

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

Kids, parents and educators — pages 2-3

Teen philanthropy has a long reach

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Aug. 5, 2020 / Av 15, 5780

Volume 55, Issue 13

JEWISH GREATER
PORTLAND TOGETHER
COVID-19 RELIEF

Help is available

Many individuals are on the brink of economic catastrophe as they face the triple whammy of a pandemic, unemployment and a national government unable to agree on a new relief bill.

But thanks to the Jewish community's Greater Portland COVID-19-Emergency Campaign, emergency relief is available through two programs. Crisis funds were allocated to the Jewish Free Loan Program and to Jewish Family & Child Service for Emergency Aid.

Jewish Free Loans

Individuals who have been impacted by the COVID-19 virus and require a loan may be eligible for a no-interest loan of up to \$1,000 with no cosigners. Loan repayments will begin after 120 days and will be divided into equal payments of \$28/month for 36 months.

For more information, visit jewishportland.org/freeloan or call 503-892-7417.

Emergency Financial Aid

Thanks to the Emergency Campaign, funds are available to help individuals and families weather the economic storm triggered by the pandemic that threatens our health.

For more information or assistance, contact JFCS Emergency Aid Program Manager Tavia Berrigan at taviaberrigan@jfcs-portland.org or phone 503-226-7079 ext. 134.



OJMCHE's Southern Rites exhibit launched just weeks before the museum had to close due to the pandemic. With the reopening, people have another chance to see this timely work by photographer Gillian Laub (right).

OJMCHE reopens Aug. 6

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education will once again welcome visitors, masked and socially distanced, to ground floor exhibits beginning Aug. 6 from 11 am to 3 pm, Thursday through Saturday.

Due to limited occupancy, all visitors, including members who receive free admission, must obtain a timed entry ticket in advance. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$2.50 for students or seniors, and free for 12 and under. For tickets, visit ojmche.org/product/general-admission, email tickets@ojmche.org or call 971-930-1990.

"Our reopening has been intentionally centered around the exhibition, Southern Rites, Gillian Laub's photographic exploration of racially segregated proms and homecoming rituals in Montgomery County, Georgia," says OJMCHE Director Judy Margles. "When the pan-

demic necessitated our temporary closure in mid-March, the exhibition had only been open a scant five weeks. At the time we could not foresee how relevant the themes of the exhibition would be to the social protests that consume Portland and the United States today."

The protests against police brutality since George Floyd was killed in May have spread to more than 2,000 communities in all 50 states. In Portland demonstrators have gathered daily since May 28.

The Southern Rites Exhibit begins with Laub's photos of the segregated proms in 2009, which were published in 2009; the following year the power of those photographs served as a catalyst for the integration of the town's proms. The next year an older white man murdered an unarmed young black man, and Laub returned to document the larger story of the changes

See OJMCHE REOPENS, page 10

Young adults empowered as Changemakers

BY DEBORAH MOON

A cohort of seven Portland-area young adults completed a three-week fellowship to become Jewish Changemakers. More than 550 young adults from 80 cities and eight countries graduated July 27 from the program presented by the Jewish Federations of North America in partnership with several Jewish and young adult organizations.

Comedian Pamela Rae Schuller, who hosted the graduation on Zoom, shared the first rule of improv: "Yes And – Accept what is happening as truth and build on it." She said in today's world, "We are all at 'Yes And' moments. Yes this is hard, this is scary, and this is our truth and we can get through it."

She urged grads to embrace reality and their own strengths and "add something else."

In a series of video clips, graduates shared the core values presented during the fellowship: humble leadership, practical optimism, radical inclusion and compassionate curiosity.

Weekly topics were professional development, community engagement and Israel.

Nadine Menashe coached the local cohort of Melina Berber-Suarez, Gal Cohen, Sararosa Davies, Michael Kahn, Mallory Rose, Sophie Rubin and Ezra Saville. Other Oregonians, including Jesse Rothstein, participated in other cohorts.

See CHANGEMAKERS, page 7

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Most Oregon schools – including day schools – to begin year online

At a July 28 press conference, Governor Kate Brown shared state policies regarding the re-opening of schools in September. She cited new health metrics developed by the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority that must be met for schools to receive permission to offer in-person or hybrid learning.

Portland Jewish Academy, Maimonides Jewish Day School and Maayan Torah Day School will all start the year with online learning.

“Because Multnomah County does not currently meet these new requirements, PJA will begin the year with comprehensive distance learning,” says PJA Executive Director Steve Albert. “While there will be no in-person learning at the start of the school year, we will monitor and re-assess our ability to offer hybrid learning as the COVID-19 case rate and positive test rate change, and we look forward to offering hybrid and/or in-person learning when we are permitted to do so.”

PJA has an emergency child

care license for 150 children and still plans to welcome 120-130 children on Aug. 31. That is a drop from the roughly 180 children who normally attend PJA’s infant/toddler and pre-school programs.

Maayan Torah is also moving forward to adapt to the July 28 rules.

“We will be having a comprehensive online model for learning,” says Maayan Torah Principal Aviel Brodtkin. “Our parents felt that we provided a strong remote learning program option in the spring. We now look forward to developing it further.”

Maayan Torah is also exploring the possibility to “extend our licensed emergency child care to include older ages to meet families’ needs,” adding that families are in great need of support at this time. The current license is for preschool age children.

“We are working on opening up virtually, with the ability to return to the classrooms when allowed,” says MJDS Principal Rabbi Shneur Wilhelm.

Re-entry conversations set for middle & high school families

With the school year rapidly approaching, a series of Zoom conversations for parents of different age groups are helping parents de-stress and make informed decisions.

Karen Twain will facilitate conversations with parents of middle school and high school students on Aug. 9 and 10. She will also facilitate a conversation with parents of kids with special needs on Aug. 19 at 8:30 pm. Twain is the director of programs at the Children’s Institute and former assistant superintendent of the Tigard-Tualatin School District. The sessions will explore what the fall will look like for middle and high school families. There are no right answers, but there is the opportunity to learn and process through these hard topics as a community.

Programs are confidential and not recorded, so parents can feel free to share real world issues.

“We have had two sessions already and look forward to continuing the series,” says Rachel Nelson, director of educational initiatives for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

By the Aug. 9 and 10 sessions, school districts should have plans in place for fall, unlike during the session for elementary parents, which took place just hours after Gov. Kate Brown announced schools would be starting the year online. At the request of several parents on that call, an additional elementary session will likely be held in September.

Previous sessions for parents of preschool and elementary children were facilitated by Dinah Gilburd, LCSW, from Jewish Family & Child Services.

Two sessions – one for college students and one for parents of college students – are being planned for late August. A facilitator for those sessions has not yet been selected.

[Middle School Re-Entry](#) session will be 8:30 pm, Aug. 9.

[High School Re-Entry](#) session will be 8:30 pm, Aug. 10.

Preregistration is required. For more information, email Rachel at rachel@jewishportland.org.

Group connects families with caregivers, educators

Let My Parents Work is a Facebook group created to connect Jewish families, recent college grads, educators and caregivers to fill the child-care gap. Parents are going to need help with their kids this year. Whether school is online, hybrid or some other alternative, nothing about this year is going to be normal.

“Families with school-age children are struggling with how to work and ensure their children can participate in online schooling and other activities,” says Caron Blau Rothstein, director of community planning & allocations for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. Caron was

part of the national conversation that created the group and serves as an administrator of the group.

“Older students in college, recent graduates and even some educators are looking for work options now that their circumstances are different under COVID, too,” says Caron. “*Let My Parents Work* is a way for these groups to connect with one another and help each other out – caregivers for school-aged families and work for college age younger adults and educators.”

This group is for Jewish families to connect with Jewish caregivers, former camp counselors, teachers, babysitters and

more. Locale-specific threads enable members to search in their geographic area.

Caron became involved when she answered a query by Rabbi Yael Buechler in the Facebook Jewish women’s group around this issue. Rabbi Buechler, who is the lower school rabbi at the Leffell School in Westchester, N.Y., brought together a small group to work behind the scenes to address this need in a systematic way.

“The idea of a Jewish child-care network came to me after reading about how, during the Great Depression, the Jewish community worked together to support recent college grads and young profession-

als who were seeking employment,” says Rabbi Buechler, the parent of a toddler and preschooler. “Several parents across America joined on a Zoom call to brainstorm this idea, and many of them are now involved in moderating and publicizing the *Let My Parents Work* Facebook group.”

Join the *Let My Parents Work* Facebook group today if you are a family seeking support or a person seeking an opportunity to work with a family or family pod this year.

For more information or to join the group, visit:

facebook.com/groups/letmyparentswork.

PAJE pivots to offer virtual programs for educators

Portland Area Jewish Educators has shifted both the content and logistics of this year's professional development programs to meet the needs and reality of life during a pandemic.

"While this year is turning into a very different year than many of us had intended and hoped for, PAJE is still committed to provide high-quality professional development opportunities," says Rachel Nelson, director of educational initiatives for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. "I'm excited we are able to offer virtual opportunities of relevance to our community."

PAJE has planned three virtual programs beginning in August: Tech 101; Teaching Hebrew to Children with Dyslexia; and Positive Discipline for Early Childhood Educators. Additional opportunities are also being planned.

Tech 101

The first program, Tech 101 at 3 pm, Aug. 12, was created to help educators leverage distance learning with their students.

Portland Jewish Academy Technology Integration Specialist Matt Rosenberg will introduce educators to a variety of digital tools. He will also discuss best practices of distance learning and common pitfalls.

"We will focus on tools that are free to use and available to use on a variety of platforms – Mac, Windows, iOS, Android, etc.," says Rosenberg. He will introduce tools such as Flipgrid, Kahoot, Screencastify, Ed Puzzle, Peardeck and Biteable. "This training will introduce the tools and go over their function. This training will not be an exhaustive how-to for each of these tools."

Rosenberg, who also serves as PJA athletic director, assists teachers to ensure technology integrated into the PJA's instructional program both enhances student learning and provides a learning environment where students develop a skill set of technological proficiencies.

"It is my hope that you will find one or two of these tools that you want to try to incorporate into your classes to allow your students to demonstrate their understanding in new and creative ways," says Matt.

Register at bit.ly/317mLHU.

Positive Discipline Workshop for Preschool Educators

Positive Discipline Workshop for Preschool Educators was originally planned as an in-person program in the spring. The 8-week program will be 6:30-9 pm, Tuesdays, Aug. 18-Oct. 6, on Zoom.

The cost for the workshop is \$325. Jewish Federation of Greater Portland will be subsidizing the cost so that it will be \$225 per participant for local educators. Participants will earn recognition as Certified Positive Discipline Early Childhood Educators and 20 licensure hours (Set 2) for attending all 8 weeks.

The course will be facilitated by Steven Foster, a Positive Dis-

cipline Lead Trainer and a licensed clinical social worker. He has worked with young children and their families in Portland for more than 30 years. While working in an early intervention program for children with special needs, he and the staff adapted Positive Discipline practices to use with young children with a variety of special needs. Now semi-retired, he teaches Positive Discipline's democratic approach to parenting and in schools in the United States and internationally. He is a co-author of Positive Discipline for Children with Special Needs and Positive Discipline for Early Childhood Educators.

Registration closes Aug. 7. Register at bit.ly/3fkY6Vd.

Teaching Hebrew to Children with Dyslexia

Teaching Hebrew to Children with Dyslexia had been planned as an eight-day, in-person program and will now be virtual. The course will include both prerecorded materials and live virtual lessons and training Aug. 16-20 for educators who want to ensure that every student can learn to read and write Hebrew.

Rabbi Tzvi Fischer of the Portland Kollel has been teaching this course for a decade. His research on the latest methods for Hebrew reading and dyslexia research continually add to the course.

"Our kids with dyslexia and specific language-processing challenges have always struggled to learn Hebrew – some of them struggle to read English, too," says Mel Berwin, director of congregational learning at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Berwin has been instrumental in planning the Portland program. "We know it's not just a matter of giving the child a tutor – we need to learn how to teach Hebrew in the unique, multi-sensory way that works for these children. I am prioritizing this training so that all of our teachers can teach in a way that works for all of our children, including those with dyslexia, whether online or in person. This year, when our kids need community connection and purposeful learning more than ever, I refuse to let our children with specific learning needs fall behind."

This Orton-Gillingham based program has been developed for Hebrew by experts in the field of reading instruction and incorporates Structured Literacy and research-based language education. The MultiSensory Reading and Writing course is usually a 50-hour teacher training. For the first time, an abridgment of this course, over 30 hours, is available virtually to educators in Portland and the broader West Coast.

Cost of the program is \$1,000 per participant or \$850 for Portland Area Jewish Educators. Since there is a set amount to run the class, if a sufficient number of people sign up, the cost per person will decrease. Registration is due Aug. 7. Register at bit.ly/31caaDd

For details, contact Rachel at rachel@jewishportland.org.

Local teen tapped for national post

Gabriella Cohen has been elected to serve as vice chair of the Jewish Caucus for the High School Democrats of America during the 2020-21 school year. The High School Democrats of America, or HSDA, is the official high school branch of the Democratic Party and is recognized by the Democratic National Committee.

There are several national caucuses to represent minority groups within HSDA, one being the Jewish Caucus. Gabriella will be working to educate the entire organization on anti-Semitism, various Jewish holidays and practices, and democratic policies during her time as vice chair. Gabriella is an incoming sophomore at Sunset High School in Portland, and her father, Rabbi Barry Cohen, is the Jewish Community Chaplain for the Greater Portland Area.



Gabriella Cohen

MJCC Day Camps extended

Mittleman Jewish Community Center announced that MJCC Day Camp will continue through Aug. 21 with camps for school-aged children from rising kindergarten through sixth grade. The camp follows all Oregon Health Authority guidelines for summer camps.

MJCC camp hours are from 9 am to 4 pm. No before or aftercare is available.

As of July 24, all campers are required to wear a mask to camp each day. Some masks are available on-site, however, campers are encouraged to bring their own masks so they will be more comfortable.

Find information and registration forms: oregonjcc.org/camps-childcare/daycamp.



Cascadia Clusters construction trainees are making "Tables of Conscience" to raise funds for job training and housing for people transitioning out of homelessness. Photos by Benjamin Olshin



Buy a picnic table, support Portland homeless

A local nonprofit created to provide construction training and tiny homes for houseless Portlanders is handcrafting and selling picnic tables. Families and restaurants could buy the tables to expand outdoor dining options *and* support the nonprofit to continue this work.

Cascadia Clusters, founded by Andy Olshin, trains houseless individuals in framing, roofing, insulating and finish carpentry. Trainees are paid a daily stipend and receive housing while building tiny homes for other houseless people. Andy developed his concept in 2016 while displaying two tiny homes, which he called "safe sleep shelter pods," in the parking lot of Congregation Beth Israel, where he is a long-time member.

Purchasing a Table of Con-

science provides job training, compensation and housing for people transitioning out of homelessness. Thanks to your generosity, Cascadia Clusters is able to provide stability in times of uncertainty. The tables are made by Cascadia Clusters trainees in three sizes: 3-foot tables are \$200; 5-foot tables are \$300; and 6-foot tables are \$350. Delivery (1 to 3 business days after order) is available for \$50.

"Making picnic tables is not a complex skill, but it's another part of the carpentry skills we are teaching," says Cascadia Clusters Treasurer John Sheldon, a member of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

Currently four trainees are building the picnic tables, tiny homes and shower/hygiene pods for the houseless commu-

nity during the COVID crisis. The City of Portland leased one of the hygiene pods for a pop-up village and has requested a second pod.

"There are hundreds of homeless people on the streets living in tents," says John. "The hygiene pods help people feel better emotionally and healthwise. The pods have showers, sinks and two washer/dryer sets."

Construction training is a key component of Cascadia Clusters, says John. Fifteen trainees from the houseless community have participated in the training over the past two and a half years. "Some have found jobs locally in construction and some became self-sufficient and found jobs in other fields because they felt more confident about their abilities in the general market."

Of the picnic table fundraiser, John says, "Andy looks at it as one table pays about a day's wages for one of the trainees."

The flyer promoting the tables reads: "Your family, customers and community will enjoy a safer dining experience and you will benefit from maximizing restaurant seating with hand-crafted beautifully reclaimed wood. Your purchase supports Cascadia Clusters' houseless trainees by providing them with the dignity to live in villages and gain a marketable skill. Your support also helps us provide service-learning opportunities for youth in our summer workshop series.

To order, contact Brooke Every at 608-219-3539 or brooke.cascadiaclusters@gmail.com.

For more information, visit: CascadiaClusters.org.

Homelessness is the volunteer theme for August



As the effects of the pandemic are prolonged, social issues are exacerbated and volunteerism is needed more than ever. We encourage Jewish community members to volunteer, connect and make a difference in the greater Portland community to do our part in perfecting the world and bringing about an easing of the suffering of many in our midst.

To connect people with more and different ways to help, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has assembled a list (by no means exhaustive) of organizations in greater Portland that will benefit from your good deeds. In fact, we've partnered with many of these organizations during our Good Deeds Days of service in the past.

On the volunteer webpage, we've grouped organizations around a monthly theme, but all will welcome your efforts any time. The August theme is Homelessness.

In August, volunteers are encouraged to connect with Cascadia Clusters (cascadiaclusters.org), Community Warehouse (communitywarehouse.org), Impact NW (impactnw.org) and Transition Project (tprojects.org).

For more information, visit jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/volunteering.

Holocaust writing and art winners announced

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education traditionally announces the winners of the annual Sala Kryszek Art & Writing Competition for middle and high school students by Yom Hashoah. However, this year deadlines were extended due to COVID-19 and school closures.

The annual Sala Kryszek Art & Writing Competition encourages youth to evaluate history, foster an awareness of the Holocaust and broaden their minds in the areas of art, history, civics, sociology and literature. For the competition, students are presented with a prompt that becomes their cue to create a piece of writing or a work of art. The prompts are designed to give students the opportunity to consider the circumstances in which a situation like the Holocaust can occur.

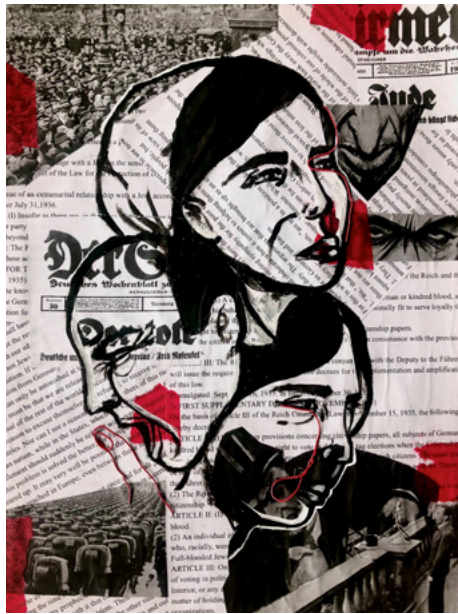
The prompt for this year's contest concluded: "Reflecting on Holocaust history, create a piece of writing or work of visual art that examines how hate speech was expressed, why it was effective at oppressing Jews and other minorities, and its consequences for modern society."

Following are this year's winners.

2020 GRAND PRIZES

WRITING

Samantha Block, Broadcasting Hate: The Power of Symbolology and Mass Media
Teacher Rion Roberts, Lincoln High School



Forsaken Souls by Erika Leung.

Artist statement: During Hitler's dictatorship, anti-Semitic propaganda and hate speech were used to reduce the Jewish people to a villainous stereotype. My piece represents the identities of innocent people who were forsaken to justify the Nazis' atrocious actions.

ART

Erika Leung, Forsaken Souls
Teacher Anne Larsen, West Sylvan Middle School

WRITING: Middle School

First: McKenzie Wells, Hate Love. Teacher Marcella Strepp, Talmadge Middle School
Second: Eliza Robinson, Hate Speech: The Nazis Secret Weapon. Teacher Holly Walsh, Catlin Gabel

Third: Bryce Gay, Bury Your Words. Teacher Carrington Light, Riverdale Grade School
Honorable Mention: Blaise Stevens, Helpless Thoughts of a Survivor. Teacher Carrington Light, Riverdale Grade School

WRITING: High School

First: Zoe Russell, Hate Thrives in the Dark. Teacher Pamela Reese, Echo High School
Second: Gabriella Breda, Words. Teacher Danielle Holloway, Lincoln High School
Third: Olive Paternoste, A Clean Slate. Teacher Ailis Kerven, Central Catholic

ART: All Grades

First: Abigail Hamblin, The Elephant in the Room. Teacher Erin Hewitt, Patton Middle School
Second: Yoshigei Diaz Hernandez, Sliver of the Past. Teacher Erin Hewitt, Patton Middle School
Third: Susana Putnam, Deadly Propaganda. Teacher Matt McBeth, Cascade Senior High School
Honorable Mention: Yoshigei Diaz Hernandez, The Attacker. Teacher Carrington Light, Riverdale Grade School

Catlin Gabel writers win in Holocaust contests

Catlin Gabel School students Abby Fisher and Donnie Rutherford won first and second place, respectively, in Seattle's Holocaust Center for Humanity's 2020 Writing, Art and Film Contest. Eliza Robinson won second place in the middle school writing competition sponsored by Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (see related story above).

All three students were in Holly Walsh's eighth-grade English class this past school year.

"Donnie, Abby and Eliza are each phenomenal students who beautifully express the depth of their empathy through their words," says Holly. "Their voices encourage others to embrace ambiguity and seek commonality

rather than difference."

The Seattle Center's Writing, Art and Film Contest challenges students to explore the history and stories of the Holocaust and to consider how individual actions, big and small, make a difference. The annual contest is open to students in grades 5-12 from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

Abby won the 7th/8th grade writing contest with "A Poem in Two Voices." The poem, parts of which were taken from the life of Vera Federman, follows the chillingly different trajectories of life for a Jewish and German girl in alternating stanzas.

Abby became a bat mitzvah at Congregation Beth Israel. She attended Portland Jewish Academy from first to fifth

grades. Until this year, each summer since second grade she has gone to Shwayder Camp, a sleep away camp in the mountains of Colorado owned by Temple Emanuel, Denver.

Donald's short story "The Snow Swirls," set in Stuttgart, Germany, Dec. 29, 1942, won second in the same category. His story shows a moment of compassion from a German soldier toward a young Jewish boy who smiles at him.

"We have included Holocaust education as part of our 8th-grade curriculum for the past 16 years I've taught at Catlin Gabel School," says Holly. "Students learn about the Holocaust through reading non-fiction historical writings as well as through the novel by Markus Zusak. By studying

these historical times, plus creative writing, students naturally draw parallels to our world today. These parallels ignite agency in students, and when I encourage them to submit to writing contests, their responses are quite powerful."

To read Abby and Donald's winning entries, click on their names in the winners' list at:

holocaustcenterseattle.org/programs-events/writing-art-film-contest

"I am incredibly thankful for the Holocaust Center for Humanity and Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education for providing young people a greater audience for their heartfelt ideas," says Holly.

The Seattle center is planning an online presentation to showcase winners' entries.

Jewish teen philanthropy has long-term impact

BY DEBORAH MOON

A recent national study and 17 years of anecdotal evidence from the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation agree: “Jewish teen philanthropy experiences cultivate a lasting desire to change the world while strengthening teens’ connections to Jewish life, community and values.”

In July the Jewish Teen Funders Network released GIVE AND GROW: Jewish Teen Philanthropy’s Unique, Powerful and Lasting Impact, jtfn.org/giveandgrow, which recaps multiple studies of teens participating in community-based teen philanthropy programs.

The impact report includes findings from long-term and short-term surveys and interviews from the 10 communities that were part of the Foundation Board Incubator launched in 2014. Many of the benefits listed in JTFN’s report are supported by the experiences of some of the approximately 350 participants in OJCYP since it was founded in 2003 by Julia Weiss as her bat mitzvah project.

“We’ve experienced all that (survey benefits) with our teens in Portland,” says Julie Diamond, president and CEO of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, the parent organization of OJCYP. “OJCYP has been a vital part of our community for 17 years. For teens in their formative high school years, it is incredibly empowering to be entrusted with community dollars to distribute to nonprofits they have studied.”

Following are some of the findings from the Give and Grow report, followed by quotes from past OJCYP participants that reflect those findings:

Jewish teen philanthropy engages teens to think about their Judaism in ways that feel relevant to their lives and dreams for the future.

Claire Rosenfeld, class of 2017: “OJCYP helped me identify my Jewish values and learn how to apply those principles



Flora Pollak, Maya Greenfield and Efreim Plauner participate in a visioning process to imagine their ideal world during the kick-off event for Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation’s 2019-20 program. By the end of the program year, the 33 teens had to hold site visits and allocations meetings via Zoom.

“Through OJCYP, I realized that Judaism is much more than a faith.”

~ Claire Rosenfeld, OJCYP 2017 graduate

to my giving. Through OJCYP, I realized that Judaism is much more than a faith or a belief, it’s a value system that can help you guide your behaviors and actions.”

It challenges teens to work with Jewish peers and build consensus by presenting their views, listening to others and compromising.

Blake Morell, 2004-09: “The allocation meetings were a key part of the leadership development. First, everyone has 3-5 minutes to present the organization they met with (this is before we did RFPs). Of course, after visiting an organization and spending time on the mission, everyone pitched the max donation for their group. So it was important to be able to deliver a great presentation for the organization. From there, you had a group of about 20 teens needing to learn how to compromise and come up with an allocation pool everyone could agree on.”

It empowers teens to make decisions that are consequential for communities and is-

sues they care about.

Jonah Zeigman, class of 2018: “By keeping the Jewish values that I’ve been taught by OJCYP at my core, I have the ability to combat anything from climate change to hate speech on campus, while doing so in a kind and productive manner.”

Teens gain a stronger Jewish identity and sense of connection to the Jewish community and a sense of contributing meaningfully to their local communities and Jewish communities abroad.

Allie Rosenfeld, class of 2017: “OJCYP allowed me to connect with other Jewish high school students with similar values and goals to me. The program opened my eyes to the responsibility that we have to our Jewish community and the impact that we can have.”

They gain leadership and communication skills, with experiences relevant to their futures, and the inspiration to become changemakers.

OJCYP Founder Julia Weiss to recent graduates: “OJCYP helped me discover my love for

Applications for OJCYP open

This year the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation will be an on-line program, so Jewish teens from all over Oregon and SW Washington are invited to participate. Teens will meet in a cohort of 15 every other Sunday starting in October via Zoom.

OJCYP provides teens with a Jewish framework to explore their interest in social justice and give them tools to build a better world. OJCYP is a program designed to encourage a lifelong passion for Jewish philanthropy and create deeper connections to the Jewish community.

Interested teens in grades 9-12 can find more details and apply at ojcf.org or email youth@ojcf.org.

philanthropy not just by giving money, but by giving my time to those in need. Giving back to my community didn’t stop after OJCYP for me and doesn’t have to for you either. I challenge you to seek out programs in college that you can be passionate about, and if they don’t exist, create one! You guys now have the tools and experience with philanthropy and know what it means to give while aligning with your values and beliefs. You have learned how to work as a team and compromise on a board of strong, passionate individuals for the betterment of the community.”

Following college, Julia returned to Portland and participated in the OJCF Giving Council. Earlier this summer, she and her husband, Grant Smith, had a daughter, Ramona “Roma” Aubrey Smith.

The teens aren’t the only beneficiaries – OJCYP has granted about \$600,000 to community nonprofits since its founding. The 2019-20 cohort made

Continued on next page

CHANGEMAKERS (continued from page 1)

“The highlight was being able to engage young adults in a new way and seeing how meaningful online interaction can be,” says Nadine, development associate and young adult coordinator for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. “So much of my job has surrounded in-person gathering that it has really made me panic to imagine my role in a different context. The Changemakers fellowship showed me that there are powerful ways to continue bringing people together, and that the online platform can actually expand your opportunities to learn and meet new people.”

For 20-year-old Portlander Ezra, the fellowship amplified his goal to pursue Jewish professional life. Ezra is a Judaic Studies major at Portland State University. He volunteers at the Alberta Shul and attends Portland’s UnShul.

“I signed up for Changemakers because I wanted to have an experience of learning from many amazing Jewish leaders within the global community focused on social change,” says Ezra. “Learning about these perspectives from a Jewish lens and context is important to me as someone who sees social justice being part of my Jewish perspective.”

“Hashem asks us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and help the widows and orphans. Let us do that. We must realize there is not a dichotomy between the secular and the Jewish world,” he adds. “One of the presenters, Rabbi Sandra Lawson, discussed how texts such as in Devarim, which declares ‘Justice, justice you shall pursue’ loudly, is how she approaches engaging in Jewish communal life and important causes like Black Lives Matter. I feel the same inspiration. I want to be able to bring that in the world, too.”

Melina, who is also 20, signed up to gain leadership skills. She is a member of Congregation Beit Yosef, a Sephardic congregation in Portland.



Some Portland Changemakers meet on Zoom: (from left) top Sararosa Davies, Coach Nadine Menashe, Ezra Saville; and bottom Gal Cohen, Mallory Rose and Michael Kahn.

“Lately I have been feeling extremely overwhelmed about the rise of anti-Semitism and racism,” says Melina. “Being a Jew of color has not been easy in recent times, and being able to express my feelings in a safe space and educate others was truly a blessing. On the first day of the program, we spoke about the bias and injustices we are facing as a society, and at that moment I knew I had signed up for the right thing.”

Melina, who plans to make Aliyah to Israel, says she plans to continue to be a Changemaker.

“I think that being who I am in today’s political climate, I can truly try to bring other perspectives to the table,” she says. “Recent events have inspired me to be more vocal and speak out on what I feel is important. Whether it is supporting Israel, combating anti-Semitism, or educating my own Jewish community about racism and bigotry, I feel that the Changemakers program gave me another boost of energy to keep doing these things.”

During the Zoom graduation, JFNA Board of Trustees Chair Mark Wilf said it is a person’s response to challenge that makes a person a changemaker. Surviving the Holocaust is not what made his parents and grandparents changemakers, it was



Portland cohort participant Melina Berber-Suarez spent three months in Israel last year and after a training course volunteered on a Magen David Adom ambulance. This year participating in Changemakers gave her the energy to keep making a difference.

how they advocated for the needs of survivors and the roles they played in the vitality of the Jewish community when they forged new lives in the United States.

“Fight inaction and indifference,” he told the grads. “We’ve invested in you, we believe in you. You are the future.”

TEEN PHILANTHROPISTS (continued from previous page)

grants of more than \$66,000 to 43 projects.

“These funds are raised by the teens, who learn the skill of advocating for what they believe in,” says Julie.

“Every year we had two to three times the fund requested versus the money to give, so we wanted to make a conscious effort to fund-raise more,” says Blake Morell, a 2004-09 participant who recently earned his MBA at Wharton. “Cold calling

isn’t something that naturally comes to me, but you do it because we felt passionate about the cause. Getting outside your comfort zone, in this case “selling” someone to do something (in this case donating), is something that nearly everyone does daily in our lives.”

Much of the money the Oregon teens distribute is raised during the OJCYP Annual Benefit Dinner, perhaps the only such event in the country.

“Parents, educators, clergy and donors love to see the teens in action at this event,” says Julie.

The teens plan and run the event, which this year was canceled due to the pandemic. In normal years, the teens learn organizational skills as they keep track of all the vendors and plan the program, dinner and auction. During the event, the teens share how their Jewish values inform their grant-making.

“We have some awesome alumni who have continued on to be involved in philanthropy at so many levels – board work at both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, committees and with our OJCF Giving Council,” says OJCF Program Officer Sonia Marie Leikam, who staffs the youth foundation. She adds it is wonderful to see “them come back to Portland post-college and watch them get involved in the community.”

News in brief

JCRC joins push to fund mail-in voting

Portland's Jewish Community Relations Council was one of 149 Jewish groups to press Congress to approve \$3.6 billion in funding for mail-in voting.

The effort was led by The Anti-Defamation League and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Jewish public policy umbrella of which JCRC of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is a member. The JCRC develops and articulates consensus positions concerning matters of public importance on behalf of the organized Jewish community of NW Oregon and SW Washington.

"The JCRC believes it is imperative that Congress fully fund and direct states and counties to administer the 2020 elections in a safe, fair and accessible manner through vote-by-mail, early voting and in-person voting options that take into account the COVID-19 reality," says JFGP Community Relations Director Bob Horenstein. "This is a massive undertaking that requires adequate funding that only the federal government can provide. Thus far, Congress has provided only \$400 million to states for election assistance. While a step in the right direction, that sum represents only a fraction of the costs associated with implementing the necessary adjustments to safeguard the electoral process."

The proposed funding is included in the HEROES Act, the most recent pandemic funding bill passed in the Democratic-led U.S. House of Representatives in May. The Republican-led Senate is considering a second round of the stimulus bill called the HEALS Act, which would provide \$1 trillion (\$2 trillion less than the HEROES Act).

The letter from the groups that was sent to Senate leaders says: "Unless you provide emergency election assistance and policy provisions, the decision our communities and so many voters are likely to face about whether or not to wait in crowded lines and rooms to vote may literally be a matter of life or death. This is especially true for members of marginalized communities most likely to contract and die from the virus."

Weekly Wednesday evolves to become Thoughtful Thursday; first program Sept. 24

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland created Weekly Wednesday Updates in April to keep our community informed and engaged as we moved through the shifting realities created by COVID-19.

"Our goal was to be a touch point on local Jewish issues and national issues as they related to our community," says JFGP Campaign Director Wendy Kahn, who organized the series. "When we brought Weekly Wednesday into being, we felt we needed to bring people together right away and find ways to provide connections."

Weekly Wednesday Updates launched April 22 with a Zoom presentation to more than 350 people on "Flattening the Curve & the 'State' of Oregon." As protests over police brutality erupted across the country, the Zoom updates expanded to include discussions on racism, intergroup connections and methods to cope with stress.

After 13 episodes, the series took a summer hiatus and sent out a survey about topics and timing so the series could continue to be flexible and nimble in reacting to a world that seems increasingly complex.

The survey drew 217 responses, which helped to define the series revival in September. Weekly Wednesday has evolved into Thoughtful Thursday, which will feature one program each month.

The first Thoughtful Thursday will feature Rabbi Joseph Telushkin on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 7 pm. Rabbi Telushkin is the author of 15 books on Jewish ethics, literacy, history and humor.

The second program will be at 9 am, Thursday, Oct. 22, featuring

American-born Israeli author and journalist Yossi Klein Halevi.

More information and registration links will be included in a September issue of the Jewish Review.

Lisa Spiegel new Hesed Shel Emet admin

Hesed Shel Emet has appointed Lisa Spiegel as administrator; the position is responsible for coordinating all resources whenever the organization's support for a dignified Jewish burial is called upon.

Hesed Shel Emet ("unrequired kindness") provides Jewish burial resources for members of the Jewish community in Oregon and SW Washington in circumstances when the individual or the individual's family needs support – "so that all Jews can be buried in dignity." The Oregon Board of Rabbis and the Jewish Agency Council of Oregon came together in 2009 to do the mitzvah of Hesed Shel Emet, caring for the burial of those who cannot afford it.

Spiegel, a 2013 Song of Miriam honoree, has been an active volunteer at Congregation Shir Tikvah since 2003, serving on the finance committee and then as secretary, vice chair and co-chair of the Steering Committee, Yad l'Yad ("Hand to Hand"), coordinating volunteers to help congregants during challenging times. She also serves on the JCRV Committee, a cooperative effort between Shir Tikvah, P'nai Or and Kol Shalom, which manages the Jewish cemetery at Riverview. She is also a member of a Portland chevra kadisha, Chevra Kavod Emet.



As the mother of three sons, Spiegel says her philosophy of Jewish parenting has been to "provide strong and delicious Jewish roots." She bakes traditional desserts for every holiday and challah each Friday, braided into unconventional shapes. Creative challah-making is an important part of her Jewish expression as is sharing her Jewish baking practice.

She was the founder of an association management firm, and she is grateful for this new role to serve the Jewish community.

For more information, email HesedShelEmetPDX@gmail.com or call Spiegel at 503-564-8420.

Learn resources for Wise Aging in September

Deb Freedberg and Barb Schwartz will lead a Wise Aging group hosted by Congregation Neveh Shalom on Zoom leading up to the High Holidays. The group is open to all age 50 and older.

Based on the national program developed by the Institute of Jewish Spirituality, Wise Aging offers a guided path designed to help those 50 and over who want to discover new resources to enhance their later years with learning, growth, spirit, resilience and wisdom. The program was brought to Portland in June 2019 by Jewish Family & Child Service with the support of the Holzman Foundation. The program is based on the book *Wise Aging, Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit*. Participants will need to have the book.

This Wise Aging group will meet for four Zoom sessions and will have a maximum of eight participants. The curriculum – leading up to the High Holy Days – includes text study, contemplative and active listening, self-reflection, meditation and movement. The Zoom sessions will be 10:15-11:45 am, Tuesdays, Sept. 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Suggested donation for the series is \$75-100.

RSVP to Deb Freedberg at deborah.freedberg@gmail.com or Barb Schwartz at barbschw@gmail.com. Please use "Wise Aging Inquiry" for the subject line.

Cantor Rayna Green returns to serve Beth Israel

Congregation Beth Israel has hired Cantor Rayna Green part time. She primarily will work with the b'nai mitzvah program and the religious school and will occasionally lead services.

The new position has been funded by an anonymous donor and Harold and Jane Pollin.

Before attending cantorial school, Cantor Green served at Congregation Beth Israel as a preschool teacher, youth group advisor, song leader, co-founder of Jews Next Dor and a member of Beth Israel's former house band, Def Schlepper.

Cantor Green was ordained in 2015 at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. During cantorial school, Cantor Green became a Tisch Fellow, a prestigious cohort led by scholar Rabbi Larry Hoffman, Ph.D. She was also a member of the Worship Working Group,



a group dedicated to making prayer services spiritual and meaningful through music and innovation.

Most recently, Cantor Green served for five years as cantor at Congregation B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim (BJBE) in Deerfield, Illinois. During this time, she also served as president of the Reform Cantors of Chicago for two years.

"When Rabbi (Michael) Cah-

ana and I landed here in Portland in the summer of 2006, Cantor Green (Rayna Dushman when we first met) was here at CBI working as a preschool teacher and was beloved by all the kids and families she worked with," says Cantor Ida Rae Cahana, now senior cantor at Beth Israel. "When I began working as adjunct clergy with Cantor (Judith) Schiff, we both recognized Cantor Green's potential and encouraged her to consider the cantorate after she expressed interest to us. Both Cantor Schiff and I, probably along with a few others, happily and proudly claim responsibility for the shidduch of Eli Green and Rayna Dushman."

The Greens moved back to Portland this summer. Cantor Green and her husband, Eli, have two sons, Emmet and Aviv, and a dog, Tsuki. She has long

dreamed of returning to the congregation that nurtured her.

"With the cloud of fear and uncertainty over us all, having Cantor Green as our new part-time clergy brings us hope, right along with her sunny smile," says Cantor Cahana. "I am delighted to have a cantorial partner who is tech savvy and a people magnet."

Cantor Green's passions include empowering youth through music, creating meaningful prayer experiences and building inclusive communities. While at BJBE, she expanded the youth choir program and created a teen band, while also focusing on other opportunities for young people to engage in Jewish prayer life. She also led inclusion efforts at the synagogue, helping BJBE to become a certified exemplar synagogue for inclusion through the URJ.

Oregon Hillel adds staff to aid safe, creative year

Oregon Hillel has added two staff members for the coming school year: Talia Leider, Social Justice Springboard Fellow at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and Susannah Dickerson, Director of Jewish Student Life at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Both UO and OSU currently are planning on a hybrid model of online and in-person courses this fall and possibly longer. However, since things could change at any time prior to the start of fall term in late September, Oregon Hillel is exploring all options to safely engage students and provide access to programs and services.

"Hillel, as always, will be creative in our approach to the sometimes rapidly changing conditions on our campuses while focusing on student/staff safety and public health," says Oregon Hillel Foundation Executive Director Andy Gitelson. "We know that both Talia and Susannah will bring energy, creativity and inspiration as we work together with our students to build warm, welcoming and pluralistic communities while



Talia Leider

firmly focused on the Jewish value of pikuach nefesh (preservation of life) for every student, faculty and staff."

If parents have a student enrolling as a Duck or Beaver [let Hillel know](#); Hillel will reach out to welcome the students and connect them to the greater Jewish community. Find the registration form on Hillel's website oregonhillel.org.

The Springboard Fellowship is a two-year fellowship that brings together diverse Jewish talent through a transformative



Susannah Dickerson

early career experience in the Hillel Movement. As a social justice specialist, Talia receives training in the areas of engagement, social action and community organizing and learns how to seamlessly weave Judaism into her work as a Hillel engagement professional.

Originally from Los Angeles, Talia earned her bachelor's in criminal justice from San Diego State University. While at SDSU, she cofounded their first chapter of Challah for Hunger and worked for Hillel

as a student ambassador. As a youth, Talia attended Camp Ramah every summer and was an active participant in Jewish youth groups. She is passionate about social justice and is eager to work with the inspiring students at University of Oregon Hillel to make their own justice initiatives a reality. Email talia at talia@oregonhillel.org.

Susannah Dickerson is originally from Portland, where she spent years at Congregation Neveh Shalom pushing coffee carts, teaching kids and helping in the education office. Susannah attended Oregon State University, where she majored in history and minored in creative writing and religious studies. She took a short break from OSU to study abroad in Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, spending half her time learning Hebrew and the Talmud and the other half exploring ancient cities. Susannah is excited to come back to Oregon State this fall and re-engage with the amazing Jewish community in Corvallis. Email Susannah at: susannah@oregonhillel.org.



Gillian Laub's photographs of segregated proms and homecoming rituals in a Georgia town grew into a years' long exploration of racism. Southern Rites returns to public view Aug. 6 when the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education reopens.

OJMCHE REOPENS

(continued from page 1)

taking place in the town. Her project evolved into a decade-long exploration of painful, deeply rooted national realities of prejudice and inequality. The exhibit will be open until Sept. 5.

"While the exhibition lays bare racial injustice, it also provides a glimmer of hope that reform is possible," says Judy. "This is the message that resonates for me as we invite you to tour Southern Rites and engage in the essential questions of race and equity facing us today."

"I am delighted that we will soon be welcoming visitors back to the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education," says Judy. "The resilient OJMCHE staff have consulted experts who guided us to make sure that we have created a safe museum environment, and we are now ready to open our doors with a long-awaited and heartfelt invitation to visit."

Masks must be worn at all times in the museum. The maximum group size is four, and visitors must maintain 6-foot distance between groups. Designated routes are outlined to promote social distancing. See OJMCHE's safety protocols for visitors at ojmche.org/visit/visiting-protocols.

Lefty's Café remains closed, but the Ron Tonkin Family Museum Shop on the ground floor is open. Visitors can shop on site or anyone can shop online: ojmche.org/visit-ojmche/museum-shop/.



The smaller East Gallery features Approaching Darkness. Portland artist Stephen Leflar shares his illustrations of sacred places devastated by genocidal war crimes, particularly drawing upon the vacant darkness during the Holocaust and the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia.

Visitors and passersby can also enjoy the two exhibits in its ground floor expanse of windows. Wall Sculptures by Mel Katz features five colorful, abstract aluminum sculptures on brilliant display along Davis Street. Six panels recreated from the museum's core exhibit, Discrimination and Resistance, An Oregon Primer, are located in the windows facing the North Park blocks. The panels were selected to add to the current conversation about racism and hate.

Community Relations Council gets report on state budget & impact

JFGP's Jewish Community Relations Council develops and articulates consensus positions concerning matters of public importance on behalf of its constituency. It is the public affairs coordinating and advisory body for the organized Jewish community of NW Oregon and SW Washington.

The following State Budget Summary and Impact on JCRC Legislative Priorities was prepared July 27, 2020, by JCRC's lobbyist George Okulitch.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent shutdown of the economy, Oregon faces a roughly \$1-billion budget shortfall in the 2020-21 biennium and a possible \$4.4-billion reduction in the 2021-2023 budget period. Given that Oregon's General Fund dollars are primarily based on the income tax, it's no surprise that the state has seen a significant drop in revenue. At its height in April, the state's unemployment rate hit a record high of 14.2 percent, meaning that around 266,700 Oregonians lost their jobs in the first two months of the pandemic.

Given Oregon's Constitutional mandate that requires balancing the budget every biennium, legislative leadership and the Governor's office plan to convene a special session sometime in the near future (likely early August). There was some discussion about meeting earlier in the year, potentially right after the May economic forecast. However, leadership decided to wait until later in the summer in hopes that there would be additional federal dollars allocated directly to the states out of a Congressional relief package. It's still unclear if or when that might happen.

Most recently, the Ways and Means Co-Chairs released a statement on principles that will guide their budget reductions for the special session. As it relates to priorities of the Jewish Community Relations Council, some highlights include:

Preserving programs in the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Human Services due to increased federal matching dollars.

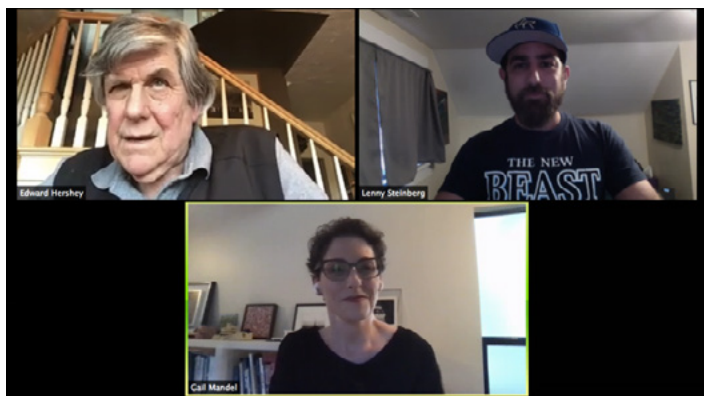
Maintaining current Oregon Health Plan (OHP) benefits and eligibility, non-Medicaid community mental health, and Public Health Modernization services.

Maintaining Oregon Project Independence services for both seniors and younger persons living with disabilities.

Holding harmless funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Employment-Related Day Care program.

Sustaining the 2019 session investment in grants to refugee settlement agencies and food-related initiatives.

Many of the cost savings and cuts will come from not filling vacant positions and not starting programs approved in the 2019 session. Also, while legislators will attempt to minimize cuts to the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Human Services in the current biennium, the potential cuts in the 2021-23 budget cycle will be much worse (absent a sharp rebound of the economy). The JCRC should be prepared to advocate in support of these issues.



Local author Edward Hershey, top left, led a talkback about baseball player turned spy Moe Berg. MJCC's Lenny Steinberg and OJMCHE's Gail Mandel joined Ed in the discussion.

After "Spy Behind Home Plate," MJCC offers "Heading Home"

At the end of July, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education co-presented the film "The Spy Behind Home Plate." The documentary by Aviva Kempner tells the true story of Morris "Moe" Berg, the enigmatic and brilliant Jewish baseball player turned spy.

This was the first time MJCC offered a virtual film screening for our community, and it was met with tremendous success. Moe's life was fascinating and tangled in a cloud of mystery. The film mixes real footage from declassified files from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and contemporary interviews.

We were fortunate enough to have Edward Hershey, author of *The Scorekeepers* and local Portlander, to give a deep dive into the film and Moe's life. During the program, we discussed how Moe Berg is best explained as a mystery. He was such an odd duck. He was learned and had a sense of humor. Yet he was a loner and after what most would consider a

storied career as both a baseball player and spy, the last 20-30 years of his life were quiet and yet another mystery in his life. Anytime someone would bring up his possible time as a spy, he would simply put one finger over his lips and say, "shh."

The MJCC will present another film, "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel," in partnership with the Men's Club of Neveh Shalom. The film will be available to stream Aug. 7 until midnight on Aug. 9 and then join us Aug. 11 at 6:30 pm for a Zoom discussion of the film-makers led by Daniel A. Miller and Jeremy Newberger. A stirring story of sports, patriotism and personal growth, "Heading Home" charts the underdog journey of Israel's national baseball team competing for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. The link to stream the film and invitation to join the discussion will be provided after the registration deadline on Aug. 6.

oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events/virtual-film-screening-heading-home

Relational engagement during social distancing

JPRO PDX presents Dr. Ron Wolfson as he shares his insights on [Relational Engagement During the Time of Social Distancing](https://oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events/virtual-film-screening-heading-home), noon, Aug. 6, on Zoom. For details, email Saul: skorin@pjaproud.org.

Dr. Wolfson is a visionary educator and inspirational speaker and a cofounder of Synagogue 3000. He is author of *Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community* and several other books.

PDX Business Series: Build Your Biz and Eat it Too

Have you ever been told: This is so tasty! You should sell this?

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center's (now virtual) business series invites three Portland-based food entrepreneurs to share their journey from first recipes, to first farmers markets, to first class airplane fare. Join the fascinating discussion at noon, Aug. 20, via Zoom.

The panel will feature three professional foodies:

- Jessica Hilbert: Founder, Marketing & Sales, Red Duck Foods, redduckfoods.com. Red Duck Foods offers a line of condiments worth quacking about. Made from simple ingredients you know and trust, Red Duck's ketchups, BBQ sauces, taco sauces and cocktail sauce deliver flavor.

- Valerie Roth: Founder, Mind Your Manna (Fire Brew drinks), mindyourmanna.co. Mind Your Manna distills plant-powered nutrients down to their essentials to create healing remedies crafted to sustain the mind, body and soul. Think of the brews as a drinkable daily multivitamin.

- Jenn Topliff: Founder, Roons, eatroons.com. Roons are delicious coconut macaroons, made by hand and dipped in real chocolate.



The program will be moderated by David Forman, an attorney at Tonkon Torp LLC who specializes in growth-oriented legal strategies, and among other areas, his practice emphasizes food and beverage businesses because he loves to nosh.

Registration will be through Zoom. You can find the link and more information at oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/pdxbiz. The page also provides a form for those who want to make an \$18 donation to support the free event.

BB Camp and BBYO plan busy August

B'nai B'rith Camp and BBYO have a full slate of virtual activities in August. For registration information for any of these programs, visit bbcamp.org/virtual-eve.

6-7:30 pm, Thursday, Aug. 6: Israeli Dancing. Our Spring Israeli Dance session was a blast.

6-7:30 pm, Thursday, Aug. 13: BB Camp Trivia (for Campers ONLY). Win a prize for your cabin at Overnight Camp 2021.

6-7:30 pm, Thursday, Aug. 20: Family Skit Night. Have you ever created and performed a skit with your whole family? Gather the entire gang, and create a skit to share with the BB Camp community. Or just come to watch the show!

7-8:30 pm, Sunday, Aug. 30: Last Campfire of Summer. Join BB Camp Song Leaders from across the decades. Campfire and s'mores optional, but highly recommended.

3-4 pm, Sunday, Aug. 16: BBYO Teen-Led Programs for 8th Graders. Meet new teens, get involved with the BBYO community and hear about personal BBYO experiences.

3-5 pm, Sunday, Aug. 23: BBYO 8th Grade Family Information Session. Session for teens and parents to find out what goes on in BBYO throughout the year, and how your teen can get involved.

Published biweekly by
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland
9900 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 220
Tigard, OR 97223
503-245-6219
JewishPortland.org

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503-892-7404

Circulation
To receive the Jewish Review in your
email inbox, email your name and email
address to
editor@jewishportland.org

OPINIONS printed in the Jewish
Review do not necessarily reflect those
of the Jewish Review Committee, the
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland,
its governing board or the staffs of
either the newspaper or the Federation.

Upcoming issues

Issue date	Deadline
Aug. 19	Aug. 13
Sept. 2	Aug. 20
Sept. 16	Sept. 10

Guest Column Life Happens!

BY JENNIE CONDON

"Life is what happens to us while we are making other plans." – Allen Saunders

If there's one thing everyone in the world can agree on right now, it's that it has been a crazy year so far. Whatever our backgrounds, politics or locations, we've all been affected in a variety of ways by the pandemic. Here in Oregon, we've spent almost five months with no definite end in sight, in different stages of closure and re-opening. At the risk of penning yet another COVID-centric piece in a world awash with them, I've taken the approaching five-month mark as reason to step back and think about everything that has happened so far.

My own immediate family has been fortunate in that we've mostly kept both our health and our jobs, and our losses have largely been psychological. The inability to spend time together, both at home and away, has been hard, and hardest of all not being able to see my almost 2-year-old nephew. We've cancelled, rescheduled, and cancelled again my mom's long-awaited retirement vacation-and-party, and all three of her 70th birthday trips (this was not a good year, it turns out, for each of us to decide that experiences were better than physical gifts). And we've tried to make the limbo we inhabit tolerable by making post-covid plans, ignoring the months ahead in favor of a time when everything will be "normal" again: when there's a vaccine, we'll babysit for a month just to make up for the lost time. When there's a treatment, we'll go camping with our friends again. When it's safe, we can hug our parents again.

But as I thought about the past months, I was struck most by all the life that has been happening while we've been making those other plans. We've spent hours upon hours in driveways and yards, just talking and spending physically distanced time with one family member or friend at a time. We've figured out how to go on local "adventures" while staying outdoors and far away from those not in our household. We've made somewhere around 900

masks to give to family, friends, co-workers, and more. We've worked from home, from work, and from the parking lot (sometimes you just have to go where the Zoom reception is best). We've looked out for each other and been looked out for, with the group texts flying ("Who said they needed flour? They have it at Safeway!"). We've had virtual wine-tasting, game night, and gardening. We've perfected the parking lot hostage-style exchange of bleach, books, and Girl Scout cookies: park far apart, one person brings their goods, sets them down in the center, and retreats, and then the other person goes and picks them up – laughing at the ridiculousness the whole time.

Ten years from now, it's the life we'll remember, not the plans. That life may be messy or heartbreaking, certainly, especially for those who lose friends or family or have to spend years rebuilding livelihoods. But if all we focus on is what we are going to do on the other side, we'll miss the moments – even the sad ones that may shape us going forward, or the laughter that makes the tears more bearable. We still need the plans, of course, because running headlong into each day without an idea of how we'll handle it is no way to go about being functioning adults, especially in ever-changing times.

For myself, though, I'm going to make sure I appreciate the life that is happening while I make those plans. I hope you will join me in looking at each day as a chance to create meaning and memories, instead of just a hurdle on the way to a grander goal.



Jennie Condon is the Aquatics Program Manager and Head Swim Coach at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. A lifelong aquatics professional, she has been part of

the MJCC community for 10 years.

Monthly Mitzvah: Letter in a Torah scroll

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 August the focus is on a letter in a Torah scroll. The Torah scroll is a tangible

embodiment of our connection to G-d, our most precious treasure and our guide to life. "And now," Moses says, "write for yourselves this song" (Deuteronomy 31:19) – meaning that every Jew should write a Torah scroll.

But writing a Torah is a laborious process. Each one of its 304,805 letters must be written by hand, with ink and quill on

parchment, in special calligraphy, by a trained scribe.

There is another way to fulfill the mitzvah: Purchase just one letter in a Torah – meaning, have just one letter written specifically for you.

"We'll be glad to help," says Rabbi Moshe Wilhelm. "For assistance or more information, call me at 503-957-7842."

Rabbi's Corner

Why you should start your High Holidays right now

BY RABBI PHIL BRESSLER

Erev Rosh Hashanah is about six weeks away, but in case you haven't thought about it yet, the High Holidays are going to be... different this year. In order for them to serve their purpose – turning us inward to take stock of who we are, how we've missed the mark, and how we can do better next year – we're going to need to spend time preparing ourselves.

In most years I've found that the transformative power of the yamim nora'im, the Days of Awe, depends at least in part on physical presence with others engaged in the project of introspection and self-refinement. Although some communities will do their best to create that sense of community in a virtual space, it won't be the same. It's important to name this feeling – being apart from one another will be painful, and it's OK to grieve for that loss.

And yet, we always encounter this season not as we want to be, but as we are. And if what we are is more solitary than usual, then let's get prepared for that.

Fortunately, the Jewish calendar provides us with a framework for that preparation. The month of Elul begins the evening of Aug. 20, opening a particularly auspicious time to do the work of teshuva, turning in repentance toward a righteous path. What should you do? Practice breaking your own heart.

The reason is that our hearts are hardened most of the time – made rigid and inflexible to enable us to go about our day-to-day lives. In order to make our hearts malleable enough to change, we essentially have to break and reassemble them. So, if the yamim nora'im are going to be a chance for us to rearrange our hearts, in a fashion that better reflects the person we are striving to be, we need



Rabbi Phil Bressler is the rabbi of Beit Am in Corvallis and serves the Jewish community of the entire mid-Willamette valley. He received his rabbinic ordination from Hebrew College in 2018.

to become adept at breaking them. You can do it any way you know how – with art, music, nature, meditation, prayer – whatever leaves you feeling open and vulnerable. With a bit of practice in the month leading up to the High Holidays, we can hopefully set ourselves up to have the kind of transformative experience we're seeking, even without the benefit of physical togetherness.

The rabbis of the Talmud lived within memory of the Yom Kippur ritual as it was practiced in the Temple. Yet in the 8th chapter of Tractate Yoma, they discuss how Yom Kippur can come along and effect atonement for wrongdoing all on its own, apart from any of the rituals that were or are now associated with it. What this means is, although our rituals may look different this year, it's never been about the rituals. The High Holidays are an edifice in time that stands independent of any support from the physical world, and that we can inhabit without recourse to physical structures or human activities.

I'm both saddened and excited by the possibility this coming year brings, and I'm looking forward to entering it together.

Chaplain's Corner

It's time to be universal

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

We read in Ecclesiastes, "A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven." (3:1) There is a time for tearing down, and a time for building up. There is a time for seeking and a time for losing. I would add a pairing fit for our time: a time to be tribal, and a time to be universal.

Our calendar is filled with holidays set for every season, for every experience under heaven. But there's a catch. If the way we observe holidays does not evolve to suit the needs of the time, these holidays cease to serve a relevant purpose.

Tisha B'Av is one such example. We recently observed the holiday this year beginning at sunset July 29. For centuries, Tisha B'Av served a crucial purpose: to respond to the tragedies that occurred to the Jewish people on the 9th of the Hebrew month of Av.

This holiday enabled us to mourn our losses. We lost the 1st and 2nd Temples, the place where heaven and earth met. After being expelled from various kingdoms, we lost our rootedness. We lost our lives at the hands of Nazis and their perpetrators, when they purposely slaughtered us on this date.

For centuries, this was our tribal date, focused on our tribal suffering and loss. But in the latter 20th and early 21st centuries, what purpose has Tisha B'Av served for the overwhelming majority of Jews in America? For too many, Tisha B'Av has lost its significance and its effectiveness of being a mechanism for us to mourn. Tisha B'Av has become an abstraction and is losing its purpose under heaven.

But what about if we view Tisha B'Av through a universal lens? It can be a holiday to connect with everyone for whom systematic discrimination, persecution and violence are not abstract concepts, but



As the Community Chaplain for the Greater Portland Jewish community, Rabbi Barry Cohen serves as a resource for all Jews in our community. He can be reached at 503-892-7401 or chaplain@jewishportland.org.

all too common occurrences. What if we marked Tisha B'Av not in our synagogues, but side-by-side with Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and those in the LGBTQ community ... with anyone who has been targeted, attacked, arrested or worse simply for observing first amendment rights, questioning those in power, or being in the wrong place at the wrong time?

One such universal observance of Tisha B'Av took place during the evening of July 29. An interfaith gathering, led by Rabbi Debra Kolodny and Rabbi Benjamin Barnett, met at Portland City Hall. We decried the injustices being perpetrated against the Black community and demanded for our city government to institute changes for the sake of justice. I was proud to be present, along with my children. You can watch a video of the gathering at:

facebook.com/668181491/videos/10157685073441492/

Tisha B'Av need not fade away. There is a time to be tribal and a time to be universal. Now is the time to be universal.

How we observe it will be up to our imaginations and our creativity. To oppose those who afflict us with injustice, fear and bigotry, may we unite universally with those who are targeted, subjugated and oppressed.

Jobs board

Obituaries

The Jewish Review publishes job openings from local Jewish agencies and congregations. Job information will be shortened to fit available space, with a link to the full job description.

Submit job openings to:
editor@jewishportland.org

Portland Jewish Academy Afterschool Programs Director

The Director of Afterschool Programs is responsible to plan, support, supervise, evaluate and direct all aspects of before and afterschool programming. This position ensures program compliance with state licensing requirements and works in partnership with Portland Public Schools, families, staff and students in the development of programs. The Director is responsible for ensuring that programming reflects the mission and values of Portland Jewish Academy.

TO APPLY: For the complete job description and to apply visit www.pjaproud.org (select "About Us," then select "Employment"). Please complete the application and upload your resume and cover letter.

Application materials may also be obtained by contacting the HR Department at Portland Jewish Academy, 6651 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219, 503-244-0126.

QUALIFICATIONS: Master's Degree in an education-related field or equivalent and one year of program management experience; or five to seven years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Thorough knowledge of OCC regulations and three to five years supervisory experience is strongly preferred.

BENEFITS: Medical (fully or partially employer paid depending on the plan you select), optional Dental, LTD plans and a 401k plan. Sick leave, vacation, personal time and holiday pay. Free membership to the MJCC (oregonjcc.org) and tuition discount for children of our employees.

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BETTY COON

Betty Coon, z"l, passed away Aug. 1 while in hospice. She was the mother of Carol Stoler, a member of Congregation Kol Ami in Vancouver, Wash.

Congregation Kol Ami offers condolences to Carol, Eric, Rachel, Michelle and their extended family.

CHARLES GELBER

Charles Gelber, z"l, passed away on July 29, 2020, at age 64. He was the beloved husband of Lynn Gelber, brother of Larry Gelber and Art Gelber, father of Jacklyn Daly (Tom) and Maxwell Gelber, and uncle of Jordan Gelber and Jenny Gelber.

A private family service was held at the Beth Israel Cemetery, with a shiva minyan on Aug. 1.

Congregation Beth Israel sends condolences to Lynn, Larry, Art, Jacklyn, Tom, Maxwell, Jordan, Jenny and the extended Gelber family.

NAUM MIROSHNIK

Naum Miroshnik, z"l, passed away July 29, 2020, at the age of 93. He was the dear father of Faina (Moisey) Talal and Peter Miroshnik, and beloved grandfather of Rosalind Golosker, Jessica Talal Goget and Tony Talal.

In keeping with Neveh Shalom and the family's commitment to keep our community safe and healthy, and in compliance with our governor's directive, a private interment is scheduled.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends our deepest condolences to the Miroshnik/Talal family.

PHILIP SARNA

Philip Sarna, z"l, passed away July 28, 2020, after a long illness. Philip, a Holocaust survivor, was 91. He is survived by his wife, Frances; daughter, Ann of Seattle; son, Ron of Portland; and many nieces and nephews.

Philip was born in Warta, Poland, to Chaim Aaron and

Esther (Israelvitch) Sarna. He survived Auschwitz with his sisters, Anna Podemski, Sala Kryszek, Regina Langfus and Guta Podebski. He was the last of the siblings to pass away.

Philip married Portland native Frances Jean Weinstein on May 13, 1962. For many years he owned a furniture and appliance store, Sarna's, in East Portland.

Philip's niece, Esther Podemski, filmed "House of the World" in the late 1990s. The documentary traces the history of a family photograph as the filmmaker accompanies Holocaust survivors who return to Poland 50 years after the war.

He was a longtime member of Congregation Kesser Israel. A graveside service was held July 31 at the Kesser Israel Cemetery.

JOE MUSSABINI

Joe Mussabini, z"l, passed away July 26, 2020. Joe worked with Café at the J owner Allen Levin from 1978 until this spring when Lou Gehrig's disease forced him to retire.

Survivors include his wife, Amy Liv Laing; three step children Madeleine, Duncan and Katherine Bradford; ex-wife Wendy Delaharpe and her children; nephews Nagy and Ramy Elguindy; and dear friend Allen Levin and his family.

His full obituary is available at <https://www.dvfuneralhome.com/obituary/joseph-mussabini>

SANDRA SILVON

Sandra Silvon, z"l, passed away July 21, 2020, at age 78, in Reno, Nev. She was the sister of Brenda (Larry) Schwartz, aunt of Cameron Schwartz and Rochelle (Ryan) Abitz, and had several cousins in Portland and elsewhere.

Sandra was born in Hartford, Conn., June 19, 1942, to Kurt and Irma Silvon, z"l. She was raised in Portland.

In keeping with Congregation Neveh Shalom, and the family's commitment to keep our community safe and healthy, and in compliance with our

governor's directive, a private interment is scheduled.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends deepest condolences to the Silvon/Schwartz family.

HERBERT BLACK

Herbert Black, z"l, passed away on July 23, 2020, at 94 years old. He is survived by daughter, Leslie Black; granddaughter Molly Black Scott; brother, Larry Black; and companion, Elaine Savinar. He was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Eve Black, and his son Daniel Black.

The private family funeral took place July 26. A memorial celebration will take place at a later date.

Congregation Beth Israel sends condolences go to Leslie, Molly, Larry, Elaine and the extended Black family.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Oregon Humane Society or Congregation Beth Israel funds.

SUBMITTING OBITUARIES

Submit obituaries to:
editor@jewishportland.org

Obituaries are posted online as they are received at:
jewishportland.org/obituaries

Pay tribute to family or friends in memory of their dearly departed by making a donation in their honor. 503-245-6219 or:
jewishportland.org/kavodtribute