



Strength in Numbers

Nicole Katzman, Executive Director



Nicole Katzman

Acts of kindness, Chesed, are a daily Jewish requirement and are most succinctly manifested in the act of giving. I have seen many acts of kindness from people in our community, and want to share a story that truly touched my heart.

I recently received a call from the Jewish Federation of South Bend Indiana about a family in White Pigeon, Michigan who had lost their home in a fire. As a result of the tragic event, this family of three, who had lost all of their belongings, found themselves living in a trailer. The Federation in South Bend was looking to coordinate a relief effort with our community. We decided to partner with them to assist the family.

Federation sent an email to the Grand Rapids community asking for help for this family of strangers, two adults and a young child, who live an hour and a half away. Immediately, I was inundated with responses. What can we do to help the family? Where can I drop off donations? Can we order from Amazon and ship to Federation? Many people called offering to drive both clothes and food all the way to this family in White Pigeon. In just a few days, we had collected blankets, towels, clothes, religious objects, glasses, utensils, toys, food, gift cards and money. The response was overwhelming and simply amazing!

I had the pleasure of meeting this family and giving them the donated items. As you can imagine, this was a very emotional moment for everyone, and they were touched by the outpouring of kindness. People who they had never met seemed to care deeply about their well-being. Maimonides in the Middle Ages wrote extensively on the subject of charity. He proposed that giving without personally knowing the recipient, and with the recipient not knowing the giver, is a very high and noble form of charity. We know that Tzedakah roughly translates to "charity", but the Hebrew root, Tzedek, means justice, or righteous.

Thank you to all those who contributed and gave Tzedekah with an open heart. There is strength and power when people come together to do mitzvot. It is the mission of the Jewish Federation to enhance the quality of life for our community.

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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HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Influence of your Genes and Breast cancer

David Alfonso, MD, Past Chair, JFGR



David Alfonso, MD

I wanted to take the opportunity to write about a topic that, unfortunately, I have had a great deal of exposure to over the years as a Plastic Surgeon. That topic is breast cancer, and specifically the genetic link of certain genes that are common in patients of Ashkenazic background. These are BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 genetic defects that many of our readers have probably heard about. All people carry the BRCA genes, however, certain individuals carry mutations, or changes in the genes that make them more susceptible to developing breast cancer, especially at an early age. It is estimated that 1 in 40 Ashkenazic women carry the gene mutation that can lead to breast cancer.¹ The mutations in the BRCA gene also place a patient at a higher risk for the development of Ovarian cancer as well. If a person's mother or father carry the mutation in the BRCA gene there is a 50% chance that person will carry the same mutation and have a higher risk of developing cancer. Screening and early testing in patients who may be at risk is important to diagnose and treat the disease as early as possible. Some guidelines that are helpful in determining your risk are as follows:

If you are of Ashkenazi descent and if either of the two scenarios are relevant you should consider genetic testing.

1. You have had any first degree relative diagnosed with Breast Ovarian cancer (first degree refers to a sister, mother, or daughter)
2. If you have two second degree relatives (grandmother, aunt, or niece) on the same side of the family that have been diagnosed with either Breast or Ovarian cancer. These can be from either the mother or fathers' side of the family.

Keep in mind that not every person with the BRCA mutation will develop cancer, however about 50% of women with the BRCA mutation will develop breast cancer by the time they are 70 years old, compared to 7% in the general US population.² Approximately 30% of women with the mutation will develop ovarian cancer by age 70 compared to 1% of the general population.³ Understanding your risk is the key to considering testing. Early diagnosis allows women the opportunity to decide what course of treatment is best for them in conjunction with their Oncologist and Plastic Surgeon. Many women will choose to undergo surgery to remove the breast tissue, called a mastectomy, as well as reconstruction at the same surgery. Techniques have advanced greatly, and the cosmetic results of the surgery can be very gratifying to the patient. The two main types of breast reconstruction options consist of either using your bodies own tissue or implants to reconstruct the breast. Patients choices vary depending on a variety of factors; however, both techniques can often require repeat surgeries in the future. In conclusion, I hope those women, and men who are considered high risk will take the initiative and discuss their family history and background with their family physician to determine if they would benefit from gene testing. Early diagnosis is the key to optimal care and survival

Dr. Alfonso is a board-certified plastic surgeon specializing in cosmetic surgery and has an interest in nutrition, and its role in health, healing and recovery after surgery. References: www.cdc.gov

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

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



Linda Pestka: Meet Our New Pomegranate, Jewish Women's Philanthropy

The Jewish Federation, is pleased to share that Linda Pestka is our newest Pomegranate. Linda is a native of Grand Rapids and a lifelong member of Ahavas Israel. She is a former teacher and counselor at the Grand Rapids Public Schools. Philanthropy is not new to Linda or the Pestka Family, they have always been strong supporters and leaders in our Grand Rapids Jewish community.



Linda Pestka

Linda is the daughter of Beatrice and Henry Pestka. Her father Henry was a Holocaust survivor, and the sole survivor of his family. Linda is passionate about against anti-semitism. Linda and her brother, Steve Pestka, have assisted Federation in bringing in speakers on this topic which is becoming even more critical with the heightened incidents of hate crimes.

Linda is the mother of two adult daughters, and three adorable grandchildren. She is an avid dog lover, enjoys walking, traveling the world and recently visited Israel.

What is a Pomegranate?

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 8000 pins have been distributed across North America to women philanthropists.

Women at the Pomegranate level donate between \$1800 and \$4,999 to the Jewish Federation's annual campaign.

*For more information on women's philanthropy contact Cathy Winick, Director of Campaign and Donor Relations,
Cathy @jfgr.org*



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

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Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids Welcomes Grand Valley Interns: Carly Fleck

Shalom, I am so excited to be interning with the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids this semester. My name is Carly Fleck and I am currently a Junior at Grand Valley State University studying Communications with a minor in Advertising and Public Relations.



Carly Fleck

I grew up in Portage, Michigan which gave very little opportunity to surround myself with a Jewish Community. I found an interest in GVSU Hillel and worked my way up to their E-board Social Media Editor. Hillel has given me more opportunities to connect with other Jewish members than I could have ever imagined. I plan to use this internship as a tool to prepare myself in the workforce as well as enhancing my Jewish learning and involvement.

In my spare time I love to practice photography, journal, hike, plan my next travel, see family, and obsess over my Pug. My college career is quickly winding down and I'm hoping to gain as much real world knowledge as possible. This summer I will be in Greece photographing Marine Wildlife and handling PR in Samos Island. I am incredibly optimistic about working with the Jewish Federation this semester and I plan to squeeze out every ounce of experience and knowledge possible.

Julianna Schrier

My name is Julianna Schrier, and I am interning at the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids this winter! I am a senior at Grand Valley State University (GVSU), and will be graduating this April. I am double-majoring in both Writing and Communication Studies. Now that I'm at the end of my time at GVSU, I am excited to get involved in the greater Grand Rapids community and connecting with my Jewish heritage. After graduation, I plan to live in Grand Rapids.



Julianna Schrier

I am involved with many activities and clubs at GVSU. I am Vice President of In The Margins: a poetry and creative writing club. I assist with the Student Reading Series, a student-led program through the writing department designed to give students a place to share their work. Additionally, I am a leader in Fishladder, the literary magazine created by Grand Valley students, and the Organization for Professional Writers.

This isn't my first internship experience while attending GVSU. In the summer of 2018, I had the opportunity to travel to Dublin, Ireland, and work for a company called Connect the Dots. My job included writing blogs and managing social media accounts for the business. This was an amazing experience, and I hope visit Ireland as soon as I am able to.

In addition to attending classes, I spend my free time doing things other than homework! When the weather is warm, I enjoy hiking. I love to cook and recently experimented with making matzo balls! I also enjoy watching movies with my roommates, and visiting local coffee shops.





Benji Lovitt

American/Israeli
Comedian/Educator



Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
Cultural Council Presents:

A Night of Stand Up Comedy with Benji Lovitt

**Cost: \$25 per person,
\$5 for students
Ages 18 and up
Appetizers, desserts,
and cash bar!**

*Saturday, February 22
at 8:00pm
Hilton Garden Inn Hotel
2321 E. Beltline SE
Grand Rapids, MI*

*RSVP to Marisa by February 17th, 2020
at markay@jfgr.org
or 616-942-5553, ext. 205*



Remembering *We Will Never Die* - Rob Franciosi, Professor of English, GVSU

At the end of this month Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids will stage *The Accomplices* by Bernard Weinraub. The play depicts the struggles during the Holocaust of a small group of activists, led by Peter Bergson (born Hillel Kook) to persuade FDR and the American government to resist the German murder campaign against Europe's Jews. The resistance the Bergsonites faced, however, both from our government and leaders of major Jewish organizations, as the play dramatizes, remains a stain on American conscience.



Rob Franciosi

This story especially interests me because of a dramatic effort by the Bergson group to provoke public action, the 1943 pageant *We Will Never Die*. Written by screenwriter Ben Hecht and with music by Kurt Weill, the pageant was first staged at Madison Square Garden on March 9, 1943, and sold a record 40,000 tickets for its two performances. Many thousands in the streets outside were forced to listen on loudspeakers. In the spring and early summer of 1943 more than 100,000 people witnessed productions held in Washington, DC (where Eleanor Roosevelt attended), Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and LA.

With a cast of hundreds, including such Hollywood stars as Paul Muni, Edward G. Robinson, John Garfield, and Sylvia Sydney, *We Will Never Die* was first conceived by Hecht as a memorial dedicated to the "2,000,000 Jewish Dead of Europe," a dramatized threnody decrying Nazi crimes and garnering support for a Jewish army in Palestine to fight the Germans. More importantly, he hoped the pageant would help marshal American opinion urging government action to rescue Jews still under Hitler's control. "Action, not pity," was the banner headline Hecht composed for a hard-hitting ad campaign.

Yet because of the Bergson group's often controversial actions and political positions, the pageant drew the Jewish establishment's ire, prompting ultimately crippling resistance, and plans to stage *We Will Never Die* in such cities as Detroit and Buffalo were undercut. Four months after the show opened in New York, it played for the last time before a crowd of 10,000 at the Hollywood Bowl.

(continued on page 13)

A small group of activists seek to rescue Jews from the Nazis. They find their efforts blocked by the indifference and anti-Semitism in the Roosevelt administration and the fears and timidity of the Jewish establishment. This true story is one man's fight to shatter a conspiracy of silence and inaction in the face of genocide.

Feb 27- March 8, 2020

Performances at GRCC's Spectrum Theater Thurs. & Sat. at 8 p.m.
Sundays at 3 p.m.

Tickets: 616-234-3946
or jtgr.org

The Accomplices
by Bernard Weinraub

Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids

Retirees Group will see the play Sunday, March 1, 3pm - RSVP to (616) 942 - 5553 - info@JFGR.org
Tickets are \$20. Transportation available upon request



Put Your Pet's Best Face Forward!

It's time for the JFGR's first annual pet issue where we feature pictures of your faithful friends. Send us a picture of your dogs, cats, birds, and reptiles. Fish are welcome too! Deadline for photo's is April 15, 2020.

Please remember to include your name, contact information and your pets name.

You can submit through our website or email to nicole@JFGR.org



Molly Katzman


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Tax Potpourri

*Claude A. Titcher III, CPA Partner Beene Garter LLP
Treasurer Jewish Federation,
Grand Rapids Board of Directors*



Claude A. Titcher III

Various thoughts and items:

Have you filed your 2019 income tax return yet? IRS opened for e-filing or paper filing on January 27, 2020.

IRS Free File available for taxpayers with income less than \$69,000 totally free for federal return and possibly free for SQ7 state filings. Go to IRS.gov and find options available through national software providers./a

If income is greater you can obtain fillable on-line forms from the IRS to prepare your return without using a paid preparer.

Utilize VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or TCE (Tax Counseling for the Elderly) if you need assistance and have income levels within allowable limits and don't want to pay for assistance.

Identity Theft and Data security. Be very diligent with personal identity items such as social security numbers, birth dates, and account numbers in tandem with information that may be commonly found on the internet allows bad actors to open accounts and wreak havoc on your finances.

Review beneficiary designations on retirement plans, insurance policies and estate planning documents. Prior deaths, divorce and changing situations and desires need to be documented.

Are you a member of the gig economy? If you drive for Uber or LYFT, run errands for TaskRabbit, rent out a room or vacation home the IRS is reminding taxpayers that income is taxable and you are supposed to report even if no tax reporting documents are used, i.e. Form 1099's.

Report any crypto currency transactions. IRS projects 8% of taxpayers are active in this market and have issued new rules this past fall.

IRS reported the following figures in their annual report, all huge numbers:

Gross tax collected -	\$3.6 trillion
Enforcement revenue collected -	\$57.5 billion
Returns and forms processed -	\$255 million
Tax gap for the period 2011-2013 -	\$441 billion
Estimated compliance -	83.6%

Prepare a personal financial statement that details your assets and liabilities including one that contains all the account names and numbers. This provides you a snapshot of values and how you may be doing toward goals and also provides a great document if something happens and family members need to find financial information.

Claude is a tax partner with Beene Garter LLP the largest locally owned CPA firm in West Michigan. In his free time he enjoys golf, reading and television.



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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.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Look for Changes in Retirement Plans

Chad Zagel, JFGR Board Member



Chad Zagel

It might not have made the headlines, but a recently passed piece of legislation could affect the IRAs and 401(k)s of millions of Americans beginning in 2020. So, if you have either of these accounts, or if you run a business, you'll want to learn more.

The new laws, collectively called the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act, include these noteworthy changes:

- Higher age for RMDs – Under current law, you must start taking withdrawals – known as required minimum distributions, or RMDs – from your traditional IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan once you turn 70 ½. The new law pushes the date to start RMDs to 72, which means you can hold on to your retirement savings a bit longer.
- No age limit for traditional IRA contributions – Previously, you could only contribute to your traditional IRA until you were 70 ½, but under the SECURE Act, you can now fund your traditional IRA for as long as you have taxable earned income.
- Limitation of "Stretch IRA" provisions – Under the old rules, beneficiaries were able to stretch taxable RMDs from a retirement account over his or her lifetime. Under the SECURE Act while spouse beneficiaries can still take advantage of this "stretch" distribution, most non-spouse beneficiaries will have to take all the RMDs by the end of the tenth year after the account owner passes away. Consequently, non-spouse beneficiaries who inherit an IRA or other retirement plan could have tax implications due to the need to take larger distributions in a shorter timeframe.
- No early withdrawal penalty for IRAs and 401(k)s when new child arrives. Typically, you must pay a 10% penalty when you withdraw funds from your IRA or 401(k) before you reach 59 ½. But now, with the new rules, you can withdraw up to \$5,000 from your retirement plan without paying the early withdrawal penalty, as long as you take the money within one year of a child being born or an adoption becoming final.

Some provisions of the SECURE Act primarily affect business owners:

- Multi-employer retirement plans – Unrelated companies can now work together to offer employees a 401(k) plan with less administrative work, lower costs and fewer fiduciary responsibilities than individual employers now encounter when offering their own retirement plans.
- Tax credit for automatic enrollment – The new law provides a tax credit of \$500 for some smaller employers who set up automatic enrollment in their retirement plans. And a tax credit for establishing a retirement plan has been increased from \$500 to \$5,000.

(continued on next page)



(cont'd from page 11)

- Use of annuities in 401(k) plans – It will now be easier for employers to consider including annuities as an investment option within 401(k) plans. Previously, many businesses avoided offering annuities in these plans due to liability concerns related to the annuity provider, but the new rules should help reduce these concerns.

The SECURE Act is the most significant change to our retirement savings system in over a decade. We encourage you to contact your financial advisor, tax professional and estate planning attorney to assess the potential impact on your investment strategies and determine any possible tax and estate planning implications of the SECURE Act.

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.



DAVID AND SUSAN SAMRICK YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Your child may qualify for a camp scholarship through the David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. Applications are available on our website at www.JFGR.org or you may request one by emailing Nicole at nicole@JFGR.org, or phone (616) 942-5553. Your completed application must be received by March 15, 2020.

All applications will be reviewed by a scholarship committee and kept confidential.

JFGR's Cultural Council presents:

Nadine Epstein

Editor-in-Chief and CEO
of Moment Magazine

Nadine will give a multi-media
presentation on her book about Elie
Weisel, Nobel Prize winner and author.



Sunday, March 22 at 2 pm
Temple Emanuel
1715 Fulton St East
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$15 per person
\$5 per student

RSVP by March 15 to markay@jfgr.org
Find more information at: www.JFGR.org



Join us for the Retiree's Lunch Bunch at Ju Sushi
1144 East Paris Ave SE
Grand Rapids MI 49546
Thursday February 20, 2020
12:30pm (Note: New Time)

RSVP to Info@JFGR.org or call (616) 942 5553

March 19
Gravity Taphouse



(cont'd from page 6)

There remains much debate as to what could have been done to save the Holocaust's victims, most of whom had been murdered before the Allies even landed in France. The efforts of Peter Bergson, Ben Hecht and the hundreds of participants in We Will Never Die, though having little practical consequence, still served as an important gesture, a beacon of moral conscience in otherwise dark times.

An audio copy of the Hollywood performance was preserved and can be heard on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3HqzOCIZZ8>.

The University of South Carolina also has newsreel footage of the New York opening: <https://mirc.sc.edu/islandora/object/usc%3A26555>

Rob Franciosi is a professor of English and Honors at GVSU where he teaches courses on the Holocaust and on American Literature. Rob welcomes questions or comments about his article. You may contact him at francior@gvsu.edu



Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids presents:

Community Purim Carnival 2020

Sunday, March 8, 2020

12:30-2:30 pm

Temple Emanuel

1715 Fulton St East

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$5 per person

\$3 children age 5 and younger

Kosher hot dog lunch with vegetarian options



RSVP by March 3 to
markay@jfgr.org.

Find more information at:

www.JFGR.org

Bounce House, Carnival Games, Face Painting, Costume Contests, Cash Raffle!



2020 marks the 22nd year for the Jewish Film Festival. The Film Festival committee is busy screening films and planning special programming to make sure this year's festival is spectacular! We hope you will join us when the festival brings our community together for five days of cultural enlightenment and entertainment. In the meantime, your opportunity for sponsorship is at hand.

Individual Sponsors Get Great Benefits

Director: (\$500) Receive two Flex Passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications, and four admissions to all private receptions, dinners and events.

Producer: (\$250) Receive two Flex Passes (16 admissions), recognition in all publications, and two admissions to all private receptions, dinners and events.

Actor: (\$100) Receive one season punch card (8 admissions) and recognition in the program brochure.

Film Fan: If you would like to financially support the Jewish Film Festival and do not see a sponsorship that interests you, please feel free to send a contribution in any amount to the Federation office. Your name will be listed in the program brochure.

Jewish Film Festival Mission Statement:

The mission of the Jewish Film Festival of Grand Rapids is to entertain and educate. The festival uses the power of film to challenge conventional perspectives on complex and dynamic issues facing the Jewish people and the community as a whole. It also provides a forum for the Grand Rapids community to dialogue with filmmakers, producers, writers, and expert panelists.

Yes! I would like to be a Film Festival Sponsor



NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

____ Film Festival Director (\$500)

____ Film Festival Producer (\$250)

____ Film Festival Actor (\$100)

____ Film Festival Fan (Please indicate dollar amount)

____ Flex Pass (\$36)

Mail this form and your check to:
Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506



UNITED JEWISH SCHOOL

Calendar

February 9 - Tu B'shevat/Music with Marc Rossio

February 16 - No school/Midwinter break

School Closings

Weather-related closings will be communicated via email, posted on the United Jewish School Facebook page and listed on WZZM 13. Closures will be announced by 7:30 am.

Plant Your Roots in Israel with Trees for Tu B'shevat

On Tu B'shevat we celebrate the New Year for trees. We eat wonderful fruits that grow in Israel and we pray for a fruitful year. Please join students all over the world by planting a tree in Israel through Jewish National Fund. Tzedakah monies at UJS for the month of January and February will be sent to Israel to plant trees: www.jnf.org for more info.

Special Thanks

Thank you all for the donations that will help our neighbors to be warm and safe this winter. A special thank you Keith Javery for the generous donation of new blankets hats and gloves.

Ahavas Israel Book Group - Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.

"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.

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

JLI - "Judaism's Gifts To The World"

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To register today, visit myJLI.com

(continued on next page)



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

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

BEGINING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 2020

At the Chabad House | Fee: \$99 (textbook included) | \$180 Sponsor

For more Info or to register, please contact Rabbi Mordechai at 269.903.2770 or

Rabbihaller@chabadwestmichigan.com

Jewish Woman's Circle

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH • 7:30PM

BRAIDS OF BLESSING

Join us for a casual and fun challah get together. Get some tips and tricks about challah making and discover some new insights into this treasured traditional food.

Hostess: Liat Okanim

RSVP: Nechamy8@gmail.com

CTeen Grand Rapids

The place for ALL Jewish high school teens! Part of the Fastest Growing Teen Network in the World!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH | 8PM

Join us for a Havdallah, Pizza, & Movie night!! (For: High School Teens + 8th graders)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH | 11:30AM

Pre-Shabbaton meeting: A session for teens and their parents.

FEBRUARY 27TH - MARCH 1ST

CTeen International NYC Shabbaton.

Meet thousands of Jewish teens from all over the world for an unforgettable weekend together!

CTeen Junior Upcoming Events: (Grades 6TH-8TH)

Enrich your Jewish Pride & Explore Essential Milestones within the Jewish twist while giving back to the Community.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH • 4:00-6:00PM

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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 West Michigan and would like to join?

Text "CTEENGR" to 616-207-1218 to be let in on the fun!

CKids Club/Mini Chefs Upcoming Events: (for Jewish boys & girls, ages 5-11)

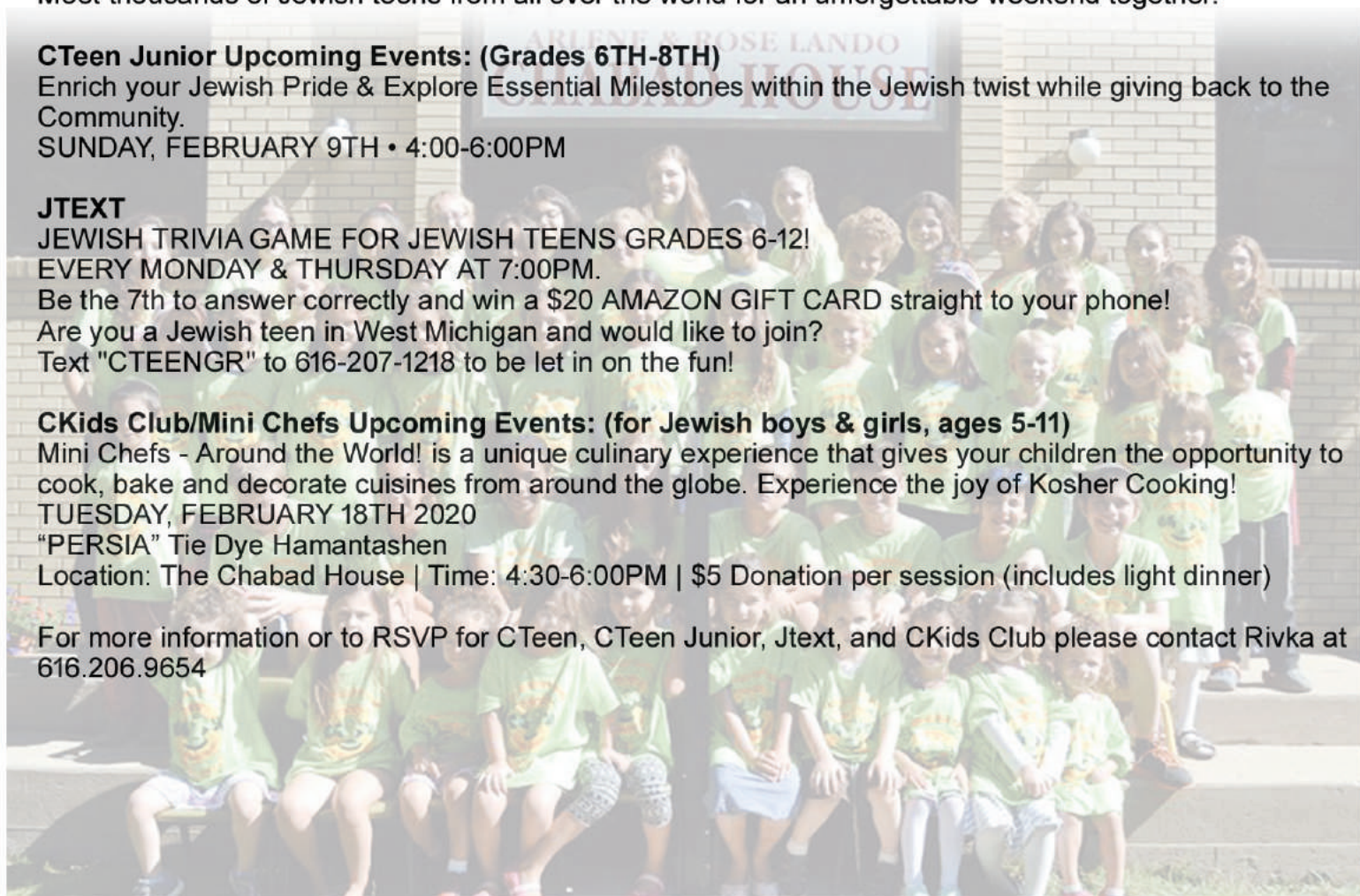
Mini Chefs - Around the World! is a unique culinary experience that gives your children the opportunity to cook, bake and decorate cuisines from around the globe. Experience the joy of Kosher Cooking!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH 2020

"PERSIA" Tie Dye Hamantashen

Location: The Chabad House | Time: 4:30-6:00PM | \$5 Donation per session (includes light dinner)

For more information or to RSVP for CTeen, CTeen Junior, Jtext, and CKids Club please contact Rivka at 616.206.9654





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

Beautiful Tu B'shvat Dried Fruit Trays

Available at Gan Yiladim Preschool

Donation \$18 Each or 3 for \$50

For more information or to order your trays,

Please contact Danielle at 616.293.1616 or Danielle.Nicole19@gmail.com

Family Masquerade Party & Megillah reading!

MONDAY, MARCH 9TH • 7:30PM • At Chabad

Exciting Entertainment, Purim Crafts, Multimedia presentation & Megillah reading, enjoy some delicious Purim treats! Come dressed in your most original costume!

Fun for all ages!!

The Chabad House of Western Michigan invites the entire Jewish community to the 37th Annual Purim Celebration Dinner

PURIM IN ITALY

PURIM DAY • TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH 2020

At the Chabad House 2615 Michigan St N.E.

Come join us for a festive, fun and joyous evening.

And back by popular demand!! Live Music Entertainment with Special Guest Entertainer by: Shlomo Haviv

Singer, Songwriter, Guitarist, Percussionist, Bouzouki Player.

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

Donation \$36 per person | Call 616-957-0770 to RSVP | Limited seating.

Gan Israel Day Camp - Register Today!!

Camp Gan Israel is designed to make your child's summer vacation fun, stimulating and entertaining!

The Camp Gan Israel experience is a unique combination of Jewish pride and fun!

DATES: JUNE 22ND- JULY 10TH 2020 | 9:00AM - 3:30PM

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

For more info, please contact Rivka at (616)206.9654 or email us at campganisraelgr@gmail.com

Gan Yiladim Preschool – Kindergarten

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

Gan Yiladim is a licensed preschool for Jewish children ages 2-6 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



TEMPLE EMANUEL - 1715 E. Fulton St. Grand Rapids MI 49503

Tu B'Shevat Breakfast Seder

We invite our members and friends to join us for a breakfast seder for Tu B'Shevat on Saturday, February 8 at 10:00 AM. We will celebrate the holiday with fruit and food and ritual as we connect ourselves to this Israeli observance of the coming of spring. \$10 a person, please contact the office to RSVP.

Your Opinion Matters & Brunch

Sunday, February 16th at 10:00 AM at Temple

Topic: Over 70 years of the United States trying to be the neutral power broker in the middle east has shown no effect on bringing peace, neither the Arabs with Israel or the Arabs with other Arabs. President Trump has changed this policy to a pro Israel, pro democracy initiative. Should American Jews support this shift?

RSVP to Jim Siegel at JimS@siegeljewelers.com

Food Bank Update

The next Temple food bank distribution will take place on February 19th at 8:30 am with the setup taking place February 18th at 6 p.m. We welcome all volunteers. This a good project for B'nai Mitzvah students. During the cold months our clients appreciate your donations of hot cereals and hearty soups. We can always use diapers (especially sized 3 and 4) and baby wipes. To volunteer please contact bbach2137@gmail.com or mcubed4300@gmail.com

A Post-Purim Night of Fun for ADULTS ONLY

Join us for hearty appetizers, adult beverages, and a chance to express your artistic self at our first ever Wine/Beer and Canvas Night on Saturday, March 14 at 6:30 PM. Jack Moga and Deet Newman will be our art instructors

\$25 for a delicious night of fun! Contact the Temple office to RSVP.

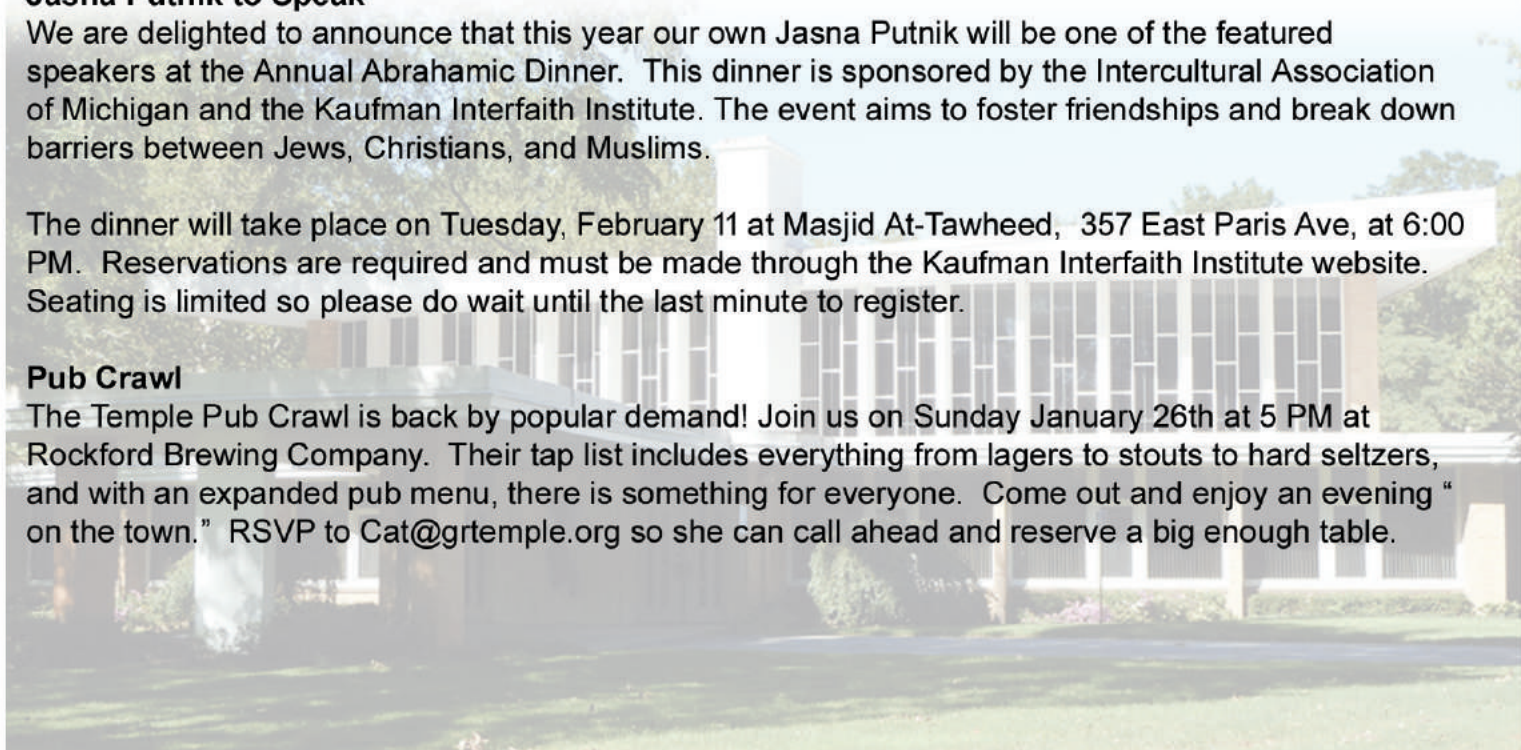
Jasna Putnik to Speak

We are delighted to announce that this year our own Jasna Putnik will be one of the featured speakers at the Annual Abrahamic Dinner. This dinner is sponsored by the Intercultural Association of Michigan and the Kaufman Interfaith Institute. The event aims to foster friendships and break down barriers between Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

The dinner will take place on Tuesday, February 11 at Masjid At-Tawheed, 357 East Paris Ave, at 6:00 PM. Reservations are required and must be made through the Kaufman Interfaith Institute website. Seating is limited so please do wait until the last minute to register.

Pub Crawl

The Temple Pub Crawl is back by popular demand! Join us on Sunday January 26th at 5 PM at Rockford Brewing Company. Their tap list includes everything from lagers to stouts to hard seltzers, and with an expanded pub menu, there is something for everyone. Come out and enjoy an evening "on the town." RSVP to Cat@grtemple.org so she can call ahead and reserve a big enough table.





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:

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.

In memory of Stu Jacobson - From JFGR Staff

Julian and Judith Joseph Fund To provide for local programming and events through the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids.

In honor of Judith and Julian Joseph - From Elisa Joseph and Steven Anders

Woman of Valor Fund To honor the women in our lives who have made a difference personally, locally or nationally.

David and Susan Samrick Youth Scholarship Fund To provide scholarships to Jewish sleepaway 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.

JFGR Endowment Fund Donations Form

Donations 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 donations and this from to: JFGR
Send card to City / St / Zip _____	2727 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

The Shofar

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Phone: 616.942.5553
Fax: 616.942.5780
www.jewishgrandrapids.org
Email: info@JFGR.org

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February 15, 2020

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The Shofar is delivered to nearly 700 subscribers, 12 times a year. Space is limited.
Place your ad today! Contact Nicole at 616-942-5553 or Nicole@jfgr.org

★ SAVE THE DATE ★

APRIL 19th, 2020

Celebrate the wonders of growing up green with Parent's Choice Award Winner, ShirLaLa, and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. Join Shira Kline as she brings fun, energetic music to teach a new generation how important it is to take care of the world we live in. Shira Kline is an award winning musician on the PJ Library circuit.

Sunday, April 19
Earth Day Celebration
4:00 p.m.
Temple Emanuel
1715 Fulton St. E
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



For more information contact Marisa Krishef, Director of Programming, Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids,
at Markay@jfgr.org or 616.942.5553