after its inception, more than 8,000 pins have been distributed across North America to women philanthropists.

Women at the Pomegranate level donate between \$1,800 and \$4,999 to the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Annual Campaign.

The Origin of the Pomegranate:

An ancient symbol found carved into the lintels of the earliest synagogues, the pomegranate has carried with it the concepts of Judaism for generations. In the Torah, the pomegranate is one of the seven species that the spies saw in the land when they were sent forth by Moses. The Midrash tells us that the pomegranate has 613 seeds, which corresponds with the number of mitzvot or commandments found in the Torah. The pomegranate has been woven into ancient fabrics and hammered into ceremonial silver and gold objects. The intricate covers for the handles of the Torah scrolls are called "rimonim" or pomegranates.

Pomegranate Pins denote:

- Leading by example
- Powerful together
- Philanthropic and care about making the world a better place



Left to right:

Marisa Reed, Former Executive Director JFGR
Nicole Katzman, Executive Director JFGR
Marni Vyn, Chair, JFGR Board of Directors

Annual Chanukkah Adopt-A-Family

During the Festival of Lights, can you warm and brighten the holiday for someone in need in our greater Grand Rapids Jewish community? For many years, the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids has reached out to individuals and families with our Chanukkah Adopt-A-Family program. As they have for several years, Meijer Corporation has generously donated \$1,000 in gift cards toward the cause. We hope that some of you in the community who are able to will make a donation to this program, as you have in the past. You can send a check or donate on our website. Please specify if your gift is for Chanukkah Adopt-A-Family. Thank you.

Retirees Chanukkah Lunch

Join us at Anna's House
2409 East Beltline NE
\$10 at 11:30am
RSVP to cathy@JFGR.org
or 616.942.5553



Lauren Goldstein Creates YAD Page on the Federation's Website



Lauren Goldstein volunteered her time to improve the Federation website, and specifically created a page for the Young Adult Division (YAD) program. Lauren designed the YAD page to increase awareness and improve the visibility of the young Jewish adult population in the Grand Rapids community.

Lauren feels a close connection to YAD, "For me, the YAD program provides an opportunity to make local Jewish friends that are in my age group. My hope is that YAD will encourage young adults to connect with each other and contribute to a strong and sustainable Jewish community in Grand Rapids."

Lauren is originally from West Bloomfield, Michigan and moved to Grand Rapids two years ago to pursue a degree in Occupational Science and Therapy at Grand Valley State University. Additionally, Lauren is talented in website development and design.

Visit YAD at <https://jewishgrandrapids.org/young-adult-division-20s-and-30s>



Lauren Goldstein

Retirees Group to Jewish Theatre GR Last of the Red Hot Lovers

Sunday, December 8, 2019, 3:00pm performance
RSVP to 616.942.5553 info@JFGR.org for discounted tickets of \$20. Please let us know if you need transportation

Last of the Red Hot Lovers
By Neil Simon
December 4-15, 2019
Performances at GRCC's Spectrum Theater.
Wed. Thurs. & Sat. at 8 p.m.
Sundays at 3 p.m.
Tickets: 616-234-3946 or jtgr.org



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Sunday, December 8, 2019
12:30 to 2:30



Cost: \$5.00 per person / Max \$25 per family
RSVPs are MANDATORY to markay@jfgr.org
or 616-942-5553

Location:
Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center
3335 Fairlanes Ave SW, Grandville, MI 49418



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Chabad House of West Michigan - 2615 Michigan Street NE Grand Rapids MI 49506

JLI – Worrier To Warrior

This course that began November 13, explores negative emotions in a completely new light, offering spiritual mechanisms that allow us to remain upbeat no matter what life brings.

Six Wednesday Evenings: 7:30 - 9:00 pm

At the Chabad House. \$99 (textbook included)

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

CTeen Shabbat Dinner (for Jewish high school teens)

Friday, December 6 | Candle Lighting 4:50pm, Dinner 7:00pm

Shabbat dinner, and good times with friends are waiting for you at the Weingartens.

Jewish Women's Circle

Monday, December 6, 7:30 pm

Latke Cooking Competition. Come cook and have fun, for novice to master chef.

At Chabad House | RSVP: Nechamy8@gmail.com

Menorah Workshop at Home Depot Call Sarah for date/time: 616.375.9404

Build your own menorah, free worker's apron, music & refreshments. Fun for the whole family! 4646 28th St SE, Grand Rapids. No Charge.

CTeen & CTeen Junior (Grades 6-12)

Sunday, December 22, 2:00 – 5:00 pm

CTeen Chanukah Bash followed by the Grand Menorah Lighting, downtown at the Calder Plaza. (Pickup downtown).

RSVP to Rivka 616.206.9654

Grand Menorah Lighting & Gelt Drop @ Calder Plaza (351 Ottawa Ave NW)

Sunday, December 22, 4:30 pm

Come celebrate the FIRST night of Chanukah together! Lively Chanukah music, sufganiot (donuts), hot latkes, Chanukah Gelt drop, entertainment, and more!

Camp Gan Israel Winter Camp

December 23 & 24, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Camp activities include: Games, cooking, outdoor fun, crafts, sports, Chanukah and CGI activities, hunts and more! For Jewish children Ages 5-12. \$60 both days (including a hot lunch). For more information call Rivka @616-206-9654

Chanukah Party & Lego Fun - Join us for our Annual Latke Party!

Saturday, December 28, 7:30 pm.

Come celebrate the 7th night of Chanukah with the whole family & help build a huge Lego Menorah. Latkes, Sufganiot (donuts), Chanukah music, games, & crafts, dreidel ride, Menorah lighting and more!

At Chabad House, 2615 Michigan Street. \$5 per person. More info or to RSVP, 616.957.0770.

Chanukah Story Time at Barnes and Noble, Woodland Mall

Sunday, December 29, 1:00 pm

Come join us for a fun filled story hour. We will hear some Chanukah stories and music, and enjoy some gelt!

Menorah at Woodland Mall December 22 – 30

UNITED JEWISH SCHOOL 1715 East Fulton Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Chanukah Celebration December 8th 11:15-12:00

We invite all parents and guests to come and join our Chanukah Celebration at Temple Emanuel. This year we will have a musical "Disney Goes Hanukkah" with children, adults, music, and lots of fun!

Together we can help Repair the World – Tikkun Olam

Bring gently used blankets, cots, hats, gloves to Temple Emanuel or Ahavas Israel during November and December.

Help our neighbors this winter. We all deserve to be warm and safe.

Winter Fun Bowling

December 8th 12:30pm–2:30pm

Fairlanes Family Entertainment Center

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

Menorah lighting at 5:00pm
Daily Menorah Lighting Downtown at the Calder Plaza:
December 22-26, 5:00 pm
December 27, 3:00 pm
December 28, 7:00 pm
December 29, 5:00 pm

What a fun way to celebrate with the community! The UJS children 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. \$5.00 per person for lunch & bowling. For family max \$25.

For additional information ujshasiamonselise@gmail.com

December 1: No school/Thanksgiving

December 22: No school/Winter break

December 25: No Midweek Hebrew

December 29: No school / Winter break

January 1: No Midweek Hebrew

January 5: No school/ Winter break

AHAVAS ISRAEL 2727 Michigan Street NE Grand Rapids MI 49506

Onetable.org

Ahavas Israel, Temple Emanuel, and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids have teamed up to bring OneTable to Grand Rapids. OneTable is an organization dedicated to helping people in their 20's and 30's with no children, to slow down, unplug, join together, and have a meal together on Friday night. They'll even match you with a Shabbat Coach, provide you with ritual guides, a potluck organizing feature, recipes, playlists, Nourishment Credits, and more. Sign up at Onetable.org to scroll through open dinners, or create and host your own. From a traditional Shabbat experience to a picnic or Karaoke Shabbat, OneTable will help you make it happen. To find a dinner hosted by people in Grand Rapids, type in "other cities."

If you are not in the target demographic but know someone who is, please let them know to check out the web site.

Need a bit more info.? Reach out to Nicole Katzman, Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids (Nicole@jfgr.org); or Associate Director, National Community Expansion Sara Fatell (sara@onetable.org.)

Ahavas Israel Book Group

Mark your calendar for our next book discussion group on Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m. We're reading "Waking Lions," by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen.

Eitan Green is a respected neurosurgeon who has been forced by a professional dispute to relocate from Tel Aviv to Beersheba, a desert town where dust is everywhere, "a thin white layer, like the icing on a birthday cake no one wants." Speeding through a remote area in his S.U.V. late one night, he hits an Eritrean man walking by the roadside. And when he decides that the victim is beyond help, he impulsively flees the scene.

"Waking Lions" offers a commentary on privilege and otherness, challenging readers to confront their own blind spots and preconceptions. The themes of visibility and invisibility, of the power dynamics between the observed and the observer, run throughout the narrative.

Please contact Sandy Freed for more information at 616-540-2030, sandyfreed2@gmail.com.

TEMPLE EMANUEL 1715 East Fulton Street Grand Rapids MI 49503

Your Opinion Matters & Brunch - Sunday, December 8th at 10:00 AM Temple Library

Topic: Throughout history, societies where Jews have been allowed to prosper also prosper. So why don't nations learn from history and welcome Jews into their country to live and prosper?

RSVP to Jim Siegel: JimS@SiegelJewelers.com

Food Bank Update

Many thanks to everyone who has donated time, food or money to the food bank over this past year. Your dedicated support has allowed the congregation to alleviate hunger in Grand Rapids since 1987. We are losing some of our volunteers to moves. If you can join us either the evening before distribution at 6PM for an hour or the day of distribution at 8:30 AM for an hour and a half, you will find the experience rewarding. For more information, email bbach2137@gmail.com or mcubed4300@gmail.com.

Temple Men's book group meeting: Monday Dec 9 at 7:00 PM to discuss "We Stand Divided: the Rift Between American Jews and Israel" by Daniel Gordis. This book was recommended to the group by Glenn Barkan. If you would like more information, please contact Jeff Frank at Frank2929@aol.com.

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:

December 2019 Endowments

- **Woman of Valor Fund**

In honor of Joni Trempala's birthday

From Jean Barkin

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

In memory of Don Herman

From Jean Barkin

- **Julian & Judith Joseph Fund**

In honor of the marriage of Julian & Judith's granddaughter

From Jean Barkin

In memory of Donald Herman, PhD.

From David Fixler

- **David & Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund**

- **Chuck & Maxine Shapiro Fund**

- **Louis & Louise Weiner Fund**

In memory of Erna Weiner Woodward

From Jean Barkin

- **Jerry & Judy Subar Fund**

- **Leven Family Fund**

- **Sam & Jane Kravitz Social Services Fund**

- **Donna G. Boorstein Memorial Fund**

- **Lois & Sheldon Kahn Health Help Fund**

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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.

The Shofar

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Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1240

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JEWISH FEDERATION OF GRAND RAPIDS

Happy Chanukah

