

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

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Confront hate

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tastes — pages 8-10

Volume 55, Issue 17



Social artist Adam W. McKinney dressed as 1921 Fort Worth, Texas, lynching victim Fred Rouse at sites associated with the lynching. "Because I could not locate any photographs of Mr. Rouse, I took it upon myself to 'fill in the blanks' and use my body as the canvas on which I would remember him," McKinney says. The tintypes for the exhibit were made by Navajo photographer Will Wilson.

Multimedia exhibit speaks to hearts, minds

BY DEBORAH MOON

OJMCHE's new exhibit *Shelter in Place* is a response to the two realities sweeping our nation — COVID-19 and protests against police brutality. Opening Oct. 1, the multimedia exhibit expands the museum's contribution to the racial injustice conversation and does so with outdoor viewing.

Social artist and activist Adam W. McKinney's *Shelter in Place* is installed in the windows and first floor gallery of Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, but it is completely viewable days and evenings from the sidewalks

outside the museum.

Though the exhibit explores themes similar to the United in Spirit project the museum co-sponsors, it is not part of that series of programs that explore the connections between the Black and Jewish communities.

"Rather it (the exhibit) is part of a national project — [Dwelling in a Time of Plagues](#) — which was conceived to offer artists an opportunity to make new artworks for Sukkot and forge new connections between artists and museums," says OJMCHE Director Judy Margles. "Artist Adam McKinney's installation investigates

See **SHELTER**, page 3

Justice Ginsburg was one of the righteous

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Social media and the internet have been buzzing about the fact that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died on Sept. 18, 2020, just before Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah. As many of you may have already read, based on the timing, Jewish tradition teaches that this confirms Ginsburg was righteous, a *tzadeket*.

But what is the origin of this teaching? According to the Babylonian Talmud, humanity is sorted into three categories at the start of the High Holidays: the book of life, the book of death and those whose fate is yet to be determined. Related to this image, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, commented, "One of the themes of Rosh Hashanah suggests that very righteous people would die at the very end of the year because they were needed until the very end."

In another Talmudic citation, we learn that if someone dies on the eve of Shabbat, it reveals that person must have been righteous.

Personally, I have always struggled with the idea of God opening up books during the High Holidays that seal our fate for the coming year. And to me, the date that someone dies does not reveal whether he or she was righteous.

Rather than using Jewish tradition to reverse engineer the righteousness of Justice Ginsburg, I would rather celebrate that, based on her legal career,



Women attending last fall's Federation IMPACT event received this sticker of *Notorious RBG* when author Irin Carmon spoke of the justice's life and impact.

she was already righteous.

Whether arguing before the Supreme Court or residing as the court's first female Jewish justice, Ginsburg fought for women's rights, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights and voting rights. More broadly, she advocated for a more just society for everyone.

Justice Ginsburg had a unique ability to teach Supreme Court justices to empathize with those who are affected by the law. Rather than arguing that women deserve equal protection under the law, she challenged the predominantly male justices to imagine how it would feel to be denied rights they took for granted for no reason other than their gender.

See **GINSBURG**, page 11

United in Spirit: so timely, so challenging

BY DEBORAH MOON

When United in Spirit launched early this year, the Jewish and Black organizers could not have known how essential and relevant the programming would be – nor how difficult it would be to present.

COVID forced the postponement or the move to a virtual landscape of the programs just as social justice issues and protests against police brutality against Black people ignited the desire to rediscover the civil rights collaboration between the Black and Jewish communities.

In mid-September, about 570 members of both communities explored their “Shared Legacies.” Participants could screen the documentary “Shared Legacies: The African American-Jewish Civil Rights Alliance” at their leisure Sept. 13-15 and then join a Sept. 16 panel discussion featuring the film’s producer Dr. Shari Rogers and the Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley, a veteran of the Civil Rights movement who appeared in the film, and Portlanders Rabbi Michael Cahana and NAACP President E.D. Mondaine. The discussion was moderated by Judy Margles and Bob Horenstein.

“These are exciting times,” said Dr. Rogers. “The world cares about this (racial injustice) right now, and we have the opportunity to use this for good.”

Rabbi Cahana agreed. “White supremacy is dying. It is going to be loud in its dying.

UNITED IN SPIRIT

Reinvigorating the Historically Positive Relationship Between the African-American and Jewish Communities

Sponsored by: The Jewish Community Relations Council of JFGP, Portland Chapter of the NAACP, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, and Dialogues Unlimited
jewishportland.org/united-in-spirit

... Hatred cannot stand up to friendship.”

The partnership chronicled in the film was based on the shared legacy of oppression that Blacks experienced through slavery, segregation and racism and Jews experienced from the expulsion from Israel 2,000 years ago culminating in the Holocaust.

Rabbi Cahana said that with the Holocaust only a couple decades earlier, that shared history of oppression served as a strong basis for the partnership in the Civil Rights era. Yet as Jews as a group (the Rabbi emphasized not all Jews are white) were accepted into white society, that foundation eroded.

He said the basis of Jewish support of the Black community must now be “based on compassion, understanding, on seeing the world through another person’s eyes. It

comes through personal encounters.”

Bob Horenstein added that the “basis for our community’s continuing this important work” rests in the Jewish teaching “Justice, Justice you shall pursue.”

Pastor Mondaine said his community is a powerful, resilient people. “However, we need the wind beneath our wings. We can’t just do this by ourselves. We need the help of those with access and prestige.”

Just 10 days before the far-right Proud Boys were scheduled to hold yet another rally in Portland, Pastor Mondaine recalled a previous visit by the group. He said Portland Rabbi Debra Kolodny invited the NAACP to join her congregation for a Shabbat picnic next to the protests.

“We talked about unity, and they talked about division,” said the pastor. “We have to be unapologetic and extremely deliberate in how we stand together.”

Rabbi Cahana noted, “People try to divide us, but you can’t divide brothers, you can’t divide sisters.”

United in Spirit was scheduled to conclude in October with a joint mission to Civil Rights sites in the American South. The pandemic forced its postponement until next October. After the Shared Legacies program, interest in participation has surged. So perhaps next fall’s Civil Rights mission will be not just a figurative, but also a literal return to the unity the two communities enjoyed half a century ago.

Explore history of hate, then pursue justice

BY DEBORAH MOON

“Through our own bitter experiences of anti-Semitic hatred, we in the Jewish community have learned the inestimable importance of solidarity with others who are willing to make common cause in the fight against hate and prejudice in all its forms,” reads the concept statement on confronting hate from the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

The programs created under this concept include a series of webinars followed by a summit to address the history of hate in Oregon and the future quest for racial justice.

“In this time of national and local reckoning with our country and state’s grim legacy of discrimination and systemic racism, the Jewish Community
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UNCOVERING THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF DISCRIMINATION IN OREGON

Uncovering Oregon’s Hidden History of Anti-Black Racism: 7 pm, Oct. 6. Featuring Walidah Imarisha, educator, writer, public scholar and spoken word artist.

jewishportland.org/uncovering-oregons-hidden-history-of-anti-black-racism-walidah-imarisha

Uncovering Oregon’s Hidden History of Anti-Native American Discrimination: 5:30 pm, Oct. 12. Presented by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde NAYA Family Center, the program will focus on Healing and Reconciliation: A Celebration of Culture.

jewishportland.org/uncovering-oregons-hidden-history-of-anti-native-american-discrimination

Relations Council is partnering with organizations in other minority communities to create a series of programs to confront hate,” says Bob Horenstein, JFGP director of community relations and public affairs.

“We are starting with webi-

nars that focus on a shameful history of discrimination in Oregon that has been largely whitewashed in our high school history courses. It’s important to learn this history so that we understand how we arrived at the situation today.”

“Uncovering the Hidden History of Anti-Black Racism in Oregon” on Oct. 6 is the first in a series of webinars on the history of discrimination in Oregon. “The speaker, Walidah Imarisha, is a phenomenal activist and author and public speaker who will be taking us through the really shameful history of anti-Black racism in the state of Oregon,” says Bob, noting laws that excluded Blacks from settling in the territory and then state of Oregon, with the last law not repealed until 1926.

The webinar series continues with the history of anti-Native American discrimination in Oregon. Subsequent webinars will address discrimination against the Latinx, Pacific Islander, Asian and LGBTQ communities

Continued on next page

HATE (cont. from previous page)

and possibly other minority communities, as well as anti-Semitism in the state.

"It's important to learn that history so we can figure out how best to deal with those current issues of systemic racism and hatred and anti-Semitism," says Bob.

Next spring, a daylong summit on confronting hate will present strategies and resources for collective action against bigotry and hate. The Portland-based human rights organization

Western States Center has agreed to cosponsor the webinars and the summit; WSC's Executive Director Eric Ward will serve as a keynote speaker.

The JCRC's concept statement notes: "We have been reminded almost daily that our communities of color, immigrants and LGBTQ persons, as well as many of our neighbors of various religious faiths, are frequent targets of vicious hatred. Nevertheless, we have also seen seeds of hope. We have witnessed an upsurge of people ready to stand in solidarity with those who are targets of discrimination and hate – people who are eager to listen, to learn and to take action to make Portland a place that truly protects the lives, well-being and dignity of all who live here.

The summit will be a collaborative effort by all the organizations that presented the webinars on the history of hate; however, the summit will focus on the present and the future. Keynote speakers and breakout session leaders will share their expertise, skills, resources and tools to help people translate their commitments to social justice and equity into effective social action.

PDX biz series: How to Be Anti-Racist

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center's (now virtual) business series explores How to Be Anti-Racist at noon Oct. 15.

The panel, which features a Black social activist and a white ally, will be moderated by Rabbi Benjamin Barnett of Havurah Shalom. Rabbi Barnett works to build relationships across religious and culture lines in the name of creating a less violent world.

Panelist Karen Haberman is an anti-racist who worked for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in Atlanta in 1963 and in Mississippi in 1964. She attended a Historically Black College as an exchange student and then graduated magnum cum laude from Harvard with a bachelor's in social relations.

Panelist Barbara O'Hare is a Black social activist who has worked to undo racism for the last 25 years. She is the founder of Dialogues Unlimited, which is a cosponsor of United in Spirit. She earned her bachelor's degree from Portland State University and has facilitated dialogues with law firms, police officers, faith communities, school boards and community groups.

The program is free, but a suggested donation of \$18 supports this and future programs. For more information on the series and registration for the October Zoom/Facebook Live event, visit oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/pdxbiz.



Walidah Imarisha

SHELTER (cont. from page 1)

the effects of anti-Black racial violence, posing questions about who gets to feel secure and safe, while also speaking to Jewish tradition."

The Tucson Jewish Museum and Holocaust Museum LA also have created exhibits for Dwelling in Time of Plagues, and New York's 14th Street Y is showing highlights from the national project through the windows of its lobby gallery.

Opening on the eve of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, the exhibit uses film, photography and dance to explore the social tenets of Sukkot – departing and dwelling, expressing and atoning, striking and shaking. The exhibit features contemporary tintypes of McKinney as lynching victim Fred Rouse; a *mélange* of hanging tree branches to reference the deconstruction of a sukkah; and two projected dance films – one of McKinney performing the story of Mr. Rouse in sites of trauma, and the other a hologram about the intersections of racism and anti-Semitism in the time of COVID-19.

The exhibition will be worth seeing in the daylight and in the evening as the videos and hologram will look different depending on the light.

"We are most grateful to the support of the Council of American Jewish Museums, Asylum Arts and CANVAS for creating this unique opportunity to turn the museum 'inside out' with this exhibition that is relevant both in content and accessibility," says Judy.

This exhibit expands on the museum's summer window exhibits, which included a tribute to the late Sen. John Lewis, Discrimination and Resistance, Land Acknowledgement, and sculptures by Mel Katz.

"I'd like to think that with our activation of the windows for exhibitions and chalking the vote on the sidewalk, we have been able to stay true to our mission and make significant contributions to conversations about racial justice and about nurturing our souls through beautiful and meaningful art work," says Judy. "I've heard from a number of people who tell me that they visited the museum and loved the exhibitions. I always do a double take, since the museum itself is closed.

SHELTER IN PLACE

Oct. 1, 2020-Jan. 31, 2021

Outdoor Opening: Oct. 1, 4-6 pm, brief remarks at 5 pm, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, 724 NW Davis St.

Installation is viewable from the exterior of OJMCHE both days and evenings.

ojmche.org

I have to remember that people are making the trip to the museum to walk around the perimeter."

Asylum Arts recommended McKinney as "the perfect match" for OJMCHE in the national project. After meeting the artist on Zoom, the OJMCHE exhibition committee was enthusiastic with his proposal, says Judy.

McKinney's parents, one of African and Native American heritages and one of Eastern European Jewish heritage, were married in July 1964 – three years before the Supreme Court struck down state laws banning interracial marriage. McKinney says, "I was raised in an environment where being of mixed heritages was not an anomaly, nor a contradiction. ... Rather than a severed, percentaged representation of any one of my heritages, I was taught that I am 100 percent of all of my heritages, or, as is said in Lakota, *Mitákuye Oyás'í* – a reflection of 'all my relatives.'"

McKinney graduated from Badger Hillel Academy in Milwaukee, Wis., and earned his bachelor of fine arts in dance performance from Butler University and a master's degree in dance studies with concentrations in race and trauma theories from New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study in New York City. He lives with his husband, Daniel Banks, in Fort Worth where he is an assistant professor of dance at Texas Christian University.

"I often think about my role as an artist to bring awareness to the impact of oppression and to the vestiges of historical trauma," says McKinney. "I am interested in what might be on the other side of the trauma – and I think it might be each other."

MJCC, OJMCHE receive cultural support grants

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center and the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education are among the 621 cultural organizations across Oregon that will receive Coronavirus Relief Fund Cultural Support grant awards totaling \$25.7 million.

A press release from the Oregon Cultural Trust notes the CRF Cultural Support funds are intended to provide financial assistance to cultural nonprofit organizations and community venues that have canceled or postponed public programming because of public health executive orders associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds were made available through a \$50 million relief package for Oregon culture approved by the Emergency Board of the Oregon Legislature in July.

"Many cultural organizations and institutions have closed their doors to help keep us all

safe during this pandemic. These grants will mean that more than 600 Oregon arts and culture organizations across our state's counties and Tribes will be able to keep up their vital creative work," said Governor Kate Brown in the release. "Everything from museums to fairgrounds to the summer events we all know and love can continue to enrich our lives – connecting us to one another and giving us the hope and inspiration we need."

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education will receive \$77,901.

"The Coronavirus Relief Fund Cultural Support Grant was designed specifically to offset losses due to the pandemic," says OJMCHE Director Judy Margles. "For OJMCHE, these funds are providing critical and essential support for staffing and operations. We are especially grateful to the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition

who had to evaluate hundreds of grant applications at record speed, knowing that the requests far outnumbered dollars available."

The average grant award is \$41,458. Just under \$90 million in requests was received from 751 organizations; 130 of those organizations were ineligible for awards based on program guidelines.

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center will receive \$21,332. The loss of program revenue and reduction of membership revenue has and continues to have huge financial implications for the MJCC. Even with significant cuts to expenses (furloughing of staff, reduction of hours, etc.), the center anticipates a significant deficit this year.

"We are extremely grateful to the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition for these relief funds," says MJCC Executive Director Steve Albert. "They offset a portion of our

lost Arts + Culture revenue in 2020 and will help to ensure that we are able to continue to provide limited Arts + Culture offerings to our community in the coming months. These programs include a wide variety of virtual classes, author talks, films, exhibitions and holiday celebrations."

Funding was determined based on eligible request amounts, an award allocation formula that established a base amount of funds per county or Tribe, and the organization's fiscal size. Smaller organizations received a higher percentage of their eligible expenses.

"These funds are lifeblood to Oregon's cultural community," said Chuck Sams, chair of the Cultural Trust Board of Directors. "While they won't replace all the losses suffered during the pandemic, they will ensure Oregon culture survives this crisis. We are deeply grateful to the Oregon Legislature for making this possible."

First community safety webinar shares tips

About 50 people interested in safety issues during a year of changing reality signed up for the free safety webinar for the greater Portland Jewish community, which was held Sept. 15.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the webinar featured panelists and handouts from the Washington County Sheriff's Office and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue for a community safety presentation. Topics included online safety for kids, cyber security basics, scams and home safety.

"This webinar was an excellent introduction to a variety of ways to stay safe in these days, including being vigilant when it comes to online and phone safety," says Rachel Nelson, JFGP Director of Educational Initiatives & Intergroup Outreach. "It also highlighted the importance of having a plan and practicing it with your kids, especially with emergency evacuations" (see handout at right).

The idea for the webinar 4 Jewish Review Sept. 30, 2020

was inspired by the first fire at Chabad House in SW Portland, apparently started by an electrical issue in a third-floor office that had been vacant for much of the pandemic. Standing outside the damaged building, JFGP's President and CEO Marc Blattner and Regional Security Director Gene Moss talked about the need to share fire safety tips for buildings that are largely vacant as people continue to work from home. Gene realized there are also issues of protecting those buildings from crime as well as safety issues families are facing while living, working and studying in our virtual world.

"I wanted to present safety in broad brushstrokes," said Gene. "The next ones (safety webinars) will focus on a specific aspect of safety for groups such as child safety and internet scams targeting the elderly."

For information on future safety webinars, contact Gene at gene@jewishportland.org.

FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING

PLAN	PRACTICE
1. Test Your Smoke Alarm Monthly! Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, in bedrooms, and outside any other sleeping areas. Test your alarms as a family so every family member is familiar with the sound.	1. Push the Test Button & Begin the Drill! Place family members in rooms with doors closed, turn on the radio or TV to simulate real living conditions. Consider testing your alarm after children have been asleep for a few hours to see if they wake up!
2. Plan Two Ways Out of Every Room Can you open windows easily? Can you reach the ground or do you need an escape ladder?	2. Use Both Ways Out of Every Room! Practice both exit plans - primary and secondary. If a ladder is needed for escaping second floors, now is the time to practice using it, not during a real emergency!
3. Smoke Kills, So Crawl Low & Go! Deadly smoke rises, so good air is usually 12 to 24 inches from the floor; therefore, it's important to stay low as you crawl out of the house.	3. Get on your Knees and Start Crawling! In a real fire, you may not be able to see well, so turn off the lights to really test your crawl low and go exit skills! Did family members crawl low and find their way out?
4. Plan to Call 9-1-1 from a Neighbor's House! Plan to call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house. Make sure your children know the neighbor and feel comfortable going to them in the case of an emergency.	4. Simulate Calling 9-1-1 from the Neighbor's! Did someone remember to go to the neighbor's house to simulate calling 9-1-1? Did they report back that they placed the call?
5. Identify an Outside Meeting Place Identify a fixed object outside your home (mailbox, tree, neighbor's driveway, etc.) as a meeting place where all family members agree to wait once they have escaped.	5. Meet at the Meeting Place Did everyone meet at the designated meeting place? If so, celebrate with a special family treat! If not, discuss what went wrong and how you can improve.

And Finally....
ONCE OUT - STAY OUT!
 Do not go back into the house for anything or anyone!

For additional safety information visit www.tvfr.com

MAKE PLANS WITH FEDERATION

October 6

7pm

Uncovering Oregon's Hidden History of
Anti-Black Racism

Part of the Confronting Hate Series

October 12

5:30pm

Uncovering Oregon's Hidden History of
Anti-Native American Discrimination

Part of the Confronting Hate Series

October 20

7pm

Secretary of State Candidate Forum

Oregon Senator Shemia Fagan and Oregon Senator Kim
Thatcher - Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations
Council

October 22

9am

Yossi Klein HaLevi

Thoughtful Thursday Presentation

www.jewishportland.org/5781



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PORTLAND

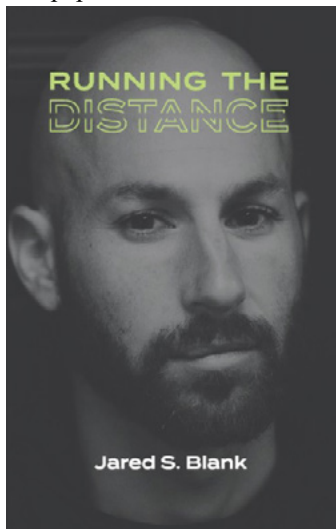


Books & Authors



Running the Distance with dyslexia

Running the Distance, Jared Blank's story about the relationship of dealing with dyslexia and successfully running the World Marathon Challenge, is due out on audiobook soon. The International Dyslexia Association (dyslexiaida.org/) published the hard copy and paperback in fall of 2019 at the IDA Conference in Portland.



Jared is the son of Lynn and Owen Blank, members of Congregation Beth Israel where Jared became a bar mitzvah. Diagnosed with dyslexia at the age of 5, Jared now supports the IDA in numerous ways. In January 2018, he ran the World Marathon Challenge (seven marathons on seven continents in seven days) to raise awareness and \$50,000 for the IDA. He will participate in this year's [Virtual Dyslexia Dash](#), which has a Running The Distance Oregon Team that people can join. And his book is a fundraiser for the association.

The Oregon Branch of the IDA has launched the Running the Distance Scholarship Fund <https://or.dyslexiaida.org/running/>.

Jared says running seven marathons in seven days and writing a book while coping with dyslexia were challenging. "The activities are very similar, I enjoy both and both require a lot of work," says Jared. "For me, writing was more of a challenge than running. Like running, I needed to find ways to dig deep in content and organization."

He says he is grateful to have the support of IDA's Denise Douce for her editing and IDA CEO Sonja Banks for believing in the project.

When Jared was a student, he broke his days into alternating blocks of study and sports. Now he breaks his days into work and workouts. "There are only so many spots to train during workdays. So it makes natural blocks. I think my school years and sports helped in managing this type of schedule."

Jared finished all seven races in the Marathon Challenge and ranked 12th overall with an average of 4 hours, 32 minutes and 16 seconds per marathon. He hopes his book enjoys similar success raising funds for the IDA.

seconds per marathon. He hopes his book enjoys similar success raising funds for the IDA.

The 114-page paperback is available for \$20 or \$18 for IDA members. Information on the audiobook will be available soon. Order at www.runningthedistancebook.com.

JCCs offer Bookfest in Your Living Room

In addition to this fall's free MJCC Author Series (see [story](#) last issue), the Mittleman Jewish Community Center is presenting Bookfest in Your Living Room.

Bookfest in Your Living Room is a nationwide virtual series developed by the JCC Literary Consortium. The JCC Consortium consists of over 100 JCCs throughout North America, including the MJCC, committed to providing premier literary events.

The series began earlier this month and continues with 30 programs through December, culminating with Michael J. Fox and his book *No Time Like the Future: An Optimist Considers Mortality*.

The diverse books include kids' books, cookbooks, novels, memoirs and nonfiction explorations of climate, crime, justice, LGBTQ, college, aging and the Mossad. Authors include Natan Sharansky, John Grisham and Dale Berra, writing about *My Dad, Yogi*.

Most Bookfest events are \$6 or \$11 for a virtual ticket or range from \$25 to \$55 for a virtual ticket and copy of the book. Check out all the authors and books at oregonjcc.org/book-fest.

Book club hosts author of *Blue Thread*

Congregation Neveh Shalom and The Feldstein Library will host (virtually) Portland author Ruth Tenzer Feldman at 4 pm, Oct. 24, for a mother-daughter discussion of *Blue Thread*.

Blue Thread is a historical fiction young adult novel that takes place in Portland during the early 1900s, a time when women were marching to get the vote. The 100-year anniversary of the 19th amendment granting women the vote is this year. The story also time travels to the eras of Moses and women's rights. This is a timely, thrilling, pro-feminist read.

Women aged 12-120 are invited to meet the author and other guests for an exciting hour. The program is open to grandmothers, granddaughters, aunts, nieces, as well as mothers and daughters. Since the book group currently is virtual, it is now open to the community and out-of-town relatives.

For more information or to register for the Zoom event, contact Laurie Fendel at jazzfens13@gmail.com or 503-244-0205. Include the names, emails and phone numbers of all interested people and whether any are members of Neveh Shalom.

Oregon Poetry Association Zoom Oct. 10

Portland Jewish poet Willa Schneberg will present a workshop on documentary poetry at this year's Oregon Poetry Association Zoom Conference. The conference will be 8:30 am-5:30 pm, Oct. 10. Ashley Toliver, winner of the Oregon Book Award for Poetry, will be the keynote speaker.

Willa, a 2002 Oregon Book Award winner for *In The Margins Of The World*, will present Introduction to Documentary Poetry during the first workshop session at 10 am. Workshop participants will explore how nonfiction poetry brings a fresh take on history and documents injustice. Participants are encouraged to talk about which current or historical events they would like to manifest in poetry. If time permits, participants will work on first drafts.

For information on the conference or to register, visit <https://oregonpoets.org/>. Conference fee is \$55 for the entire day.

Gleaning food for hungry responds to pandemic

BY KERRY POLITZER

Since 2006 Urban Gleaners founder Tracy Oseran has tirelessly fed the hungry in Portland.

"We directly provide food to families," she says. "Our focus, probably eight or nine years ago, really became kids, because it turned out that there's really a huge amount of food insecurity for families and children."

Tracy was inspired by the Biblical practice of leaving the corners of fields untouched so that the poor might harvest them. "I feel so strongly about that," she remarks. "No one in this country should ever be hungry; we have enough food to feed people three times over."

During Sukkot and with the new challenges posed by COVID-19, the issue of hunger is more pressing than ever.

Before the pandemic, Urban Gleaners collected prepared food from about 150 donors including restaurants, caterers, corporations and grocery stores.

"That basically, in a week, disappeared," says Tracy. "Everyone just shut down ... it was pretty earth-shattering." The founder has been hard at work adapting her organization's mission to fit the new normal. "For the first time in our history, we started purchasing food, which we've never done. We had partnerships with local farms, and we were trying to



Urban Gleaners founder Tracy Oseran says COVID-19 has changed the way the group gleans food for the hungry.

help these farmers who (had been) supplying restaurants. Their business went away; they grew all this food and then had no one to buy it. So, we started buying some food and making the meals ourselves."

The pandemic also forced Tracy to alter her model of food distribution. "It was, we're going to bring all this food, we're going to set it out on tables, and you guys shop and take what you want. (With COVID-19) we couldn't do that anymore. So we started making boxes with one prepared meal, which would serve four people, and then milk, cheese, fresh produce and a loaf of bread, some eggs, whatever we have. What happens is families come and

line up in their cars. Volunteers come, and they just place a box in each car."

Tracy's organization has always maintained a focus on healthy, nutritious foods. The founder waxes enthusiastic about the current offerings provided by Urban Gleaners. "CISCO (a restaurant supplier) was closed for quite some time and they're back now, so we often will get in all this deli meat, like, a whole cooked turkey breast. And we'll get roast beef and ham, and we get a lot of bread, so we make sandwiches."

While Urban Gleaners lost 80 percent of its donations at the start of the pandemic, Tracy says that things are gradually evening out. Zupan's, New Sea-

sons and Market of Choice are once again providing regular donations, so Urban Gleaners is now able to make food pickups five or six days a week.

"Before all this, we had 67 sites where we delivered food every week," says the founder. "And we now have 11. But we're providing 1,000 meals a week for people. It's not what we were doing before ... but that's still 1,000 more families who are eating."

When asked how people might help Urban Gleaners, Tracy is clear.

"Definitely, money is the best thing. But we also still do get donations of food – community gardens, a lot of people who have fruit trees, we accept all of that."

The organization also works with Congregation Beth Israel, where Tracy's family are members. "We have some volunteers from temple," she says. "The social action committee has been very supportive of us." She adds that parents of bar or bat mitzvah kids sometimes donate their leftovers.

Urban Gleaners recently posted an [informative video](#) about its mission. If you want to learn more about how you can help during this Sukkot holiday, visit urbangleaners.org.

Kerry Politzer is a writer, foodie and pianist who moved to Portland in 2011.

PJA students turn out for after-school challah session on Zoom



PJA eighth-grader Beren, above, shapes challah dough as part of a Zoom activity led by Middle School Jewish Studies teacher Benjamin Foote. At right, seventh-grader Lulu shows off her baked challah.



Portland Jewish Academy Middle School students and staff participated in an optional after-school activity on Zoom to shape challah on Sept. 11. Two seventh-grade students who participated in a summer cooking class taught by PJA Jewish Studies teacher Benjamin Foote, asked if he would teach a Friday afternoon challah making class. Preparing challah dough takes a lot of time, so they settled on challah shaping.

The teacher shared a challah recipe in advance, and everyone had their dough ready. About 20 people continued their online school day and joined the challah-shaping party. Some had never made challah before, and some make it every week. "I thought part of the fun was everyone bringing different recipes, baking tips, etc. and sharing collaboratively," says Foote. "I was hoping for that, as opposed to 'Mr. Foote teaches you challah,' and it worked."

Seniors savor taste of the holidays

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Challahman teamed up to bring the taste and texture of the High Holidays to seniors living in area retirement communities.

Challahman baked and delivered 184 loaves of round challah to residents in five senior communities the morning before Rosh Hashanah. Federation funded the gifts for 114 residents at Cedar Sinai Park, 26 at Mirabella, 22 at Courtyard Village, 15 at Touchmark in the West Hills and 7 at Pacifica/Calaroga Terrace.

The gifts were inspired by two men – Rabbi Barry Cohen and Rich Meyer – who were searching for ways to enrich the High Holidays for seniors in the community.

When Rabbi Cohen arrived in Portland in fall of 2018 to become Federation's first full-time community chaplain, he began visiting retirement communities and getting to know residents through dining and studying together.

"And then the COVID-19 pandemic struck," he says. "Since then, I have not been able to visit, and except for occasional Zoom or phone calls, we have had no contact. With the High Holidays, I wanted to reach out to residents. I am grateful to have worked with Rich Meyer, the Challahman, to connect with our seniors."

The Challahman, maker of



Round challah loaves for Rosh Hashanah were delivered the morning of Sept. 18 to nearly 200 Jewish seniors living at five Portland-area retirement communities including Cedar Sinai Park, left, and Mirabella, above.

Portland-baked kosher challah, returned to its roots with a home delivery service in early June in response to the changed reality of life during the pandemic. Congregation Shaarie Torah soon partnered with the Challahman to deliver challah each Friday to 10 random congregants.

Rich says that one week he received a sweet thank you note: "What a delightful surprise for Shabbat, two loaves of challot. At the retirement facility where I live, the few Jews among us gather informally on Friday afternoon/

evening to make Kiddush. The challah is very important to us and lovingly critiqued. We will especially enjoy challah from Challahman."

"I was touched by the note, but it made me think about the many Jewish seniors in our community who have been so affected by the pandemic, especially when it comes to participating in communal celebrations and rituals," says Rich. "I got in touch with Rabbi Cohen and the Federation and talked about ways to reach out to people who might feel isolated. He came up with the idea of providing round chal-

lot for Rosh Hashanah."

Both men say they hope the challah reminds the seniors the community cares even when visiting is impossible.

"I hope that the simple gesture of a Rosh Hashanah challah will let them know the Jewish community still cares for their health, safety and welfare," says the rabbi.

Rich agrees. "It's a small way to connect, but I hope it helps people feel that the community is thinking about and caring for them, and that we look forward to the time when we can all celebrate together."



Shofar Across Oregon & SW Washington

At 4 pm on Sept. 20, the second day of Rosh Hashanah, people across Oregon and SW Washington filled the air with the sound of the shofar. From left, Steve Glickman, Rabbi Michael Cahana and Herb Semler participated in the event sponsored by the Oregon Board of Rabbis and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.



Mitzvah Morning aids hungry and houseless

The morning of Erev Yom Kippur, 78 households responded to the call to aid those facing food and housing insecurity, both of which have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Households donated meal kits, hundreds of hotel-sized toiletries and new underwear.

"I want to extend gratitude for your Mitzvah Morning" said Diane Rheos, Executive Director of Portland Backpack, which received the food donations. "You contributed 745 food sacks to kids who need help having enough on the weekends. Knowing that 300 people or more were all involved in touching each of those food sacks gives me such joy. All those kids, parents, working together."

Mitzvah Morning was hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Portland Jewish Academy and Eastside Jewish Commons.

"People have missed their opportunity over the last six-plus months to volunteer in

person and connect with others. COVID-19 is still very much an issue, but we've learned creative ways for people to be alone but together in support of others," says Caron Blau Rothstein, who coordinated the event with Elana Cohn-Rozansky. Caron serves as Director of Community Planning and Allocations for JFGP, and Elana is the Service Learning Coordinator for PJA.

Participants assembled and collected items in their homes and then dropped off their donations at one of two drive-through, socially distanced sites. Participants dropped off their donations the morning of Sept. 27 for [Portland Backpack](#) and [Transition Projects](#), which received the two trunkloads of unused, travel-sized toiletries and new adult underwear for those experiencing houselessness.

"It was a fabulous program and the best way to go into Yom Kippur," says Caron.

"There is nothing better than working side by side to make



Mitzvah Morning volunteers donned masks and unloaded cars when participants pulled up with donations at two drop sites, one on the eastside, above, and at the Schnitzer Family Campus (MJCC/PJA) on the westside, left.

a difference," adds Diane. "We have a wonderful community and each of you help us make it so. These are days when re-

membering how much we can care for each other is vital for our health. Thank you for the reminder."



Famed chef shares holiday recipes

Three-time James Beard Award-winning chef Michael Solomonov cooked, joked and entertained thousands who Zoomed into the Rosh Hashanah cooking program cosponsored by 32 Federations nationally.

Michael is "a true mensch and outstanding chef," said Marc Blattner, CEO and President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, which orchestrated the free event.

Michael cooked two dishes – honey cake and tabbouleh – adapted from his *Zahav* cookbook and one that he developed for the evening.

"The chicken was made specially for to-

night," said Michael as he demonstrated how to spatchcock the chicken so it would lay flat. He delightfully quipped it was a wonderful opportunity to say spatchcock (which is also known as butterflying).

He added the onion and honey-glazed chicken recipe was very flexible. He urged people to lay the spatchcocked chicken over whatever root vegetables they had on hand and to season the bird (he recommended kosher chicken even for non-kosher households) with spices they enjoyed.

Given the success, JFGP is organizing virtual Hanukkah and Passover cooking



Chef Michael Solomonov led 5,000 viewers through preparation of a Rosh Hashanah meal with food journalist Gabriella Gershenson moderating questions from viewers.

programs for Federations nationwide that again feature the Philadelphia-based chef. Registration information will be available before the Dec. 2 and March 16 programs.

Three families reflect on very different Sukkot

BY GLORIA HAMMER

"Health, safety and common sense are paramount Jewish and rabbinic principles that always carry the day. As long as there is no immediate risk and the authorities say the air quality is sufficient, we will be in the sukkah!"

These are the words of Keith Berne. His thoughts coincide with the two other families profiled here that shed light on why Sukkot 2020 will be different from all others.



Berne Family

Keith Berne is a Re/Max Realty Broker.

Rosalie Berne is a senior director for Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Children: Areille, 27, and Avi, 25, who lives in Israel.

The Berne family has been building a sukkah since 1992 when they bought their first house in Cedar Hills.

Keith is quick to say that Sukkot is a Torah-commanded festival. It is commanded to be joyous. "From the day our first child was born, we wanted her to think Judaism was fun, and Sukkot was the perfect holiday," he says. Keith's father Frank helped until his passing in 2018 at 94 years old.

When the Bernes moved back to Portland in 1989 after three years in Israel, they wanted to share Sukkot. Keith and Rosalie befriended many young Jews who had just moved here with new families. "In past years, we have had up to 25 people crammed into our 16- by 8-foot sukkah. That won't happen this year! One of the many themes of the holiday is the fragility, uncertainty and insecurity of life, like the sukkah itself – this year, more than ever, in my lifetime," Keith says.

The building and prep work will not be affected. The Torah commandment to have fun and to bring joy and light into the world is needed more than ever. But the Bernes won't be jamming in 25 people; they will follow distance guidelines and let folks serve themselves. They will invite family and friends from around the world to join in on Zoom.

Keith regrets that he didn't have everyone who ate a meal in his Sukkah over the decades sign the two by fours that hold it up. He says, "Sukkot is so meaningful, you feel connected to Jews around the world."



Kornblit Family

Eric Kornblit is a Global Supply Chain Manager for Intel and board president of Congregation Kesser Israel.

Robin Kornblit is a benefit advisor for the State of Oregon at PERS.

Children: Daniel, 16, Wilson High School; Hannah, 13, Portland Jewish Academy.

"The holiday brings us close to the outdoors and the spiritual wilderness that Jews experienced in the desert thousands of years ago," says Eric. "Sukkot brings us closer to our roots as nomadic tribes of herders where Hashem was ever present to us."

They have built a Sukkah every year since they were married in 2002, first in Israel and now in Portland. Hannah often decorates the sukkah with drawings, and Daniel helps build the sukkah. Robin helps where needed and cooks the meals they eat in the sukkah.

"It is so special because of our ability to connect outside and see the stars at night," says Hannah. "It is so beautiful."

Eric does not believe online gatherings are a replacement for face-to-face interactions to create close connections among family and community members.

"For the first time since World War II, Jews are not able to gather and celebrate their traditions as we have in the past," says Eric. He believes the challenge is to maintain our traditions and come out stronger once COVID-19 has run its course.

"For traditional Jews, our religious lives cannot be even close to normal without the physical ability to celebrate our traditions," says Eric. "Online does not work."

They will be limiting Sukkot to immediate family and maybe one or two guests with social distancing. Their family in Texas and Maryland, whom they haven't seen in almost a year, won't be able to travel to

join them during this year's pandemic.

Eric calls their Sukkah modest – it's not large or extravagant – but he thinks the posters that the kids sometimes hang of musicians and athletes set it apart.

He says his family is easygoing and tries not to overreact to crises such as COVID and wildfires. "We need to be safe and take precautions. Challenges are opportunities to grow ... in life not everything goes your way."



Kaufman Family

Jason Kaufman is a vice president with US Bank.

Allison Kaufman is the Operations Director at B'nai B'rith Camp.

Daughters: Eliana, Sarina and Adena.

The Kaufman family has built a sukkah for 17 years. They take the commandment to dwell outside during Sukkot to heart. The weather doesn't always cooperate, but when it isn't raining, the family thinks it is fun to be in the sukkah and connect to the outside.

They live in Wilsonville with few Jewish neighbors, so it is also their way of outwardly showing their Judaism. Five years ago when they put up their sukkah after moving into a new home, they got a notice from the HOA that the building structure was not approved. They wrote the HOA that they were building it for religious purposes, and now they make sure to notify the HOA every year before building their sukkah.

Their sukkah is 8 by 12 feet – not a lot of room to spread out. In addition, the sukkah connects to their back door, which requires having people come through the house.

They will decide close to the holiday if they can have friends over. Being outside will help, but if the pandemic spread is greater in October, they will limit guests and invite people to join them virtually.

"G-d willing, we will be able to have guests," says Jason.

It will be a far cry from last year when they hosted 20 people in their sukkah as part of Congregation Neveh Shalom's Sukkah Hop.

Empathy is very difficult to teach. You must push people out of their comfort zone and then show them how to return. Ginsburg was a master of this technique.

But one of the ways Ginsburg created justice was through challenging the norms that relegated women to caregiving and men to conventionally working. She set the stage for both women and men to have more ways to pursue their passions in the economic arena. Part of her legacy concerns "the ability to perform your gender as you wish, whether that is women working outside the home, ... men staying home and caring for children, men loving other men, women loving other women," said Kathryn Stanchi, E.L.

Cord Professor of Law at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Justice Ginsburg used the teaching, "justice, justice shall you pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20). "Justice" is repeated because we have a sacred obligation not only to pursue justice tribally, but also universally. For the sake of all Americans, she pursued justice in the arenas of power, economics, health care and professional careers.

Through leveraging her passions, energy, intellect and emotions, she changed our country – and for the better. Now the responsibility is ours to protect her legal legacy and to continue her pursuit of justice.



Rabbi Barry Cohen is Jewish Community Chaplain of the Greater Portland Area.

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Teen Corner

A Call to Action through Middot

BY MAZZI KATZEN

Currently, the world is facing a lot. There are many battles being fought such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the battle against racism through the Black Lives Matter movement.

As a young Jewish woman who attended the Portland Jewish Academy her whole life, I grew up learning about middot (Jewish values). We always learned about them in the context of the times in which they were written. Now I am seeing how these values can and should be applied in current times and within my own life. They can help guide us through life's most complicated moments.

To help me dive deeper into these ideas, values and how they relate to the present moment, I reached out to Rabbi Ariel Stone of Congregation Shir Tikvah in Portland. Rabbi Stone is a social activist and strong female leader. During a long discussion, she enlightened me about some Jewish principles that can make a huge impact in the world right now.

The first value that we discussed was pikuach nefesh. This value is really an obligation for all Jews. It states that saving a life is the most important thing. Even if you break another mitzvah (law) to do so, saving a life comes before anything else. Currently, so many lives are at higher risk, and it is our job to learn how to make compromises to help others. Something as simple as wearing a mask could be considered a mitzvah, as you are making a simple yet helpful compromise that could save others.

We need to remember that our life does not come before anyone else's. We are all part of this kehilla (community). Genesis 1:26-28 states that all human beings are made in the image of God, meaning that everyone is created equal. God did not make anyone or any group of humans superior. We are all equally holy in God's image. When

people say "Black Lives Matter," this is at the heart of that notion. We must always remember that there are no superior beings, and it is our job to fight against any injustice that says otherwise.

The rabbi and I also discussed tikkun olam, the value of repairing the world. This is a key value in Judaism and may seem intimidating. Where do we begin to repair the world with all the hardship and misfortune that it is faced with? Tikkun olam is closely identified with social action. In my own experience, I have used philanthropy and tzedakah as a way of working toward tikkun olam. Through my participation in the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, I have seen philanthropy make big impacts on my community and the word around me, and it is a great tool that truly can help to repair the world.

Jewish principles teach us that pursuing justice, giving tzedakah and following other mitzvot can lead to piecing the world back together.

How does this relate to current times? Now more than ever the world is in need of repair. It is our duty to follow mitzvot and middot the best we can. We need to help vulnerable populations and stand up against injustices we see in the world. As we reflect on how to navigate through these difficult times, it is essential to embrace our Jewish values, to use those values as a compass and to allow them to guide us toward making the world a better place.



Mazzi Katzen is a junior at Lakeridge High School. She is a member of the OJCYF Leadership Council and served as a 2019-2020 Jewish Teen Funders Network Ambassador.

Rabbi's Corner

Measure 110 a humane, effective approach to drug addiction

BY RABBI DEBRA KOLODNY

Pirke Avot Chapter 2:16 teaches us that (Rabbi Tarfon) used to say... It is not up to you to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from it." As a rabbi, I often ask myself how every challenge in our society can be addressed and what is my role in ensuring forward momentum on that issue.

That inquiry leads me to support Measure 110, a ballot measure we'll be voting on in November.

Measure 110 would shift Oregon to a health-based approach to drugs and addiction. Instead of arresting and punishing people for drug possession, we'd expand access to drug addiction treatment and recovery services, paying for it with existing taxes on marijuana.

Oregon really needs this right now. Our state ranks nearly last in access to drug addiction treatment, and nearly two people die of overdoses every day.

Instead of expanding treatment and recovery services, we continue to punish people for being addicted to drugs, arresting more than 8,900 people a year in cases where simple drug possession is the most serious offense. That's the equivalent of one arrest every hour.

Nothing is gained by shaming, blaming and punishing people because they are addicted to drugs. Shame leads people to despair and disconnection, which makes recovery even harder. While Oregonians use drugs at the same rate regardless of race, Black, Indigenous, Latinx and LGBTQ communities are disproportionately harmed by current drug policies. Over-policing marginalized communities

is cruel, expensive and ineffective. It's time for us to stop.

Our current system creates tremendous harm and unnecessary suffering. Measure 110 takes our state's current ineffective and cruel approach to drugs and replaces it with evidence-based solutions. It connects people who are deeply suffering with the care they need to get well. It will save lives.

If our goal is to reduce overdoses and addiction, we should have a response that's rooted in compassion and in what the science says works. Addiction is a health issue, not an ethical lapse or character weakness for which we should punish and stigmatize people. Addiction deserves a compassionate, health-based response.

Measure 110 would specifically invest in expanding access to treatment services that are culturally responsive, trauma-informed and patient-centered. It would expand access to peer support and recovery services to assist people in remaining clean and sober. Housing, both stabilized and transitional, for persons with substance use disorder would also be funded through the measure. This is essential, because it's nearly impossible for someone to recover if they don't have a safe place to lay their head at night.

Overdose prevention and harm reduction are also funded. As is evident, this measure addresses addiction holistically to help people recover and heal. Measure 110 will also have a transformative effect on communities. Just as addiction creates heartbreak far beyond a person's firsthand suffering, the gifts of recovery extend far beyond that individual. By helping the individual recover,



Rabbi Debra Kolodny serves as the spiritual leader of Portland's UnShul and as executive director of [Portland United Against Hate](#), a coalition of more than 80 community organizations, neighborhood groups, agencies and local governments working together to support those targeted by hate.

Measure 110 can heal relationships, families and entire communities.

In Judaism, there is a concept of "ma'asim tovim" or good works. We are expected to perform good works without seeking reward or recognition. In fact, in general, Judaism has a huge emphasis on deeds, taking real action in the world, not on positive thoughts or wishful thinking. Voting yes on Measure 110 is a good deed in and of itself, something we can do to extend kindness, empathy and care.

Science tells me that the evidence-based approach offered through Measure 110 will be effective in helping many. My heart tells me that working to pass Measure 110 is a great opportunity to put my faith into action, to perform a good deed with enormous implications for the highest good for all. I urge you to join me in voting yes on Measure 110.

Monthly Mitzvah: Mikvah

To celebrate 36 (double chai) years in Oregon, Chabad of Oregon is promoting a different mitzvah for each month of this year. The celebration is based on the Mitzvah Campaign created by Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, z"l, in 1967.

In October the focus is on the mikvah.

There is nothing more holy in this world, nothing more precious to its Creator, than the union of a man and a woman. It is, after all, the fountain of life.

Precious things are kept in sealed boxes. Some treasures in your wardrobe are so beautiful, of such value, that they come

out only at special times, under specific conditions. The union of a man and a woman is especially precious.

This helps explain why Judaism prescribes a cycle of union and separation between husband and wife. And why the most important institution of Jewish life, next to the home, is the mikvah that stands at the vortex of that cycle. Because precious things only stay beautiful when you follow the manufacturer's instructions.

To learn more or for a private tour of Mikvah Shoshanah, the Portland Women's Mikvah, contact Simi Mishulovin at 503-309-4185.



Mikvah Shoshanah, Portland Women's Mikvah

Jewish community weighs in on Oregon's ethnic studies standards

BY MICHELLE BOMBET MINCH

A Sept. 15 Zoom meeting gave members of the Jewish Community Relations Council and Jewish educators the opportunity to comment on the most recent draft of Oregon Ethnic Studies standards and concepts.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's JCRC hosted the Zoom meeting with Amit Kobrowski, Social Science Specialist of the Oregon Department of Education, who is meeting with schools and organizations interested in providing public comment.

To give some background, in June 2017 Oregon's Governor Kate Brown signed into law [House Bill 2845](#) making Oregon the first state to require schools to adopt ethnic studies curriculum in social sciences for public kindergarten through grade 12. Due to COVID-19, the state board has extended the original adoption date by one year to no later than September 2021.

The bill directed the Oregon Department of Education to create an advisory group to draft statewide ethnic studies standards for public kindergarten through grade 12 and requires the State Board of Education to ensure that academic content standards for history, geography, economics and civics include sufficient instruction on the histories, contributions and perspectives of individuals who are Native American; are of African, Asian, Pacific Island, Chicano, Latino, or Middle Eastern descent; are women; have disabilities; are immigrants or refugees; or are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The bill was sparked by a grassroots movement "led by students advocating to see themselves, their story, their identity in the school curriculum," according to the ODE.

[House Bill 2023](#) of June 2019 amended HB2045 and directed district school boards, the State Board of Education and committees or officers to adopt textbooks and other instructional materials on American history and government that adequately stress the services rendered by underrepresented minorities. The bill also directs the ODE to provide professional development to teachers and administrators related to academic content standards adopted pursuant to HB2045.

The JCRC has a heightened sense of alert following a series of unfortunate events with the California State Board of Education and their Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum. The 2019 draft included derogatory and divisive content toward Jews and Israelis as well as references to the Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment movement. Most recently, there was a surprise draft

that completely excluded the Jewish American experience.

The original draft of the Oregon bill similarly did not include creating standards for Middle Eastern Studies and Jewish Studies. But the JCRC submitted language to amend the bill and to ensure Jewish representation on the ODE advisory committee.

At the meeting with Mr. Kobrowski, JFGP articulated the following three priorities that any new standards should include:

- Consideration of Jews as a historically marginalized community in the United States.
- The positive contributions of the American Jewish people to medicine, commerce, society, etc. throughout the history of our country.
- The inclusion of anti-Semitism under any lessons that focus on bigotry and discrimination against minority communities.

ODE's email response following the Zoom call brought to the forefront significant concerns.

Taking the third priority as an example, a teacher has the flexibility to create lesson plans that do not include anti-Semitism yet include bigotry and discrimination against other minority groups. Oregon uses a standards-based education, so curriculum is not included for ethnic studies or for any social science class.

Why should we care about ethnic studies in our public schools? Hatred toward the Jewish people is at an all-time high. The "2019 ADL Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents found that the total number of anti-Semitic incidents in 2019 increased 12 percent over the previous year, with a disturbing 56 percent increase in assaults," according to a press release from the ADL. "The audit found there were, on average, as many as six anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. for each day in the calendar year – the highest level of anti-Semitic activity ever recorded by ADL."

Can we really expect incidents of hate to decrease when standards, curricula and lesson plans leave out the narrative of the Jewish people as a marginalized community?

We look forward to continuing our conversations with ODE to get further clarification on the responses to the three priorities we set forth.

Michelle Bombet Minch is chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council and Israel Advocacy Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. A native of Baton Rouge, La., she relocated to Oregon in 1992 with the software/hardware industry and currently provides marketing/public relations/web development services on a consulting basis.

Upcoming issues

Issue date	Deadline
Oct. 14	Oct. 7
Oct. 28	Oct. 22
Nov. 11	Nov. 5
Nov. 25	Nov. 19
Dec. 9	Dec. 3
Dec. 23	Dec. 17

Submit news, photos and obituaries by the issue deadline to:

editor@jewishportland.org

To request a larger story, please email the editor a week before the deadline.

Rabbi's corner

The Jewish Review offers space for our community's rabbis to share their thoughts on the week's parsha or current events. The Oregon Board of Rabbis coordinates the Rabbi's Corner. To schedule a date to submit a 500-word piece, email OBR President Rabbi Eve Posen, eposen@nevehshalom.org.

Kesser Israel to celebrate Jodi Fried's five years of service

Congregation Kesser Israel will honor Jodi Fried on a Zoom program "Celebrating Five Years of Community Excellence" at 7 pm, Oct. 6.

In conjunction with its High Holiday Appeal, the congregation is honoring Jodi for her five years of outstanding service to the congregation. Jodi grew up as a member of Kesser Israel, and from 2015-2020 served as Kesser's membership and program director.

Kesser Israel Rabbi Ken Brodtkin says Jodi "is an exceptional Jewish professional who has had an outsized impact on Jewish life in Portland. In her quiet, modest manner, she has engaged and empowered many volunteers."

Jodi says she is proud of her five years at Kesser. "There is so much to be proud of, from Scholars in Residence Shabbatons, to the way our small team ran a multi-fac-

eted High Holiday program each year, to burning the mortgage this past December," she says. "What I am most proud of are the relationships I built within the Kesser community, the broader Portland Jewish community and beyond, and the way I fostered community connection amongst others."

Rabbi Brodtkin says Jodi successfully created an environment where people of all backgrounds and affiliations can connect and feel valued. "She effuses belief in each person that she works with or touches," he adds.

To join the Oct. 6 Zoom meeting celebrating Jodi, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81299798292>.

For more information on the program, email info@kesserisrael.org.

This year, Jodi decided to focus on "being more present for my family as a stay-at-home-mom."

She works as an empowerment coach helping moms with confidence and to build travel and adventure back into their lives and she continues to host her To (Mom) Life

podcast, a podcast for moms juggling it all (loveadventuremom.buzzsprout.com).

Visit her website loveadventuremom.com or join her Empowered Jewish Mom Movement on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/empoweredjewishmom



Portland gets page on JewishGen website

JewishGen.org has reserved a slot for Portland to create its own page in KehilaLinks, a free feature on the organization's website.

KehilaLinks pages are little online books for communities where Jewish people have lived. They can contain memorials and cultural, genealogical and historical records for future generations. Each community can post its history, photos, memoirs and data.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon Secretary Linda Wolfe Kelley is the volunteer manager for Portland's KehilaLinks page. The JGSO invites all Jewish organizations in Portland to participate so this legacy can be left for the next generations.

The Portland page seeks photos and family stories about Oregon Jewish families. Send permissions from authors and families and with your submissions. For submissions and questions, email Linda at genportland972@gmail.com.

Obituaries

Submit to: editor@jewishportland.org

DAVRIAN HERSH

Davrian Hersh (z"l), passed away on Sept. 25, 2020. She was the beloved mother of Congregation Beth Israel Cantor Ida Rae Cahana (Rabbi Michael Cahana), Tom Hersh, Lisa Reed and Michael Hersh; grandmother of David, Sarit, Liora, and Idit Cahana; Ben and Hadley Hersh; Kyle and Natalie Reed; and Leah and Alex Hersh.

Congregation Beth Israel offers condolences to Cantor Cahana, Rabbi Cahana, Tom, Lisa, Michael, David, Sarit, Liora, Idit, Ben, Hadley, Kyle, Natalie, Leah, Alex and the extended Hersh family.

JACK MENASHE

Jack Menashe, z"l, passed away Sept. 20, 2020, the second day of Rosh Hashanah.

He was the beloved husband of Darlene; father of Ed Menashe, Joya Menashe and Rachelle Menashe; stepfather of Deborah Ellis and Michelle Alberts; grandfather of 8; great grandfather of 4; and brother of Beulah Schaufte.

He was born March 28, 1932.

Private interment is scheduled. Chabad SE Rabbi Dov and Chani Bialo posted on Facebook: "Jack Menashe (or Mr. Menashe, as we lovingly called him) was a special soul. In his quiet way he brought joy to each encounter. Mr. Menashe and the children had a special relationship and he will be sorely missed. We wish Darlene (Mrs. Menashe) lots of comfort and blessings."

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends its deepest condolences to the Menashe family.

Women's ReJewvenation retreat goes virtual

Do thoughts of rainy days, coupled with continued social distancing, have you feeling down or overwhelmed? Then set aside the weekend of Oct. 23-25 for ReJewvenation, B'nai B'rith Camp's annual Women's Retreat coming to you virtually this year.

Join a warm and diverse community of women to light Shabbat candles, learn a new recipe, play a game of Bingo, try out a fitness class and much more, all from the comfort of your own home. Organizers are excited about the opportunity to connect and find laughter, joy and beauty in new ways, while raising vital dollars for the future of BB Camp. All participants will be asked to make a meaningful gift to support BB Camp. BB Camp lost more than \$2 million of income this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and has pivoted to provide day camps in Lincoln City, Portland and Seattle, virtual programs and serve over 30,000 meals to food-insecure families in Lincoln City (now being expanded to victims of the Echo Complex Fire).

Registration is free. For details, visit bbcamp.org/rejewvenation or contact Stacey Lebenzon at slebenzon@bbcamp.org.

Public Service Announcement



Services we can assist with:

- Housing such as hotels or motels
- Food / Meals
- Health care and self-monitoring supplies that are not covered by insurance
- Transportation related to individuals in isolation or quarantine (ambulance, taxi, etc.)
- Communications such as cell phones
- Cleaning services
- Grocery shopping
- Childcare

Have you or a loved one been affected by Covid-19? CNSCOS is here to help!

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