



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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

Federation Board Announcement

The Board of the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids would like to share the news of Mike Presant's decision to retire from the position of Executive Director and to thank Mike for his years of leadership, both as Executive Director and previously as a Board Member and Board Chair. After more than two decades of contributing to JFGR as a volunteer leader, Mike agreed, when JFGR faced a need, to assume the role of Executive Director for six months--six months that became six years! In that time, Mike has led and developed the staff and worked with the Board to help JFGR pursue our mission to unite the local Jewish community to sustain and strengthen Jews locally, in Israel, and around the world.

Mike and the Board will work together in the coming months to effect a seamless transition in leadership, about which we will communicate with the community as that work unfolds. Fortunately for us--not least because he has a new house and kids and grandkids here--Mike will remain in Grand Rapids and remain active in the community, again as a volunteer. We will plan an event, probably later this summer, to celebrate and thank Mike as a community. For now, please join us in congratulating Mike and thanking him for all he has done and will continue to do 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.

**Like Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids
on Facebook!**

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The Shofar

SIVAN / TAMMUZ 5776 JULY 2016 — WWW.JEWISHGRANDRAPIDS.ORG

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

Officers

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Vice Chairs
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Executive Director
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Of Western Michigan
Rabbi Yosef Weingarten

ADVANCED CARE PLANNING INITIATIVE.



If you were in a hospital and did not know who you were, where you were or who was with you, who would speak for you? This situation is a disturbing yet compelling point that JFGR would like you to consider. Why, for heaven's sake? Because Advanced Care



Planning encourages you to form an answer to this question. ACP is a process championed by Making Choices Michigan (www.makingchoicesmichigan.org) a non-profit agency supported by all major area hospitals. The Jewish Federation has joined with MCM to encourage all community members to think about what their advanced directives (living will, durable power of attorney for health care) should state.

The Jewish Federation and Making Choices Michigan will be presenting the ACP Interfaith Initiative to leaders in the Jewish community on Tuesday, July 26 at 7:00pm at Ahavas Israel. Any interested community member can attend this meeting. There will also be future opportunities to learn about ACP and to arrange for your own ACP conversation with a trained facilitator. This meeting is the starting point for this initiative. Contact Ann Berman at 942-5553 or ann@jfgr.org for further information.

Have you ever 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 to learn more.



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

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



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

www.jfgr.org

Live Generously.

Name _____

Address _____

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

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

DONOR'S SIGNATURE _____

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

Please consider a 10% increase

Card Number _____
Exp. Date: _____



Executive Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

Wrestling with God. I will get to this shortly, but first...

As you may be aware, I will be leaving the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids later this year after spending half my life either volunteering or working for this special organization. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve you, our Jewish community. It has been my honor to do so. I'd also like to share some thoughts about what I will miss most about my time with Federation, something I believe is essential for the future well-being of our Jewish community.

I'd be remiss if I did not begin with thanking my wonderful staff. Actually, they are your staff, *our* staff: Ann Berman, Cathy Winick, Jennifer Stanton and Leigh Rapaport, and previously, Amy Noyes Klein and Sari Cohen. Words cannot communicate how much I appreciate the work you have done on behalf of our community. When I served on the Federation Board, I saw your work from 30,000 feet aloft. For what started out as six months and will end up around six years as executive director, I have now seen what you do at ground level, all working part-time. Remarkable. I thank you for welcoming me into your work space. It has been a pleasure to be a member of your team.

Next, I'd like to thank the Federation Board members with whom I've worked for over 30 years, as a fellow Board member, as chairman and as executive director. Too numerous to mention individually here, let me simply say how much I have valued the front row seat all of you afforded me on Federation and our community. I would not expect most members of our community to understand how much time, effort and passion is involved in serving on the Federation Board. Your efforts are on behalf of all members of the West Michigan Jewish community, whether affiliated or not. What makes Federation work so well and be such a vital resource in our community is this commitment, which has never wavered in the three decades I've observed, to serve our *entire* community.

The work of our Board and staff would not be possible without the support of you, our Jewish community, and notably those of you who have chosen

to donate to Federation over many years. Federation's programs and services would simply not be possible without you. And, while we might not have agreed on everything we've done over the years, it is your commitment to the importance of the Jewish community as a whole that has allowed us to survive and thrive.



How has this happened? It's my view that our willingness to come together and stay together, despite our differences, is what's essential. The willingness to discuss, debate, question and yes, argue about Jewish issues is at the core of the miracle called Jewish community. Unlike other religions and people, our tradition is that no one is in charge except God. We all get a say, and with that comes immense responsibility.

I'm sure you've heard the saying, *10 Jews, 15 opinions*, or something similar. We Jews do indeed have many opinions and are not afraid to express them. Whether on global issues affecting Israel, or local matters regarding a program, service or anything else going on, I have dialogued with many of you, mostly amicably, though sometimes not. What I will miss most are these encounters with you. What I've learned is staying silent, disengaging from our community, is not the answer.

'Wrestling with God', arguably at the core of Jewish identity, is not meant to always be a silent conversation. It's the process of engaging with each other on the big issues that really matter to help us be wiser, to get closer to God. Such encounters between Jews are what keep us going as a community, a people. Therefore, as I leave Federation, I make a simple request of each and every one of you. Be involved in Jewish life. Get engaged in our wonderful Jewish community in a manner that works for you. *Wrestle with God!*

If you're not already involved, take it from me. Federation is a great place to start.

With warmest regards,

Mike

mike@jfgr.org



LUNCH BUNCH

PF Chang's

2065 E Beltline Ave NE,

Thursday, July 21, 2016

11:30am

Cost: \$8

RSVP by Tuesday, July 19

to Ann at 616-942-5553

Transportation is available by calling Ann.

*If a cancellation is necessary, you will be notified by phone by 10:00am.



SAVE THESE DATES

For Future

Lunch Bunches...

August 25, 2016

September 29, 2016 (Apples/Honey)

October 20, 2016 (Sukkot)

November 17, 2016

* As always, I take recommendations for restaurants. Call or email Ann: 616-942-5553 or ann@ifgr.org

Chasing Dreams
BASEBALL & BECOMING AMERICAN
SEASON OPENER
 A GRAND SLAM EVENING OF
 BASEBALL, HISTORY, FOOD AND
 FUN TO BENEFIT THE JEWISH
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY, SEPT. 8, 2016
5:30 PM
DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

PRESENTED LOCALLY BY

Photo courtesy of the Collection of Irwin J. Cohen

Major support for Chasing Dreams has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor; Major League Baseball; the Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Foundation; Washington Nationals; the Marc and Dana Spitzer Foundation; Louis Wagner; Harriet and Larry Weiss; Judy and Fred Wispenky; and, Dan Thibodeau. Additional support is provided by Macy's.

The Peg and Mort Finkelstein Archives of the local Jewish community have quite the



extensive information about local military veterans, up through the Korean War era. They are requesting the community's help in receiving information and photos of veterans who served **since** the Korean War, to the present time. Please send any information to Megan Finkelstein Yost at fordgirl22m@gmail.com, or mail or drop off items at Temple Emanuel, 1715 East Fulton, GR MI 49503.





HEBREW FREE LOAN PROGRAMS

Hebrew Free Loan (HFL) is here to help Jews across Michigan, and David Contorer is so pleased to see that some Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo Jewish community members have heard about them (and now benefit from the interest-free loans) as a result of learning about HFL from our rabbis and local federation.

David believes that there are still many Jewish Michiganders who do not know that HFL is here to provide that helpful, interest-free loan resource if/when needed in SO MANY personal, educational and small business circumstances. Come hear David speak in Grand Rapids on Saturday, August 20th. He will talk for 10 to 15 minutes during Ahavas

Israel morning service.

David Contorer has been the executive director of Hebrew Free Loan since October, 2011. Prior to that, David was at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and with the Jewish Federations of Houston, Greater Philadelphia and Metropolitan Detroit.

David was born in Portland, Oregon; attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison; taught with Teach for America; got his Master's Degree in Social Work and a certificate of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Wayne State.

David has been very happily married to Beth (20 years on March 31), and they have two fantastic daughters—Danielle (16) and Maya (13).

David C. Contorer

Executive Director

Hebrew Free Loan

6735 Telegraph Road, Suite 300

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

(248) 723-8184

dcontorer@hfldetroit.org

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Sunday Morning

September 25

For the

GREAT BAGEL DEBATE

version 2.0



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

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 or

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

WELCOME

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, October 27, 2016

YAD

(Young Adult Division)

An evening of wine
and painting at

BRUSH

2213 Wealthy St. SE
East Grand Rapids



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 or phone 616-774-8644.



This group is on Hiatus until September. Enjoy Your Summer

Jewish Community Business Forum

Thursday 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.

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.

PJ Library is here!

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

A GIFT for JEWISH CHILDREN and their families.



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

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

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

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



www.PJLIBRARY.org

A PROGRAM OF THE HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION



Hadassah Book Club

Our book group met on June 10th at Sheila Frank's home. Thank you Sheila for your warmth and welcoming ways. The book reviewed was "The Little Paris Book Shop"

Our Next Meeting is:

When: Wednesday August 10, 2016

Where: Flory Silverstein's Home
2930 Bonnell SE

Phone: 949-5766 or 540-0460

Time: 7:00pm Potluck Supper begins at 5pm
Please call Flory to RSVP and let her know what dish you are bringing to pass. Thank you.

Book to read: "EUPHORIA" by LILLY KING

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 Cultural Council Presented
Klezmephonic



On a beautiful Michigan summer morning in June, Klezmephonic provided the sounds and soul of Klezmer music. Yiddish and Jewish melodies, Vaudeville tunes, Eastern European folk music, and swing and blues were brought to life through Klezmephonic's music. Cultural Council had a good turnout for this Father's Day concert held June 19th at Temple Emanuel. This was the final program for the 2015-2016 Cultural Council season. Watch the Shofar for the exciting line up for the 2016-2017 season.



United Jewish School



Beit Sefer B'yahad/United Jewish School
Pam Rush, School Director 616-459-5976

pam@templemanuelgr.org

... to give the children of Congregation Ahavas Israel and Temple Emanuel the best possible Jewish education we can envision."



United Jewish School established 2006

UJS was established in 2006 as a combined school between Temple Emanuel and Congregation Ahavas Israel. Enrollment is at 138 students ranging from Gan Katan (2-4 year olds) to 11th/12th grade. We have a staff of 29 teachers and 6 high school madrichim (aides). On Sunday, school is located at Temple Emanuel while the Wednesday midweek Hebrew program is housed at Congregation Ahavas Israel. There is an additional location for our midweek Hebrew program in Holland, MI. The supplemental Hebrew program has an enrollment of 53 students.

Check out the United Jewish School Facebook page. It is a closed group. Teachers post pictures and comments pertaining to their classes every week. What a great way to bring the school into your home.

Board of Directors

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

Ex-officio

Pam Rush; School Director,
Barb Duchemin; Curriculum Director,
Rabbi David Krishef, Rabbi Michael Schadick

What's Happening Jewish Grand Rapids

July 2016 Calendar of Events

4	Independence Day JFGR offices are closed
7	Caffeine for the Soul! 9:30am (details page 10)
10	Your Opinion Matters & Brunch At Temple Emanuel 10am (details page 10)
14	Caffeine for the Soul! 9:30am (details page 10)
15	Pre-Shabbat Happy Hour at Ahavas Israel. Kabbalat Shabbat service at 7:45pm
21	Caffeine for the Soul! 9:30am (details page 10)
21	Jewish Community Business Forum luncheon at El Barrio (details page 8)
21	Senior's Lunch Bunch at PF Chang's 11:30am - Please RSVP (details page 4)
26	Advanced Care Planning Initiative 7:00pm at Ahavas Israel, in the chapel. (details page 2)
28	Caffeine for the Soul! 9:30am (details page 10)

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

*Congregation Ahavas Israel***Pre-Shabbat Happy Hour/Kabbalat Shabbat**

Please join Ahavas Israel for a Pre-Shabbat Family Happy Hour on July 15 for hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and soft drinks, followed by Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:45pm.

Also, check out our new **Torah Study Shabbat** services on the 2nd Shabbat of the month (July 9, August 13): Torah study, 9:30am-10:30am (with bagels and coffee).

Service, 10:30am-11:50am.

(followed by Kiddush)

Temple Emanuel

The next Your Opinion Matters & Brunch will be Sunday July 10 at 10:00am. The topic for this month: Is the problem with minority opinion when they derail the majority or when they don't get a respectful consideration? All are welcome to join this discussion group to debate current events, politics, culture and news items. Please RSVP to Jim Siegel at jims@siegeljewelers.com so that he knows how many eggs to scramble.

*Chabad House of West Michigan***Caffeine for the Soul!**

Join other Jewish women for learning and inspiration and delve into the Torah's timeless wisdom. This class is based on the weekly Torah Portion, studied through the prism of Kabbalah to attain new insights into ourselves and the world around us. Enjoy a coffee, delicious pastries and great discussion! Thursday mornings at 9:30am, 2160 Romence Dr. NE.

A project of the Jewish Women's Circle. The JWC of Grand Rapids is an ever-growing

Chabad House of West Michigan cont.

group of women from the Grand Rapids area who come together to socialize, laugh, learn and discover the power of Jewish femininity in today's world.

Gan Israel Day Camp

A Jewish summer experience of a lifetime!

Dates: June 27 - July 15

Kiddy Camp

Boys & Girls Ages 3-4, 9:00am - 3:30pm

Main Division

Boys & Girls Ages 5-10, 9:00am - 3:30pm

*****New Cteen Junior addition*****

Boys & Girls Ages 11-13, 9:00am - 3:30pm.

Tuition fees cover all activities, snacks, and

trips. 3 week session: \$500

Per week: \$180. Register today on our website

- ChabadWM.com for more information or

contact Rivka at 616-206-9654.

Gan Yiladim Preschool – Kindergarten

For Jewish children ages 2-6. Registration is now open for the fall of 2016!! Gan Yiladim is a Jewish preschool where we offer a stimulating and warm environment. Our children learn the "specialness" of being Jewish. Through stories and discussions, the precious legacy of their uniqueness as Jews is transmitted. Gan Yiladim School takes the best of both worlds – secular and Judaic - and blends them into a program that is at once rich, fulfilling, and stimulating. For more information about our program, please feel free to contact Sarah at 616-375-9404.

Save the Date:

Pre-Rosh Hashanah events at Chabad

Sunday, September 18, 2016

7:30pm- 9:30pm

Shofar Factory

Sunday, September 25, 2016

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*

Woman of Valor Endowment Fund
In honor of the birth of Cathy Winick's
grandson
from Diane Ginsburg



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

Phone: 616.942.5553

Fax: 616.942.5780

www.jewishgrandrapids.org

Email: info@jfgr.org

Next Issue's Information Deadline:

JULY 14, 2016



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GRAND RAPIDS

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

ATTENTION!

We are getting close to finishing the updated
Jewish Community Roster!

If you have any changes in name, address or phone numbers,
PLEASE call or email the Federation office to update your
information by July 29th.

616-942-5553 or ann@jfgr.org

We are going to print in August!

