



**Chairman's Letter**

Dear Friends,

As this edition of the Shofar goes to print we are rapidly approaching the end of winter and the beginning of spring. In the Jewish holiday cycle springtime means Pesach is near. This is one of my favorite times of the year for a variety of reasons. Leaving the cold and snow behind is always enjoyable as well as preparing for the rebirth of spring. Passover is the quintessential spring holiday as we remember our people's exodus from Egypt after years of enslavement. This represents a new beginning of our people, no longer enslaved from Pharaoh and able to create a new destiny.

Springtime, paradoxically, also represents the end of an important cycle in our local Jewish community, the Federation Campaign. As I am sure all of you are aware our campaign season starts in the fall and ends in April. I hope that many of you have been able to take advantage of the great community resources that Federation provides. We have had a number of great social and educational events this year and we hope to continue them next year as well. A community our size relies on the generosity of its members to continue to provide not only social events, but also vital resources and social services to our community members in need. Much of the money raised and allocated from your contributions stays in our local community. As the tzedakah box on page 2 of this Shofar indicates, we remain short of our \$425,000 fundraising target, so I ask you to help your Federation achieve this goal before the annual campaign ends April 30.

As we approach the Passover holiday and our campaign draws to a close, I would respectfully ask those who have not donated to the campaign to consider pledging. Your generosity can touch so many Jews, both internationally as well as locally when you donate. I would like to thank those that have contributed this year and extend my wishes to our entire community for a happy Passover.

Sincerely,

Dr. David R. Alfonso



**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  
616.942.5780 fax  
info@jfgr.org  
www.jfgr.org

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**\$425,000 Goal**

**\$366,229 Total**

**353 Donors**

Your donation to JFGR is tax deductible. Payments can be made by cash, check, credit card or stock. Pay in full or set up installments.

You can also pay online at [www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)  
Any new gift or increase is matched dollar for dollar by a challenge grant  
\*Total does not include matching grants.

**Matching Grants Campaign 2015**

The **Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation** has made a dollar-for-dollar matching grant commitment for all new gifts and increases in contributions. In addition, the **Hy and Greta Berkowitz Foundation** has made a similar matching grant commitment for new gifts and increases in contributions from donors age 45 and under.

Have you thought about contributing to, or setting up, a **L'dor Vador Endowment Fund** to help ensure the future of our Jewish community?

Please contact Mike Present in the Federation office at 616-942-5553 or [mike@jfgr.org](mailto:mike@jfgr.org) to learn more.



STAFF: | Executive Director: Mike Present, 616.942.5553 ext. 207, [mike@jfgr.org](mailto:mike@jfgr.org) | Director of Social Service Resources: Ann Berman, ext. 206, [ann@jfgr.org](mailto:ann@jfgr.org) | Programming Director: Leigh Rapaport, ext. 205, [leigh@jfgr.org](mailto:leigh@jfgr.org) | Financial Administrator: Jennifer Stanton, ext. 203, [jennifer@jfgr.org](mailto:jennifer@jfgr.org) | Donor Relations Director: Cathy Winick, ext. 204, [cathy@jfgr.org](mailto:cathy@jfgr.org)



**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**

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

(616) 942-5553  
[www.jfgr.org](http://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

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

As David Alfonso, our Federation board chairman, discusses on the front page of this *Shofar*, we are concluding our annual campaign at the end of this month. Please read his letter and, if you have not participated in our current annual campaign, I urge you to do so.



In addition to the annual campaign, we are making a special appeal to you on behalf of our fellow Jews in Flint who have been impacted by the water crisis (see page 12). As communicated by email previously, this request is being made to support the special allocation made by our Federation board last month. Should our community contribute above the \$1,800 amount, we will, of course, send the additional funds to the Flint Jewish community.

As we have all seen in the news over the past few months, the water crisis has been devastating to the residents of Flint. There are 66 Jewish families who reside within the city and are impacted. While this number may not seem very large, please take a moment to consider how living with poisoned water would affect you and your family. Coupled with the fact that resources in the Flint area have been overwhelmed, the demands on the Flint Jewish Federation, the community's congregations and others are far exceeding their capacity. Therefore, while they appreciate the immense volume of water that has been sent to them, it is funding for social services, medical services and the like that are in greatest need. This is why our Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids is supporting our fellow Michiganian Jews in need. I ask you to consider doing the same, and let me reiterate, this is a separate request from our annual campaign.

Best wishes to you and your family for a Chag Pesach Sameach. Enjoy your seder!

With warmest regards,  
Mike  
mike@ifgr.org

**\*See page 12 for more information about the Flint Water Crisis.**

## A Purim Party - Mitzvah Style.

We had a costume parade, games and we decorated and filled Mishloach Manot bags to distribute to Flint Jewish families affected by the lead poisoning.



## LUNCH BUNCH



### FUJIYAMA

Asian Bistro  
1501 E. Beltline NE

Thursday, April 14, 2016

11:30am

Cost: \$8

RSVP by Tuesday, April 12

to Ann at 616-942-5553

Transportation is available by calling Ann.

\*If a cancellation is necessary, you will be notified by phone by 10am.

### SAVE THESE DATES

For Future Lunch Bunches...

- **May 19, 2016 - tbd**
- **June 16, 2016 - tbd**

\* As always, I take recommendations for restaurants.

Call or email Ann: [ann@ifgr.org](mailto:ann@ifgr.org) or 616-942-5553

## SENIORS!!!

Jewish Theatre of Grand Rapids  
Matinee

### *For This Moment Alone*

Set in Toronto in 1948, a Jewish family, struggling to recover from the horrors of the war in Europe, finally has cause to rejoice. Ruth is about to be reunited with the only surviving member of her immediate family - her brother Freddie. But when she goes to the station to meet him, she is faced with the most devastating shock, the brother she was expecting turns out to be an imposter. Now what to do?

**Sunday, April 10, 2016**

2:15pm carpool

3:00 performance

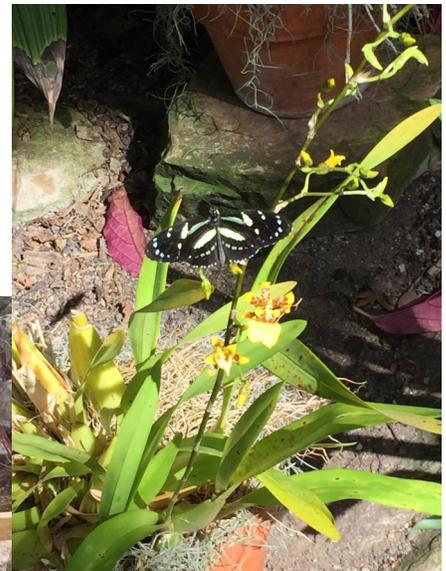
RSVP by Wednesday April 6th.

Call Ann: 616-942-5553 for a discounted ticket or a ride.

Cost: \$15

## First Full Day of Spring - what better way than to visit Frederick Meijer

### Gardens Butterfly Exhibit!



## ENJOY FILMS? BECOME A JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL SPONSOR

The 2016 Jewish Film Festival is once again bringing special movies to the Grand Rapids community. The committee has been previewing movies and planning special programs. As in previous years, the Film Festival will be held at Celebration! North Cinemas. Watch for more details about Festival events in our community mailings.

Individual tickets are \$6 per film. Film Festival is offering special rates through a **Flex Pass** (eight admissions) for **\$36.00**. Flex Pass ticket holders will have seats reserved until **THIRTY MINUTES** prior to the movie beginning. At that time, tickets will be sold for all seats.

**PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY.** That means even if you are holding a Flex Pass ticket, seats are not guaranteed later than thirty minutes prior to movie time. **Flex Pass tickets are only available until Friday April 29th.**

The Film Festival also offers members of the community an opportunity to become an individual sponsor of the Jewish Film Festival. Please read about the benefits of becoming a financial supporter below.

### 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, dinner, and events.

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

**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. You will be listed in the program booklet.

*Yes! I would like to be a Film Festival Sponsor*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Film Festival Director (\$500)

\_\_\_\_\_ Film Festival Fan

\_\_\_\_\_ Film Festival Producer (\$250)

\_\_\_\_\_ Flex Pass (\$36)

\_\_\_\_\_ Film Festival Actor (\$100)

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



**Celebration!**  
Cinema North

Admission is \$6.00 per film. / Flex pass ticket: \$36.00  
(eight admissions) Contact: 616-942-5553 or  
leigh@jfgr.org

## BLUE TATTOO: DINA'S STORY, JOE'S SONG

May 1 - Sunday

1:30pm

39min – Documentary – USA

[www.bluetattoofilm.com](http://www.bluetattoofilm.com)

Music has the power to touch both the mind and the heart. The film *Blue Tattoo: Dina's Story, Joe's Song* explores the relationship between Holocaust survivor Dina Jacobson and folksinger/songwriter, Joe Crookston. Through a series of events, their paths crossed, a friendship was formed and a song was written. Together they developed a bond that would help keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and the lessons of humanity relevant to this and future generations.



*There will be a Q&A after the screening with Guest Speaker: Rich Kellman, Film Maker of Blue Tattoo.*

## B-BOY

May 1 - Sunday

1:30pm

14min – Documentary – USA

<http://bboydoc.com>



Thirteen-year-old Eli navigates two diverse cultures while coming of age as a bar mitzvah and a competitive breaker, in this moving, short documentary about the power of passion, dedication and community. Eli, aka "E-Break," is a studious school kid on the brink of adolescence whose talent for

dance lands him a coveted position on a crew that competes in battles all over the country. It is a world of fierce talent and loyal bonds, and as Eli finds his way, he dreams about winning to fanfare – and reflects on the importance of friendship, family, and losing with grace.

## MY SO-CALLED ENEMY

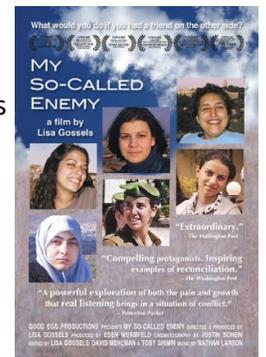
May 1 - Sunday

7:30pm

1h 30min – Documentary – Israel/USA

<http://mysocalledenemy.com>

Spanning seven years, *MY SO-CALLED ENEMY* follows six Palestinian and Israeli teenage girls committed to justice and mutual understanding after participating in a women's leadership program called Building Bridges for Peace. This heart and mind-opening film, from Emmy® Award-winning director Lisa Gossels documents how the young women's transformative experience of knowing their "enemies" as human beings in the United States meets with the realities of their lives back home in the Middle East. This film presents the complexities of Israeli/Palestinian conflict through a human lens.



Visit us at: [www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org) or on facebook [www.facebook.com/jewishfilmfestivalgrandrapids](http://www.facebook.com/jewishfilmfestivalgrandrapids)

Despite our best intentions and efforts, sometimes arrangements go awry. If necessary, we reserve the right to change or cancel speakers, movies or location. For information call: Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids 616-942-5553 or visit [www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)



The Film Festival is made possible by the generous grant from the Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundations and private donors.

## TO LIFE!

May 2 - Monday

7:30pm

1hr 30min – Drama - Germany [www.menemshafilms.com/Life](http://www.menemshafilms.com/Life)

Jonas, a young man on the run, arrives in Berlin just in time to save Ruth's life. Evicted from her apartment, the sarcastic but warm-hearted aging Jewish cabaret singer saw no other way out than suicide. Meanwhile Jonas, driven by a secret, is also fleeing from his love and his future. As Ruth recovers, she and Jonas form a deep bond informed by her own tragic love for a non-Jewish man in post-WWII Germany - a love burdened by the legacy of the horrors perpetrated by Nazi Germany. As Jonas discovers Ruth's past and takes part in her present, his attentions and the passionate, lusty Yiddish songs of her youth help her find the way back to life. In turn, when Ruth learns Jonas is incurably ill, she helps him find the strength to tackle his fears, and to forcefully propose "L'Chaim – To Life!"



## GETT

May 4 - Wednesday

7:30pm

1hr 55min – Drama - Hebrew

[www.musicboxfilms.com/gett--the-trial-of-viviane-amsalem-movies-111.php](http://www.musicboxfilms.com/gett--the-trial-of-viviane-amsalem-movies-111.php)

An Israeli woman seeking to finalize a divorce (*gett*) from her estranged husband finds herself effectively put on trial by her country's religious marriage laws. In Israel, there is neither civil marriage nor civil divorce; only Orthodox rabbis can legalize a union or its dissolution, which is only possible with the husband's full consent. Trapped in a loveless marriage, Viviane Amsalem has been applying for a divorce for three years, but her religiously devout husband Elisha continually refuses. His cold intransigence, Viviane's determination to fight for her freedom, and the ambiguous role of the rabbinical judges shape a procedure where tragedy vies with absurdity and everything is brought out into the open for judgment.



## THE FAREWELL PARTY

May 3 - Tuesday

7:30pm

1hr 35min – Comedy/Drama - Israel

<http://www.samuelgoldwynfilms.com>



*The Farewell Party* is a unique, compassionate and unlikely funny story of a group of friends at a Jerusalem retirement home who decide to help their terminally ill friend. When rumors of their assistance begin to spread, more and more people ask for their help, and the friends are faced with a life and death dilemma.

## DELI MAN

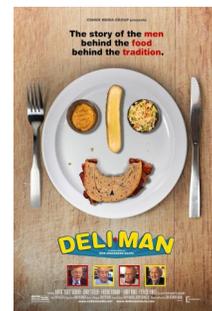
May 5 - Thursday

7:30pm

1hr 32min – Documentary - USA [www.delimanmovie.com](http://www.delimanmovie.com)

The principal guide of *Deli Man* is the effusive and charming Ziggy Gruber, a third-generation delicatessen man, owner and maven who currently operates one of the country's top delis, Kenny and Ziggy's in Houston. Kenny and Ziggy's has been touted in press reviews ranging from "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" to the L.A. Daily News.

"Texas?" you ask. Shalom, y'all. Because the story of the American deli is the story of Jews. How this burgeoning tribe moved and thrived from city to suburb and from suburb to strip mall, and in the process created a legacy and new generations of wealth, is the sunny topside of the Jewish-American journey. The shadowy understory is how that very success engendered the deterioration of the old, traditional urban block and neighborhood – the epic synagogues, Mom and Pop storefronts, and nucleus of Jewish cultural life at which deli was the succulent heart.



**Thursday - Dinner 6:30pm**

**Catered by Twisted Rooster**

Adults: \$10.00 - Children (12 and younger): \$5.00

RSVP by May 2 to the Jewish Federation  
At 942-5553 or [leigh@jfgfr.org](mailto:leigh@jfgfr.org)

## Cultural Council Event on March 6, 2016

Professor Steven Gold lectured on Latin American Jewish Immigrants in the U.S to a Sunday morning gathering at Temple Emanuel.



Professor Gold provided attendees with an in-depth history and analysis of Jewish Latino migration to the United States, touching on geographical trends as well as evolving relationships between immigrant and host. Afterwards, Gold graciously fielded questions and engaged in deep conversation.



## SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Cultural Council's next event



## Klezmephonic

Sunday, June 19, 2016

*Temple Emanuel 11:30am*

Based in Ann Arbor, MI, Klezmephonic provides the sounds and soul of Klezmer music. Yiddish and Jewish melodies, Vaudeville tunes, Eastern European folk music, and swing and blues are brought to life through Klezmephonic's music. The clarinet, Jennie Lavine, and violin, Henrik Karapetyan, sing, wail and moan over the driving, dance-inducing rhythms of bass, Dave Sharp, accordion, Will Cicola, guitar and banjo, Alex Belhaj.



*Noshes will be served*

# Scholar in Residence 2016

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman

April 15—17

*No Charge to Attend*



## Friday, April 15

Temple Emanuel, 1715 Fulton Street

### Human Dignity: The Most Essential Value

5:30pm Wine and Cheese Reception

6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:30pm Lecture

*Hors d'oeuvres and informal discussion following services*



## Saturday, April 16

Ahavas Israel, 2727 Michigan NE

### Jews & Power: From Passover to Purim and Beyond

9:30am Shabbat Morning Services

12:00pm Lunch (RSVP required, leigh@jfgr.org or 616-942-5553)

1:00pm Lecture



## Sunday, April 17

Temple Emanuel, 1715 Fulton Street

### Getting Relationships Right: Ancient Advice for Modern Living

10:00am Bagels and Shmear

10:30am Lecture



Rabbi Amy Scheinerman is the hospice Rabbi in Howard County, Maryland. She writes, maintaining several popular blogs, and teaches in a variety of venues. She is a member of the Responsa Committee of the CCAR, and serves as editor of the Torah Commentary column of the CCAR newsletter. She is a past president of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis and of the Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis, and has served on the national board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. In her 27 years as a pulpit rabbi, she served Conservative, Reform, and unaffiliated congregations. Rabbi Scheinerman received her bachelor's degree from Brown University; has studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Princeton Theological Seminary; and was ordained in 1984 at HUC-JIR in New York, where she also received a Doctor of Divinity in 2009. Rabbi Scheinerman is married to Dr. Edward Scheinerman, Vice Dean for Education at the Johns Hopkins University and professor of applied mathematics and statistics. They have four children and two grandchildren.

For more information contact the Jewish Federation at 616-942-5553 or leigh@jfgr.org

This program is sponsored by Congregation Ahavas Israel, Temple Emanuel and the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

## PJ Library is here!

Thank you! to the Ravitz Foundation and Rosenzweig-Coopersmith Foundations.

A GIFT for  
JEWISH CHILDREN  
and their families.



**PJ Library**

www.PJLIBRARY.org



**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](http://www.pjlibrary.org).

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

A PROGRAM OF THE  
HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



## Betzalel Art Group

Thursdays 2:30pm - 4:00pm  
Ahavas Israel  
(in the meeting room)

Have some art fun with any painting or craft you enjoy doing. It's open to everyone. Please bring your own art or craft supplies as they are not provided. Please come and enjoy. For further information contact Pat Weller 616-453-2954 or [patandfred@tds.net](mailto:patandfred@tds.net).

**2015-16 SEASON**  
JEWISH  
*Theatre*  
GRAND RAPIDS

Presenting quality theatrical productions with Jewish themes that engendered in appeal...  
You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy Jewish Theatre!

## For this Moment Alone

by Marcia Kash

**April 7 - 17, 2016**  
Thursdays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.  
Sundays at 3 p.m.

GRCC Spectrum Theater  
160 Fountain NE

TICKETS: **616-234-3946**  
or [www.jtgr.org](http://www.jtgr.org)

Season subscribers beginning March 21. All others beginning March 28.

## Hadassah Book Club

**When:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016

**Where:** Diane Broomberg's Home  
2865 Lake Drive SE  
Phone: 949-6084 to RSVP



**Time:** 7:00pm

**Book to read.... "INVENTIONS of WINGS" by Sue Monk Kidd.**

Call Schuler Books on 28th Street, or your library for a copy. We are as always your loyal bookends, Sue Remes 616-949-3505  
Flory Silverstein 616-949-5766

## Jewish Community Business Forum

Thursday, April 21, 2016

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.



## Jewish Women's Professional Network

We meet monthly for networking. All women are invited, whether working outside the home, thinking of returning to the workforce, in career transition, or a community volunteer. For more information please email [marnivyn@yahoo.com](mailto:marnivyn@yahoo.com) or phone 616-774-8644.

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

12:00pm

Gus's Original

3123 Leonard St NE (Please note location)





## MISSION TO ISRAEL!

*Are you thinking of visiting 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 or [info@jfgr.org](mailto:info@jfgr.org)

## SHALOM GRAND RAPIDS!!

*A program of the Jewish Federation*

- ♦ Would you like to become an ambassador to welcome people who are new to the Jewish community or not currently involved?
- ♦ If you know about somebody new to the Grand Rapids community, please let us know. "Shalom Grand Rapids" would like to welcome them.

To sign up or receive additional information about the program, contact Leigh at the Federation office: 616-942-5553 or [Leigh@jfgr.org](mailto:Leigh@jfgr.org)

# WELCOME

## Coming to West Michigan!!!

2016 JWI and JFGR Community Roster!

The Roster is a directory of the Jewish community in West Michigan, mainly Grand Rapids, but also including the surrounding communities such as Holland, Grand Haven and other nearby cities. There are about 900 listings. *Is your business or organization interested in placing an advertisement in the roster?*

If yes, please contact Eileen at 616-949-6444 or Phyllis at 616-247-7963.



**Rabbi Al Lewis & Pastor Nelesen tour of:**

# Israel

Scheduled Dates: November 2 - 14, 2016

For more information on this interfaith trip: contact Rabbi Lewis at [albertmlewis@att.net](mailto:albertmlewis@att.net) or 616-485-5394



## Grand Rapids Jewish Community Reaches out to Flint Jewish Federation!

Our office recently received an email from the Executive Director of the Flint Jewish Federation, Steven Low, addressing how the Flint water crisis is impacting his local Jewish community. While Flint has received very generous amounts of donated water, he explained they need funds to:

- provide for social workers to refer people to resources
- counsel those who have been poisoned
- provide in-home assistance
- transport people to water and grocery sources
- provide fresh vegetables and sources of calcium and iron that can help counteract lead poisoning
- provide nutritional counseling
- make mini-grants for plumbers to install filters or replace pipes since Federal and State funding seems delayed

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids approved an \$1,800.00 contribution to the Flint Jewish Federation to assist with their needs. We also worked with the United Jewish School to give mishloach manot bags to the 66 affected Jewish families who live in the city of Flint.



Leigh Rapaport delivering the bags and \$1,800 check to Steven Low, Flint Jewish Federation

## Shake up Your Seder

### Charoset Recipes From Around the World

These recipes were found on the following website [www.cjvoices.org/article/charoset-recipes-from-around-the-world](http://www.cjvoices.org/article/charoset-recipes-from-around-the-world)

#### California Charoset

(With thanks to Edna Schrank, Congregation Beth Shalom, Northbrook, IL)

- 1 large avocado, peeled and diced
- juice of ½ lemon or lime
- ½ cup sliced almonds
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 4 pitted dates
- 2 figs or apricots (use more if using apricots)
- 1 whole orange peeled, sectioned

Toss the avocado and lemon juice in a bowl. Set aside. In a processor or blender, place the almonds, raisins, dates, and figs. Process until coarsely chopped. Add the orange sections and process briefly to combine. Add the avocado and process for 1 or 2 seconds more. Transfer the mixture to a glass bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and store in the refrigerator.

Makes 3 cups.

#### Yemenite Charoset

- 9 ounces sesame seeds
- 2¼ pounds pitted dates
- 1 pound raisins
- 1 cup chopped almonds
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 4 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon ground cardamom
- salt to taste
- water as needed

Toast sesame seeds over medium flame, stirring frequently until evenly brown. Add sesame seeds to other ingredients in a large pot. Add enough water so that mixture resembles preserves. Cook over low flame for 15 minutes, chill.



Beit Sefer B'yahad/United Jewish School  
Pam Rush, School Director 616-459-5976  
pam@templemanuelgr.org  
www.unitedjewishschool.org

## UJS Calendar

4-3 - No School - Spring Break  
4-6 - No midweek - Spring Break  
4-10 - No School - Spring Break  
4-17- All School Passover Seder  
4-24 - No School - 2nd day of Passover

### UJS Board:

The school board is comprised of representatives from Ahavas Israel and Temple

Emanuel.

Co-Chairs

Rhonda Pappas &

Amy Winkelman

Allyson Strauss

Rick Rinzler

Elisabeth Rosewall

Amy Singer

Erica Wikander

Please Remember UNITED JEWISH SCHOOL in your contributions. We have a beautiful "Tribute" card that we can send to that special someone. Check out United Jewish School on Facebook. It is a private group and you will be able to see all the latest pictures and postings from the events at the school.

**WANTED:**  
**Dynamic Teachers for**  
**2016-2017**  
pam@templemanuelgr.org

Middah for the month of April

שְׁמִירַת הַגּוּף

*Shmirat ha-guf* means "guarding the body". In the Torah we are told: "Take care of yourself, and guard your soul diligently".



Our bodies are holy, and how we use them is a sacred choice. *Shmirat ha-guf* is not just about working out; it is also about not putting anything into our bodies that could be harmful. We need to eat healthy foods, drink water, wear seat belts, bike helmets and protective sports gear, read and do our homework. We need to keep ourselves safe, healthy, smart and strong.



## What's Happening Jewish Grand Rapids

Calendar of Events

### APRIL

- 7-17** Grand Rapids Jewish Theatre's *For this Moment Alone*  
Spectrum Theater,  
160 Fountain St NE, Grand Rapids  
Dates and times vary – see ad on page 10
- 12** CKC Set the Seder Table  
Chabad House of WM  
4:00pm to 6pm
- 13** Cteen Junior  
Chabad House of WM  
4:00pm to 6:00pm
- 15** Scholar-in-Residence  
Temple Emanuel  
6:30pm
- 16** Scholar-in-Residence  
Congregation Ahavas Israel  
1:00pm
- 17** Scholar-in-Residence  
Temple Emanuel  
10:00am
- 17** Cteen  
Chabad House of WM  
4:00pm to 6:00pm
- 22** First Seder  
Chabad House (see page 14)  
9:30pm
- 23** Second Seder Night  
Chabad House (see page 14)  
10:00pm

Editor's Note – We are introducing to *The Shofar* a monthly listing of 'What's Happening' in Jewish Grand Rapids. This list-form calendar will include 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.

*Ahavas Israel***Mekhirat Hametz - Selling Hametz**

If possible, all *hametz* --leavened products, foods not acceptable during Pesah, or materials containing such unacceptable food - should be destroyed or given away before the holiday begins. Should this be impossible, the *hametz* may be stored in such a way that we are sure not to use it during the holiday and its actual ownership is transferred to a non-Jew until the holiday ends. Please return the *mekhirat hametz* form for the sale of leavened products (which can be downloaded from AhavasIsraelGR.org) to Congregation Ahavas Israel by 12:00 noon on Friday, April 22. It is customary to make a donation to a Ma'ot Hittim fund at the time of *mekhirat hametz* to help others fulfill the mitzvah of Pesah.

**Guide to Passover**

Look for the 2016 Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide, containing helpful information regarding kashrut for Passover, in the Religious life section of the Ahavas Israel website. If you would like it emailed or mailed to you, please contact the synagogue office.

**Book Club - "Putting God Second" by Donniel Hartman.**

Live kick-off webinar with Donniel Hartman, Thursday, March 31, 2016, Noon-1:00pm EST. First book group meeting, 7:00, Monday April 25. We'll decide at that point how many times we'll meet. For more information, see our website AhavasIsraelGR.org or contact Rabbi Krishef by phone, 616-949-2840, or email, Rabbi@AhavasIsraelGR.org.

*Temple Emanuel*

**April 9** - Miriam Chrenka Bat Havdalah 6:16pm

**April 10** - Your Opinion Counts & Brunch 10:00am. Topic: TBD

**April 15-17** Scholar in Residence weekend

**April 22** - NO SHABBAT SERVICE - first night of Passover

**April 23** - Temple's Second Night Seder! Join us for matzo ball soup, Mediterranean Lamb with vegetables, individual Seder plates. For Temple Members: \$18 Adults/\$12 for kids. Non-members:\$22 Adults/\$16 kids. **You must make your reservation by Tuesday, April 19th at 5pm**

*Chabad House of WM***Kids Club - "Set the Seder Table"**

Squeeze your own grape juice, craft a beautiful matzah tray and munch on Passover macaroons!

**Tuesday April 12**

4:00pm-6:00pm (Ages 5-11)

**Cteen Junior - Destination: Egypt**

Get ready for Passover as we travel back in time to Egypt and visit King Pharaoh! Paint your own beautiful Passover Kiddush cup with your Cteen Jr. friends  
Thursday, April 14

4:00pm - 6:00pm (Grades 6-8)

**Cteen - "Seder in a Bag"**

Sunday April 17 4:00pm-6:00pm  
(High School Students)

For more information or to RSVP for Kids Club, Cteen Jr or Cteens contact Rivka:  
RivkahWeingarten@gmail or 616-206-9654

*Chabad House of WM***Community Passover Seder**

Chabad West Michigan invites you to join us for a warm interactive Passover Seder. Relive the exodus, discover the eternal meaning of the Haggadah, and enjoy a community Seder complete with hand-baked Matzah, wine and a wonderful dinner spiced with unique traditional customs.

**First Seder Night: Friday, April 22, 9:30pm.**

**Second Seder Night: Saturday, April 23, 10:00pm**

**Children's Seder: Sunday,**

**April 24, 5:00pm.** At the Chabad House of West Michigan. 2615 Michigan St. NE, . Open to the entire Jewish community regardless of background or affiliation. For more information or to reserve, please call 616-957-0770 or email Rabbiyyw@ChabadWM.com.

**JLI - "Strength & Struggle"**

Lessons in Character from the Stories of Our Prophets. A new six-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute. Register today, visit myJLI.com. Six Tuesdays 7:30pm-9:00pm Beginning Spring 2016 at the Chabad House, For more information or to register call Rabbi Mordechai: 269-903-2770 Fee \$99 or \$79 Early Bird Special.

**Gan Israel Day Camp** - A Jewish summer experience of a lifetime!

**Dates: June 27th-July 15th**

Main Division: Boys & Girls ages 5-12, 9:00am-3:30pm.

Kiddy Camp: Boys & Girls, ages 3-4, 9:00am-3:30pm.

Tuition fees cover all activities, snacks and trips. 3 weeks session: \$500 Per week: \$180 Register today on our website- ChabadWM.com or contact Rivka at 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.

**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.

## Thank you for supporting the Grand Rapids Jewish Community

**Louis & Louise Weiner Fund**

In memory of Lewis Turestsky  
from David Fixler

**Woman of Valor Endowment Fund**

In honor of Valerie Lego's engagement  
from Diane Ginsburg

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

### West Michigan Women Who Have Made A Difference

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan has undertaken a project to document *Michigan Women Who Have Made A Difference*. They asked for our community's help in gathering and chronicling information about local women who made a difference.

The Peg & Mort Finkelstein Archives at Temple Emanuel has been integral in providing much of the information needed for this project. Thankfully, Peg Finkelstein and her daughter, Megan Yost, work tirelessly compiling and maintaining historical records for our community.

Would you like to nominate a local woman, who is living or deceased, who has made an impact in our community, either professionally or through her volunteerism? Please contact Cathy Winick, 616-942-5553, email [cathy@ifgr.org](mailto:cathy@ifgr.org); or Toby Dolinka, 616-949-6528, email [tobykatlover38@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tobykatlover38@sbcglobal.net).

More information can also be found online at [www.michjewishhistory.org/mwwmd/](http://www.michjewishhistory.org/mwwmd/)



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your donation and this form to:**  
**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](mailto:Ann@jfgr.org)  
Phone: 616.942.5553  
Fax: 616.942.5780  
[www.jewishgrandrapids.org](http://www.jewishgrandrapids.org)  
Email: [info@jfgr.org](mailto:info@jfgr.org)

**Next Issue's Information Deadline:**  
**APRIL 12, 2016**



Jewish Federation<sup>®</sup>  
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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

A colorful graphic for "Happy Passover". At the top is a multi-colored Star of David. Below it, the word "HAPPY" is written in a playful, multi-colored font. Below "HAPPY", the word "PASSOVER" is written in a larger, bold, multi-colored font.