

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

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in a frantic world*
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Members enter the Mittleman Jewish Community Center for the first time since mid-March.

MJCC reopens

With Multnomah County approved for Phase 1 re-opening, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center opened its doors to members on June 19, 2020.

ALL fitness classes (at Home and at the MJCC) are for members only. But virtual arts and culture programs remain open to everyone. Find those events oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/at-home-arts-culture.

“We are very excited to reopen the MJCC to the community and look forward to welcoming back our members when they are ready to come to campus,” MJCC Executive Director Steve Albert says. “We have worked extremely hard to meet or exceed all required and recommended health protocols to ensure a very safe, healthy, comfortable and worry-free workout experience for our members. We recognize that individuals will feel ready to return to campus at different points in time and are pleased to continue offering virtual programming to our members in the coming weeks and months.”

Members MUST register in advance to use the fitness center and/or attend a group exercise class. Reservations open 24 hours prior to class time or desired workout slot: oregonjcc.org or call 503-244-0111.

Assistant Executive Director Jennifer Harrington encourages those who have been enjoying the free

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It's TiME to save our planet

BY DEBORAH MOON

A program developed in Portland by an Israeli scientist is protecting biodiversity by buying threatened areas in hotspots around the world.

Uri Shanas, Ph.D., spent his 2014-15 sabbatical from the University of Haifa doing research at Portland State University. While in Portland, Uri created This is My Earth (TiME), an all-volunteer nonprofit that uses 100% of donations to purchase and protect land in Earth's most biologically diverse areas.

“Well, TiME turned out to be a great success,” said Uri in a recent interview. “Now TiME has more than 5,000 members and has purchased and protected already four biodiversity hotspot areas around the world – two in the upper Amazon, one on an island in the Caribbean Sea and a forest in Colombia.”

Congregation Neveh Shalom Rabbi David Kosak met Uri when the Israeli presented an Israel360 program at the synagogue about an environmental project he had done in Israel on both sides of the green line.

The two have stayed in touch since Uri returned to Israel. And in 2018, Rabbi Kosak's son, Shayah, chose TiME as his bar mitzvah project. He raised about \$2,000, which went to saving animals and plants in the Amazon. Other b'nai mitzvah students, including Zohar from Sidney, Australia, and Jasmine from Herzelia, Israel, have followed Shayah's example and made TiME their project, too.



Uri Shanas

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“Through TiME, every kid and adult can be actively involved in protecting the most valuable lands on Earth,” says Uri.

This year, sites in Kenya and Brazil are waiting to be saved and protected for future generations. Everyone can donate as much as they want and then vote for their preferred land on the website.

TiME partners with local organizations to ensure land stays in the

hands of indigenous people.

This year's donations will be allocated (based on votes received) to Wildlife Clubs of Kenya to protect wildlife on Mount Longonot, where wildlife is threatened by agricultural expansion; Nature Kenya to purchase land in Dakatcha Woodland, a refuge for endangered species that has no formal protection status; and to expand Serra Bonita Reserve, located in Brazil's most endangered biome, to save the four remaining primate species and other threatened wildlife.

Teachers in Israel use TiME's education program to teach students from kindergarten to universities about nature, biology and ecology, as well as to enhance values such as democracy, equity and activism. Uri hopes to expand the education program to the United States and Canada in the near future. On June 29, the International Day of the Tropics, the kids in Israel will join TiME to raise funds for protecting the tropical forests.

Check the website for donations and more information:

this-is-my-earth.org

Free online subscription: jewishportland.org/subscribe

Tikkun olam briefs

NE Chabad spreads good vibes & positivity

Rabbi Chaim Wilhelm of Chabad of Northeast Portland says he knows when he does something to make a difference, it is also helpful to him. He's seen a similar reaction from the volunteers in the group's Chesed Connection. "Volunteering makes people happy," says Rabbi Chaim.

But with the pandemic and stay at home the order of the day, he says, "People want to make a difference, but there are not many ways to do it right now."

"We created these Good Vibe Lawn Signs to give out to friends and neighbors, and the response has been really positive," says Rabbi Chaim.

Though NE Portland Chabad started distributing the signs before the killing of George Floyd, he says, "People have expressed more interest in the signs since the protests started. People are looking for positive messages."

In addition to the upsurge in interest in signs, he says volunteers for the 1½-year-old Chesed Connection have surged, too.

Chesed Connection delivered about 100 seder-to-go packages, funded in part by the Community Crisis Campaign. Since then, volunteers have delivered Shabbat-to-go packages of challah, soup and dessert to about 40 homes each week. To make or request a delivery, email rabbi@jewishnortheast.com.

To receive a lawn sign, visit JewishNortheast.com/lawnsign.



Shaarie Torah members randomly get challah

Congregation Shaarie Torah rolled out a fun, sweet project on June 12 in partnership with the Challahman (Rich Meyer). Each Friday, 10 Shaarie Torah households are being surprised with challah deliveries.

So recipients know where the gift is from, a note is attached to the challah. For each loaf delivered to Shaarie Torah members, Challahman donates a loaf to the Holocaust Survivors program of Jewish Family & Child Service.

Shaarie Torah Executive Director Jemi Kostiner Mansfield says, "We decided to launch this to give people stuck at home an extra burst of love and support from the shul and to (hopefully) sweeten their Shabbat."

COVID Emergency Fund is helping community

The Greater Portland Jewish Community COVID Emergency Fund, a joint project of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, has raised \$867,000.

Last week two additional grants were awarded: B'nai B'rith Camp for \$45,500 (their grants now total \$84,000) and NCSY for \$1,800 (their grants now total \$6,800).

The campaign now has provided grants of more than \$697,000 to 36 Jewish organizations across the State of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

The pandemic continues to challenge Jewish organizations and individuals. To help meet a \$50,000 match from an anonymous donor, donate at jewishportland.org/covid19relief.



B'nai B'rith Camp Food Service Director Becci Bazen preps meals for BB Camp's free summer food program.

BB Camp feeds hungry children in Lincoln City

BY DEBORAH MOON

B'nai B'rith Camp has provided free meals to nearby Lincoln City children who meet guidelines for free lunch since 2013. With COVID-19 impacting school food programs and increasing food insecurity in the state, this year the Jewish camp expanded and launched its summer food program early.

"As of Monday (June 15), we are providing breakfast and lunch for seven days a week to 200 to 300 kids a day," says BB Camp Executive Director Michelle Koplan.

The meals are provided to children who meet the USDA/Oregon Dept. of Education Child Nutrition Program requirements for the Summer Food Service Program.

"When schools were closed a few months ago, I reached out to our housing partner, NW Coastal Housing, to make sure that the kids in the two apartment complexes we have been providing food to during the summer were going to be receiving food," says BB Camp Operations Director Allison Kaufman.

At that time, the Lincoln County School District had begun to use bus routes to provide free meals to all kids in the area. But at the beginning of June, the school district transitioned to its summer meals

model, which is a grab-and-go program in the county, with one site in Lincoln City.

"They (NW Coastal Housing) asked us to take on a larger piece and start ASAP," says Michelle.

With the help of NW Coastal Housing and a child nutrition specialist from the Dept. of Education, BB Camp was able to put together a program in just a few days, says Allison.

In addition to the meals served to campers in the Lincoln City BB Day Camp, sack meals for three or four days are available for pickup two days a week at BB Camp and at two apartment complexes operated by NW Coastal Housing. The meals are prepared by BB Camp Food Service Chef Becci Bazen and two kitchen staff members. A volunteer from NW Coastal Housing picks up the meals from the BB Camp kitchen and takes them to the locations on the designated day for that site.

"These kids are very, very hungry, and we are so delighted we are able to provide food for kids," says Michelle.

In 2006 Michelle created the day camp on the Jewish overnight camp's facilities on Devil's Lake to serve area families who need summer child care and families vacationing in the area who want to give their children a taste of BB Camp. (See related story page 5)

Exploring historical context of today's racism

BY DEBORAH MOON

"Racism is as American as apple pie if we are being honest," said Professor Angela Addae, one of four panelists on the June 18 Zoom program Racism, Protest and Law Enforcement: Historical Context for Contemporary Times. The program was cosponsored by the Oregon Historical Society and Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

While the 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th Amendment guaranteed all citizens equal protection of the laws and civil rights laws have outlawed discrimination, "That is not reflected in our lived experience," said Addae, who is an assistant professor at the University of Oregon School of Law. "Chattel slavery taught white people to dehumanize Black people."

In a similar vein, Joseph Lowndes, political science associate professor at the University of Oregon, said, "White supremacy animates almost everything in American political life." He added that waves of protests against dehumanization in this second cycle of Black Lives Matter "opens up territory for new types of emancipatory visions."

Regarding those expanded visions, panel moderator Marisa Chapell, associate professor of



Panelists clockwise from top left: Professors Joseph Lowndes, Angela Addae and Judson Jeffries and moderator Marisa Chapell.

history, philosophy and religion at Oregon State University, asked about recent calls for police abolition and defunding police.

Without a clear definition of the terms, it is impossible to talk intelligently about abolition or defunding police, said Dr. Judson Jeffries, professor of African American Studies at Ohio State University and editor of the Journal of African American Studies. "If we are talking about going back to a period, I remember growing up in 1970s and 80s, when many police called themselves Peace Officers ... and monitored the neighborhood by walking a beat – that's something I can support. If you are talking about complete eradication, I say pump the brakes."

In terms of defunding police, Lowndes said many protesters are talking about the role of police. "Why are police called on to take on all these roles to manage multiple crises in society? Where can we put resources differently?"

Addae agreed with reallocating funds to crucial social services that directly address societal problems. "Police are poorly equipped to solve those social problems."

Panelists also discussed Oregon's history of Black exclusion, including the state constitution that banned Blacks, free or enslaved, from living in the state. Addae noted the state was founded as a white utopia, and Lowndes added white supremacists have risen in the state in waves – including a strong

Ku Klux Klan presence in the 1920s and the White Aryan Resistance drive for a white ethnic state in the Pacific Northwest in the 1990s.

The program concluded with suggestions on how society can move forward in this time of heightened awareness.

"How do we undo racism?" asked Addae. "People say I am not a racist ... Admit we all have been indoctrinated ... then we can commit to doing the work."

"For white folks ... challenge racism when it comes up (where you live or work)," said Lowndes. Noting racism is rooted in the past, he said, "We may not be responsible for what happened in the past, but we are responsible for what happens in the present."

Dr. Jeffries added he teaches his students, "They have an obligation to use their degrees as a tool ... (to enhance) the human race."

In introducing the panel discussion, OJMCHE Director Judy Margles noted, "The protests have really encouraged me to look forward with a modicum of hope." The presentation may have left the audience with a similar glimmer of hope for a more equal future for all Americans.

See the full hourlong presentation at: [youtube.com/watch?v=et-1S4xhM8g&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=et-1S4xhM8g&feature=youtu.be)

Joe Mussabini won't be at Café at the J when it reopens

Mittleman Jewish Community Center members and visitors are likely to notice someone missing when they stop by the Café at the J when the café reopens (it didn't reopen when the J did June 19, though kosher meals can be ordered online).

If you've spent any time in the café, you probably know Joe Mussabini, who likely greeted you, asked what he could get for you or wanted to know how your day was. "He dedicates his life to taking care of other people," says kosher caterer and café owner Allen Levin, Joe's friend of more than four decades.

Earlier this year, Joe was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Unfortunately, his symptoms have progressed rapidly in the last several months. Joe is now at home with



his wife, Amy. His presence will continue to be felt however; the MJCC is naming the seating area nearest the counter and window overlooking the pool "Joe's Corner."

Joe grew up in Egypt, spoke five languages (Arabic, Greek, Italian, French and English) and played semi-professional soccer in his 20s – first in Sweden and then South Africa. He eventually began working as the maître d' and public face of a five-star hotel in Durban, then for a renowned hotelier who sent him on a trip to America.

In 1978, Joe met Allen, and the two worked together running several restaurants and even a popular Los Angeles nightclub named Marbles, which was frequented by movie stars and other celebrities.

"He is so charismatic. And anything he does, he does well," says Allen. For example, Joe played squash late in life and placed second in his age division in the U.S. Professional Squash Championships.

A GoFundMe page has been set up to help Joe: [gofundme.com/f/hmnpn-joe039s-family](https://www.gofundme.com/f/hmnpn-joe039s-family)

Multnomah County Phase One Reopening: What does it mean for Jewish organizations?

BY DEBORAH MOON

With Multnomah County entering Phase One, we asked many of the Jewish community's agencies and congregations about their plans. Many, such as **Congregation Beth Israel** bethisrael-pdx.org/connections and the **Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education** ojmche.org, will continue to stream or Zoom services and programs. The Mittleman Jewish Community Center has reopened to members (see story). Following are plans from some other organizations:

Cedar Sinai Park: All Rose Schnitzer Manor residents have tested negative for COVID-19. Staff member tests also are negative as of June 22 (pending results of four not yet received). Therefore, the RSM move-in hold is now lifted (all move-ins still require a COVID-19 negative test prior to move-in).

All federal and state safety measures in place for RSM and RJHC/HSCL remain the same.

You can read updates at: cedarsinainpark.org/covid-19-announcements/

Rachel's Well Community Mikvah is in the process of reopening. Upgraded safety and security guidelines are in place, and all immersions are still by appointment only. To request an appointment a minimum of 4-7 days in advance, and longer if possible, people should email mikvahpdx@gmail.com

Congregation Neveh Shalom: The congregation has established a "Reopening Task Force" with six workgroups (health, education, facilities, ritual, membership/programming and HR/finance) to determine how and when it will be safe to return to the building.

Foundation School will operate a small, limited summer camp initially offered to first responders and essential workers in our congregational community.

Planning is under way for High Holy Days to be a "primarily"

online experience with selected in-person opportunities.

"A meaningful congregation, after all, is not based on a physical structure ... The true foundation for meaning is found in relationships," says Executive Director Fred Rothstein. "That has continued to be a guiding principle as clergy, staff and lay leadership pivoted quickly to creatively develop new approaches to meet the needs of our congregants. Livestream and Zoom have clearly become important tools in continuing connections." nevehshalom.org

Congregation Shaarie Torah also has convened a task force to talk about phased reopening, specifically in-person Shabbat services. "The building and offices will remain closed through July while we continue to watch trends in COVID cases in Multnomah County and the state," says Executive Director Jemi Kostiner Mansfield. "We will, of course, be following all OHA and CDC guidelines for physical distancing, crowd limits, cleaning, mask wearing, contact tracing, etc. A hybrid model of limited in-person and live-streamed services is being planned for the High Holidays." shaarietorah.org

Congregation Shir Tikvah is not planning on reopening to the public for now. People can still Zoom into the 9 am Torah Study on Shabbat by reaching out to office manager Amelia Schroth, at: office@shirtikvahpdx.org

Congregation Kol Ami, in Vancouver, Wash., is continuing to offer daily story times, three times a week check-ins, services, Kol Ami Women of Reform Judaism events and Men's club events via Zoom. "We are making our decisions based on best health practices for our staff and our community and looking forward to a time when there is a treatment or vaccine, and it is safe for all of us to meet together in person," says Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker. jewishvancouverusa.org



Mittleman Jewish Community Center Day Camps returned June 22 with stable groups of 10 children and two counselors. MJCC camps will run each week from June 22 through Aug. 7, 9 am to 4 pm, Monday-Friday. No before or after care is available.

MJCC (continued from page 1)

virtual classes to join the MJCC to continue the classes at the center or online.

The J will be open (for members only) 7 am-7 pm, Monday-Friday; and 8 am-4 pm, Sunday. Hours will be reassessed in August. When parking, members are asked to leave an empty space between cars to allow for social distancing. Social distancing continues in the building with everyone staying at least 6 feet apart and following one-way footsteps. Temperatures will be taken and masks are required (available at entry). To maintain a one-way traffic flow, members will exit through the downstairs doors facing the Sportsplex.

Nonmembers are invited to enroll children in the MJCC summer day camps, though due to limited capacity this year, camps are filling up fast.

"Our camp team has been spending the past few months planning a fun-filled summer for school-aged children grades K to 6," says Jennifer. "Children grades 7 through 10 have the opportunity to join our Counselor in Training program, which provides

leadership skills and hands on experience with campers. We are looking forward to giving campers a unique, fun-filled camp experience and giving parents a bit of a break."

The CIT program is designed to empower teens by offering new responsibilities, challenges and adventures including working with younger campers and team-building. CITs gain real life experiences and skills that teach them how to be positive mentors and leaders.

The following areas remain closed, but will reopen when state and local guidelines allow: pools, locker rooms, Sportsplex, basketball, climbing wall and Cafe at the J (though kosher meals are available for online ordering).

To further combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the building will be cleaned, sanitized and disinfected throughout the day; larger areas will be fogged nightly with a Victory Innovations electrostatic disinfectant sprayer. Additional hand-sanitizing stations have been added throughout the building.

BB Camp pivots to day camp

BY DEBORAH MOON

When Oregon Gov. Kate Brown decided to prohibit overnight summer camps this year, B'nai B'rith Camp pivoted all its resources toward its two existing day camps plus an added day camp for middle schoolers in the metro area.

BB Day Camp rolls out in Portland June 29 for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade in the fall. The Lincoln City Day Camp for ages 5 to 14 will begin a week later (July 6) and run through Aug. 21. BB Camp Middle School Days will offer four one-week sessions in Portland, July 6-Aug. 14. Camp days will run from 9 am to 4 pm, with no extended care options available due to state restrictions on maintaining stable, separate groups of 10.

"The health and safety of our campers is always our highest priority," says BB Camp Executive Director Michelle Koplan. But to prepare for a safe experience in the era of COVID-19, BB Camp staff has implemented guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority and the Centers for Disease Control, as well as ideas from a new field guide from the American Camp Association. "We are mitigating and modifying programs."

"So much of the work we had done with the governor's office preparing for (the hoped for opening of) overnight camp transferred beautifully for our day camps," says Michelle. "We usually have 130 young adult counselors, so we are deploying those staff in both our day camps."

"I am so proud of my staff for



being so nimble and creative and pivoting and working with the governor's office to create essentially brand new programs," she adds.

In past years the two day camps have served about 360 day campers in Lincoln City and about 340 in Portland. Even with no preschool camps allowed outside of child care settings this summer, Michelle expects the numbers to grow in Portland. During a normal summer, the Portland day camp serves 60 to 80 children each week.

In Portland the elementary age and middle school camps are housed at Congregation Beth Israel in the education building, which has ample classrooms to keep groups separate as required by OHA guidelines.

"We have room to grow with classroom spaces," says Michelle. "As summer progresses, if people are more comfortable (sending kids to camp), we may grow."

She says the Middle School Days were added in Portland to meet the needs of former overnight campers who now have nothing to do for the summer.



BB Day Camps will feature many of the same activities as past years.

"We will have a similar schedule and similar activities as overnight camp with a focus on leadership skills."

In Lincoln City, day campers will once again be based in the camp's Mercaz Campus Center, which has multiple separate spaces to keep campers in stable groups of 10. With no overnight campers at the campground, day campers will also have "free rein of a lot of space."

Camp specialists will wear protective gear and visit just one group at a time. For now, rather than field trips, visitors such as representatives from Echo Theater, Steve's Creature Features and Mad Science will visit the camps. The camps may include field trips later in the summer.

"We are going to be flexible this year," says Michelle.

So parents will know what precautions are being maintained at camp, BB Camp has posted its protocols [COVID-19 specific Operations Manual](https://www.bbcamp.org/covid-19-specific-operations-manual) on its website [bbcamp.org](https://www.bbcamp.org).

Register for BB Day Camps at [bbcamp.org/register/](https://www.bbcamp.org/register/).

Eden Village West offers free virtual summer camp programs

Ordinarily an organic farm-to-table Jewish summer camp, this year Eden Village West, [edenvillagewest.org](https://www.edenvillagewest.org), has created a free remote program, Eden HOME(in)STEAD.

HOME(in)STEAD provides inspiration to get kids outside, making things, experiencing nature, and connecting with each

other – all the best parts of the Eden Village homestead ethos.

"Our goal is to bring the spirit of Eden Village into the homes, backyards, and imaginations of your families," says Nava Sherwood, Operations Manager of Eden Village West.

From June 28 to July 17, Eden Village will share almost 60

free programs that are geared toward the diverse learning styles, social styles and interests of 2nd- to 11th-graders.

Most programs are drop-in and will remain accessible online throughout the summer. Check out [edenvillagewest.org/homeinstead](https://www.edenvillagewest.org/homeinstead) for a schedule and description.

BB SUMMER DAYS

In addition to the BB Day Camps for elementary and middle schoolers in Portland and Lincoln City, B'nai B'rith Camp staff have plans to make this summer fun for all youth and families.

PORTLAND BB TEENS

Following strict guidelines for COVID-19 mitigation, day programs will connect teens with their BB Camp friends as they participate in some of their favorite BB Camp activities. For more information, email Assistant Director Purple Rattray at zrattray@bbcamp.org.

FAMILY CAMPS

After months of spending time in our own homes, it is time to get away and experience a little bit of BB Camp magic together. The State has released guidelines for Family Camps to open in Phase 2. BB Camp is ready to launch our summer Family Camps when approved. More information will be available soon.

BB SEATTLE DAYS

BB Camp will bring opportunities for BB Campers in the Seattle area to connect with each other under Washington's COVID-19 guidelines. These daylong programs will be filled with the BB Camp magic that campers look forward to each summer at BB Camp.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

BB Camp will soon share a slate of online camper get-togethers and programs.

BB Camp's Teen Philanthropy program for 10th graders goes virtual. Each year, the Leaders in Training cohort learns to review grants and work together to decide which Lincoln City nonprofits should receive their allotted funds. This year the program will be virtual, but still rewarding.

Events are also planned for former staff and alumni.

Virtual BB Game Nights and BB Campfire/Havdallah are in the works.

[bbcamp.org/bb-summer-days](https://www.bbcamp.org/bb-summer-days)

JFGP 100th Annual Meeting: Great things happen

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 100th annual meeting on June 16 reflected our changed world and how the Jewish community has rallied to aid individuals and organizations in these tumultuous times of COVID and protests. With 144 households on the Zoom webinar, the centennial meeting was the largest in recent history.

The larger turnout was one of several "silver linings" JFGP Board Chair Lauren Goldstein shared during the evening.

The opening montage of video clips from leaders of the Oregon Board of Rabbis, Jewish Family & Child Service, Cedar Sinai Park and B'nai B'rith Camp, and community members reflecting on the community's response culminated with Goldstein sharing the Federation's rallying cry for the year, "When We Come Together as a Community, Great Things Happen."

Goldstein offered a swift roundup of the community's successes over the past year, both before and during COVID. She noted that when we began the year July 1, 2019, Federation was putting the finishing touches on the community Israel trip as the centerpiece of its centennial year. "In the fall, we were gathering together in vibrant groups" for inspirational gatherings featuring Chef Michael Solomonov, Ambassador Dennis Ross and Notorious RBG author Irin Carmon. Pre-pandemic, she said, "We (Federation and Wexner) identified 20 incredible changemakers from our community to participate in a leadership development program, which we now look forward to starting soon."

When the world changed in mid-March, "It was our time to pivot, and our Jewish Federation changed literally on a dime," said Goldstein.

On March 16, the JFGP Board met in emergency session on Zoom and committed \$250,000 from reserves to launch a crisis campaign. A day later, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

committed \$100,000 to partner with Federation on the Greater Portland Jewish Community COVID Emergency Fund. Within two weeks, the grant process had begun. With donations from individuals, the fund has raised \$867,000 and granted \$697,000 to 36 organizations in Oregon and SW Washington – "a true representation of great things happening."

She called the crisis campaign, "A crowning moment of our Jewish community, who came together during this trying time ... to make sure every agency and individual was taken care of."

Even during the crisis campaign, the community responded and the Jewish Federation's total resource development this year totaled \$4,641,823 so that all agencies will receive the same allocation they received last year.

Goldstein added the community also came together to make great things happen through three strategic community priorities: community engagement, maintain security, and elevate messaging and communications. She emphasized that engagement was targeting agencies, synagogues, rabbis, individuals we know and don't yet know – "all of our constituents."

The polling feature on Zoom was used to confirm the nominating committees' nominees for four new board members: Sarah Rosenberg Brown, Les Gutfreund, Alan Montrose and Eliana Temkin.

Guest speakers were Jewish Federations of North America President and CEO Eric Fingerhut and Wexner Heritage Director Rabbi Yaffa Epstein; both spoke about the importance of leadership for a community's success.

"We know we are at a time of change – we are having the 100th annual meeting ... by Zoom," said Fingerhut. "We know our work is going to help determine what it (the future) is going to look like."

Fingerhut said that the federation system and Portland "have the leadership we need." He said

that JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner "is known across the federation system – he is respected, he is listened to ... we trust him to help lead us." As an example of that, Fingerhut said when the crisis hit in mid-March, federation executives on a Zoom call wondered when aid would be needed. "Marc said, 'We are acting now.'" Fingerhut said the other execs quickly followed Portland's lead to launch a crisis campaign.

Blattner wrapped up the meeting by sharing insights and major accomplishments of the past year. He congratulated the five winners of the Sussman scholarships and the winner of the Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award (see article on award winners in the May 27 issue: jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/untraditional-awards-ceremony)

To help expand the strategic priority of community engagement, Federation has created a Young Adult Board "to engage even more people," said Blattner (see related story, page 8).

He called the reboot of The Jewish Review, originally published by Federation from 1959 to 2012, a highlight of the year. "After an eight-year hiatus ... it returned online to great readership, up-to-date information and a great reception."

He praised the work of Women's Philanthropy and the JCRC – which has strengthened Jewish community ties with the African-American community and been involved in combating the resurgence of anti-Semitism.

The postponement of the Israel trip for 400 people was the year's biggest disappointment, said Blattner, adding, "I hope all will come with us when it's rescheduled and that new people will join."

At no additional cost, the Federation also moved into new office space at 9900 SW Greenburg Road in May, though staff is still working remotely due to COVID restrictions.

Blattner said he is privileged to work with an "outstanding Executive Committee – Lauren

Goldstein, Ted Nelson, Jack Birnbach, Jim Meyer and Ed Tonkin" and "12 other professionals on a daily basis who are making a difference ... together with our partner agencies, synagogues, rabbis" who make Jewish Portland what it is today, during COVID and post-COVID.

Watch a video from the meeting: youtu.be/r6nl-Q9xo20.

New Board Members

Sarah Rosenberg Brown

Originally from Albuquerque, NM, Sarah has lived in Oregon 26 years. She dedicated over 12 years of her professional life to nonprofit work, started two small businesses, and now is a consultant with The Peak Fleet focusing on community building and social/racial equity.

Les Gutfreund

A Detroit native, Les relocated his family to Salem in 1994. After being very active in the Salem Jewish community, he moved to Portland to marry Eve Stern in 2010. Les works as a general contractor and chairs Jewish Free Loan of Greater Portland.

Alan Montrose

Alan was born in Portland. He has had a dental practice in Beaverton, called Smiles Northwest, for 37 years. Alan and his wife, Debbi, have two children and one granddaughter. He has served on Federation's Allocations Committee, and presently serves on the board of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

Eliana Temkin

Eliana moved to Portland from California in 1988. After 16 years as a Jewish communal professional, Eliana works for Kaiser Permanente as an organizational effectiveness consultant. As a member of Havurah Shalom, Eliana has served on the Rabbi Search Committee and as co-chair the Long-Range Planning committee. She serves on Federation's Allocations Committee. She and husband, Alan Springs, have three sons.

See brief bios of continuing board members on page 11.

OJMCHE reports fiscal stability in turbulent year

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education's virtual annual meeting June 15 drew 130 people, an increase from the typical 90 to 100 people who have attended recent in-person annual meetings held over lunch.

Deputy Director Gail Mandel, Curator of Collections Anne LeVant Prah, and Manager of Museum and Holocaust Education Amanda Solomon told OJMCHE members about their work before and during COVID-19.

Director Judy Margles acknowledged the concerns that many of us feel as we confront the pandemic, oppose racism and grapple with our worries about the future. But she also focused on hope – that this is a moment of breathtaking chal-

lenge and so, all the more, it is a time to cherish hope.

With the dissolution of the Institute for Judaic Studies, OJMCHE has taken over stewardship of two of IJS's signature programs: Weekend in Quest and Portland Jewish Film Festival. Unfortunately, the 2020 PJFF was yet another casualty of the COVID-19 crisis.

The museum was fortunate to receive a forgivable loan from the Paycheck Protection Program of the Small Business Administration. The loan, which will convert to a grant, has enabled the museum to end the fiscal year financially sound.

Board member Steve Reinisch paid tribute to Elaine Coughlin, whose term as board president concludes June 30. Jeff Mazer is the museum's incoming pres-



Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education staff and board members log on to Zoom as the OJMCHE annual meeting gets under way.

ident. OJMCHE also welcomed Leonard Shapiro to the board.

“OJMCHE's annual meeting is a time to bring the community together to mark the end of one year and the beginning of

the next,” says Margles. “Not being in the same room with museum members and not being able to exchange greetings and good wishes with each other was a challenge.”

OJCF annual meeting shares highlights of year

BY JULIE DIAMOND

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation held its Annual Meeting via Zoom on June 4. About 60 community members participated, less than typically attend. The Annual Legacy Celebration was postponed due to the coronavirus and that may have affected attendance.

Here are some highlights of the meeting, which I led with Board Chair Josh Frankel:

During the period July 1, 2019, to May 31, 2020, the foundation distributed 1,395 total grants. These grants represented \$7.7 million in charitable dollars that reached 390 nonprofits.

The Foundation's total assets under management (AUM) as of June 3, 2020, were \$90.4 million, flat compared to last year at the same time, but with recent swings to as low as \$75 million. With the market volatility due to COVID-19, the Investment Committee has been meeting more often to intensify their oversight of the Foundation investments.

OJCF's donor fund advisors responded quickly to the onset

of COVID-19, with \$425,210 in grants for Emergency Relief needs during March, April and May. Of that, \$298,980 was directed to the Greater Jewish Portland Together COVID-19 Relief Fund, a joint project of the Jewish Federation and OJCF.

OJCF celebrated the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation's successful completion of their year, in spite of COVID. Although OJCYP's Annual Benefit Dinner, usually held in April, was canceled, thanks to the generosity of many sponsors, the teens made community grants of \$66,000. The teens shared their grant decisions in a lively “Pass the Grant Check” video.

The update on LIFE & LEGACY included a welcome to nine new partner organizations that applied for and have been accepted to a second group of organizations to embark on the LIFE & LEGACY program for the development of after-life-time gifts. They will be able to earn incentive grants for their success funded by the OJCF Community Endowment Fund. Although the program launch

was delayed by the coronavirus, it will begin in the fall with remote learning strategies. Also, our colleague Arlene Schiff, National LIFE & LEGACY director at the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, shared via video that the national Legacy program has reached the milestone of \$1 billion in legacy commitments to Jewish organizations in the U.S. and Canada. Oregon and SW Washington are part of this success!

Josh led a celebratory moment for OJCF Program Officer Sonia Marie Leikam, who received the Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award sponsored by the Jewish Federation. Leikam handles OJCYP, Young Adult Giving Council and other donor education and outreach responsibilities.

As always, “members” voted on the slate of board of trustee nominees. Newly elected trustees are Jason Kaufman, Steve Kaufman (not related) and Sue Menashe. Trustees elected for another three-year term are Kathy Chusid, Naomi Derner, David Forman and Emily Kahn. In addition, Simon

Gottheiner will join as the appointed trustee representing the Jewish Federation.

Josh and I thanked those concluding service on the board: Stan Geffen, Marni Glick, Lauren Goldstein, Steve Gradow, Steve Laveson, Eric Rosenfeld and Mike Tannenbaum.

The OJCF professional team has been working remotely since mid-March. Operations have continued relatively smoothly, with the occasional lost piece of mail. Several Foundation events have been postponed or cancelled and other programs are being reimagined for online experiences. The Foundation board and professional team have juggled a lot of new technology over these past months and, indeed, Zoom fatigue has set in.

I am especially grateful for the work of board chair Josh Frankel and all the board leaders. They, along with the professional team, are providing strong leadership in these turbulent times.

Julie Diamond is President and CEO of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation.

New board gives new generation a seat at table

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has formed a Young Adult Board, with seven members serving as ambassadors to 21- to 45-year-olds who live in different areas, have different sexual orientations and are in different stages of life, as well as to the community's organizations serving those young adults.

"As the world has changed and continues to change in so many profound ways, it is crucial that each generation has a voice and a seat at the table in community decision-making," says Marshal P. Spector, who was on the Federation committee that created the new Young Adult Board. "It is essential for the 'older' generations to listen, learn and gain perspective from young adults, especially those in the progressive community – they have benefitted from what we have done well but will deal with the consequences of our shortcomings and failures."

A serious seat at the table is exactly the reason Shayna Sigman agreed to serve on the new board. After earning her master's degree, Shayna moved to Portland as a resident of Moishe House planning programming for other young adults. She says she hasn't always felt like the older generations have taken her seriously, and she hopes the official nature of Young Adult Board will give members "the power to forge connections across the community ... and to teach other organizations what young adults want and who young adults are."

Shayna is joined on the board by former Moishe housemate Jake Sullivan, Hope Peskin-Shepherd, Sarah Howard, Stuart Zeltzer, Ben Morgan and Hannah Holstein.

"I was very excited seeing the list of people on the board," says Shayna. "It makes me very hopeful."

Hope says that when she moved to Portland in 2018 after earning her master's degree, she was impressed by how many different organizations

are already putting on events for young adults. "As a board member, I hope to help people have more awareness of all the different options," says Hope. "It takes time to find out about all the fun stuff going on – once we can get together again."

She adds she has made her closest friends in the Jewish community and hopes other young adults participate so they, too, can find such long-lasting friendships.

Sarah, a lifelong Portlander, agrees. "Being part of the Portland Jewish community has brought so much joy and growth into my life. ... I made long-lasting relationships through friendships and mentors that have enhanced my life and helped define my values and goals."

"Young adults will benefit greatly from being part of the Portland Jewish community," she says. "I cannot wait to help bridge young adults to our community."

Stuart Zeltzer sees young adults as a crucial demographic to build connection and community. "As the space between education years (high school and college) and the start of family life widens, young adult programming has stepped up to help fill the void," he says. "As disconnection, loneliness and uncertain economic times potentially lay ahead, connection and community will be essential."

As a member of the new board, Stuart says, "I want to share the sense of community, support and intrigue that I have both given and received as part of the Jewish community ... part of the reason I ended up in Portland was through the generosity and connection of the Portland Moishe House to help set me up with housing during a monthlong visit and plug me into the community as soon as I got here."

The board will have its initial retreat in August – either in person or on Zoom, depending on government and health recommendations at that time.

One of its preliminary missions will be to plan a hallmark young adult event that will be fun and feel welcoming for all

the diverse young adult populations, says Nadine Menashe. Nadine, JFGP development associate since 2018, serves as the JFGP staff coordinator for the young adult board.

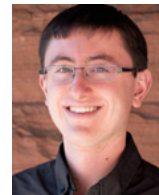
Nadine says the Federation decided to create the board to more fully engage young adults and to harness the expertise of former Moishe House residents, graduates of PDX Pathways (JFGP's leadership and mentoring program for young adult professionals), and other engaged young adults.

BOARD MEMBERS

Hope Peskin-Shepherd is a policy analyst at the Oregon Health Authority. Hope is passionate about public health and reproductive rights and completed her Master's of Public Health in New York. She is originally from Michigan and helped found a Jewish Young Professionals group in Ann Arbor. Hope was thrilled to find a similarly welcoming and friendly community in Portland. She loves hiking, singing, cooking and traveling.



Jake Sullivan grew up in Portland and attended Colorado College and the University of Cambridge. From 2017-2020, he served as a resident in Moishe House Portland, helping to create a welcoming space for young adult Jews. Jake is excited to bring his passion for connection, creativity and fun to this new venture.



Sarah Howard grew up attending BB Camp and Congregation Beth Israel. Work and school havetaken her all over the world, where she discovered her passion for providing access to education and opportunities. When not working, you can find her with her dog and husband, hiking in the Gorge, hosting family and friends for dinner, or wine tasting.



Stuart Zeltzer came to Portland in 2016 to pursue a career in family medicine. Stuart was active in the Detroit and Cleveland



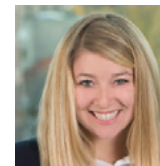
Jewish communities through work at Tamarack Camps, Moishe House and the Cleveland Youth Leadership Division. Stuart remained engaged here through the PDX Pathways program, the Giving Council and participation in many events for young Jewish professionals.

Ben Morgan has lived in the area for five years, residing in Milwaukie with his wife, Lauren, along with their children, 3-year-old



Zev and 7-month-old Lital. He loves everything Portland has to offer – outdoor adventures, the food and culinary culture, and the community and the amazing beer. He has worked in the beer industry for almost eight years, currently with Firestone Walker Brewing Company.

Hannah Holstein volunteered with her brother's Special Olympics baseball team and watched her father train Super Sunday callers, which



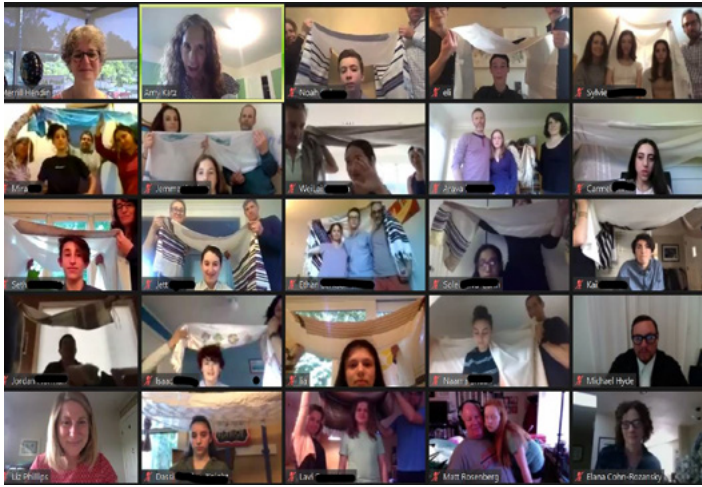
led to her passion for nonprofits. She earned her master's degree from Northeastern University in Nonprofit Management. Hannah is an associate director of development at the PSU Foundation and likes to explore the Pacific Northwest with her son, husband and dog.

Shayna Sigman moved to Portland in 2016, after completing her MSW at Washington University in St. Louis. During her time



in Portland, she has worked for multiple Jewish organizations, served two years as a Moishe House Portland resident and participated in the Jewish Federation's Pathways program.

Portland Jewish Academy's memorable graduation



The night before their Zoom graduation, above, Portland Jewish Academy's 21 eight-graders enjoyed a car parade around the PJA parking lot.



Like so many things in the past three months, this year's Portland Jewish Academy Eighth Grade Graduation Celebration was unprecedented and unforgettable. It started with lawn signs for each of the 21 graduates delivered by their teachers. It continued with a car parade in the PJA parking lot with lots of hoots and hollers, smiles and signs, and bags of goodies. The next day it culminated in a special Zoom graduation ceremony that included presentations from all the students.

"My favorite part of this untraditional graduation ceremony was being able to see the culmination of experiences that we've all had here, and how those experiences were expressed in everyone's presentations," says graduate Kai LaForte.

This eighth-grade class had to accept many disappointments this year, including missing their class trip to Israel. Throughout it all, students embraced the challenges of the time, and the PJA staff made the run-up to the end of their PJA experience truly remarkable.

"I am very grateful for all of my teachers at PJA, especially in these last few months after it became clear our eighth-grade class may not be able to travel to Israel," says graduate Liana Kressel, who has attended

PJA since age 3. "Since then, there have been major changes and disruptions in our PJA life, especially for the teachers. Even after all of this, the teachers made it a priority to give us an opportunity to make a graduation presentation that was meaningful to us. Every single one of my teachers has been there to support me and their dedication and commitment to their students has especially shown these past few months."

For Kai, the biggest regret was not being able to say good-bye in person after the Zoom graduation. "It's like, we've spent all this time together and we don't even really get to say good-bye. We just log off and we're done." But, Kai adds, it's not really regret, "just a little sad about it, you know?"

Liana says they did at least get to wave good-bye during the graduation drive-through the night before the Zoom graduation ceremony. After the ceremony, she texted her friends to congratulate them on graduating.

"It was not the same, but it made me feel better knowing that both the teachers and I have worked as hard as we possibly could to make it the most special graduation," she says. "That's all I could've asked for."

PJA's socially distanced kindergarten graduation

Kindergarteners didn't miss out on graduation festivities this year. Portland Jewish Academy held a lovely socially distant graduation for their kindergarteners on Sunday, June 14, in the PJA parking lot.

Everyone gathered in a circle with family groups standing 6 feet apart in designated spots. Each kindergartener, one at a time, stood on a cloud written in chalk on the pavement that said "Kindergarten." They walked up to the row of teachers at the end, said hello, received their bag of goodies, took a photo and then walked back to the cloud on the pavement that said "First Grade."

It was a momentous occasion for these little ones who have been meeting daily on Zoom for the past three months. The graduation finished with a Yasher Koach to the teachers and some songs.

AT RIGHT: Jackson was one of 19 kindergartners graduating at Portland Jewish Academy this year. Teachers Maya, Celinda and Alex congratulate him from a distance.



Searching for Light: Dina Feuer – robust at 88

Jathan Janove is an author, columnist, executive coach and organization consultant. During this difficult time, Jathan has been interviewing people about their lives, values and priorities.



BY JATHAN JANOVE

On a normal Passover, Dina Feuer's seders (often over 100 people each night) require 15 pounds of apples just for the charoset. This year she purchased a single apple. The seders were online. As a first generation born American, Dina's parents came from Europe and spoke Yiddish to her. She answered in English. For the last 46 years she has been in Portland and for 65 years married to her late husband, Yaac. Most of this time she worked full time building community and teaching Hebrew and Judaica at the Portland Jewish Academy, its predecessor Jewish Education Association, and Portland State University. She helped settle the State of Israel, served in the Israeli Army and she even helped found two synagogues.

What's something in your life for which you are grateful?

I can't begin to count the number of things I'm grateful for. I have lived a blessed life. If I had to pick one, it would be a chance occurrence that happened in Brooklyn, NY, when I was 11.

On the way to the dentist's office, I passed a store window with a fascinating diorama featuring camping and scouting. Curious, I stopped. It was the socialist Zionist youth movement called Hashomer Haztair (HH) which had a big emphasis on scouting. This organization set the path for the rest of my life, including my career teaching Hebrew and Judaica, living in Israel (where my three sons were born) and living on a socialist Israeli kibbutz and a moshav, and my passion for the Jewish people and the state of Israel.

As if it were yesterday, I recall playing ping-pong, a game I'd previously known nothing about, at HH. The ping-pong table also served as the place where we kids counted out the money we raised in our blue and white boxes for the Jewish National Fund. This organization gave me a sense of purpose that so many kids lacked.

I remember how scared I initially was to jump through the New York subway doors and talk to total strangers about sup-

porting a country that didn't yet exist. To this day my closest friends include fellow members of HH.

Socialist kibbutzim have struggled to remain viable. How come?

Unfortunately, as beautiful as the concept is, I don't think human nature is compatible with the essence of socialism. We're wired to better ourselves and we tend to assess how well we're doing in relation to others.

Initially the founding kibbutz community, not the parents, named the children. The focus was truly "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs." Today in Israel the only kibbutzim that have retained socialism are ironically the kibbutzim that own lucrative assets, businesses and corporations. I'm afraid the model has not prevailed.

What's an embarrassing moment in your life you're willing to share?

When I first came to Portland, Rabbi Stampfer and his wonderful wife, Goldie, hired me to cook for Solomon Schechter, the Jewish camp they founded. (I had been running the kitchens for the HH camp in Liberty, NY, since I was 16 years old.) One morning I overestimated the amount of eggs for French toast and was left with a huge bowl of unused eggs. This triggered my kibbutznik guilt for wasting food.

Imagine that your house catches fire. After saving your loved ones and pets, you have time to safely make a final dash. What would you grab?

This would be a problem. Not being built like Samson, I doubt I could carry the at least 150 photo albums, not to mention the family video collection and my late husband's artwork. Rather than trying to make a painful selection choice, I'd probably just grab my purse, keys and credit cards.

What's a treasured memory?

Shabbat is so important that religious Jews are called Shomer Shabbat which means Guardians of Shabbat. Our community centers on coming together for Shabbat and all the other holidays.

My grandson calls our community "The Shabbos Crowd." We recognized that a form of prayer is appreciating your blessings. So at every Shabbat we go around the table and the children tell the blessings of their week. These are not "highlights" of their week, but rather the things that happened that they are thankful for. It's an important distinction and makes people appreciate things when they happen and give thanks afterwards. Sometimes the blessings are simple. For example: the car started every day this week; we were healthy; I did well on a school project. Because the kids looked forward to proudly



Dina Feuer

reciting their blessings to a big audience at the Shabbat table, they would collect them during the week and sometimes even bring a written list.

I weaved this practice into my classes. Each Friday, I asked students to share their blessings for the week. For example, if a child said, "I got a present from my parents," I'd say, "What's the blessing behind it?" Eventually, he or she would respond with "My parents love and care about me."

I remember a little boy who often came to class poorly dressed in ill-fitting clothes. One day this boy shared his blessing. He said "my bracha is I got a pair of shoes that fit me."

What do you find spiritual in life?

Judaism plays a fundamental role in my life and memories are important. We Jews are fortunate to have moral and ethical laws and so many holidays. There's always a holiday coming up, including relatively newer ones like Jerusalem Day and Independence Day. The month in the Hebrew calendar with no holidays is called "bitter month."

What's the moral of the story of your life?

Focus on your blessings and act. You probably don't have the power to make world peace. But you do have the power to make the world a better place.

As widely as you can (in your own family, friends, neighbors and immediate community), spread positivity, trust, kindness, compassion and caring. If everyone could do that, wow! What a wonderful place this could be.



Programs explore diverse issues; June 24: Find calm

Weekly Wednesday Updates were created to keep our community informed of how COVID-19 is affecting all of us and have expanded to explore other issues affecting our community such as equal justice for Blacks and the LGBTQ communities.

The programs are held each Wednesday afternoon on Zoom.

This week, at 4 pm, Wednesday, June 24, Rabbi Jonathan Slater speaks on Finding Calm in a Frantic World. Jewish contemplative practices – particularly mindfulness meditation grounded in Jewish terms – can offer us a way to navigate turbulent times. Rabbi Slater will discuss the roots of contemplative Jewish practice, its meaning for us today, and offer the opportunity to practice together. Sign up at: jewishportland.org/covid-19-community-health-update-with-rabbi-jonathan-slater

At 1 pm, Wednesday, July 1, educator, lecturer, author specializing in Jewish and Holocaust films Rich Brownstein will discuss A Brief History of 75 Years of Holocaust Films: From The Great Dictator to Schindler's List to JoJo Rabbit. A Portland native, Brownstein now lives in Jerusalem, Israel.

This program is a collaboration of the Next Generations Group and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. The Next Generations Group, formed in 2011, includes Holocaust descendants, survivors and supporters who want to keep the stories and lessons alive and relevant.

nextgenerationsgroup.wordpress.com

Register for this program at:

jewishportland.org/covid-19-community-health-update-with-rich-brownstein

In honor of Pride Month, last week's program focused on Perspectives on Pride in a Changing Time. Rachel Nelson moderated a panel of Pride Northwest Executive Director Debra Porta, Executive Director of Nehirim Rabbi Debra Kolodny and San Francisco JCRC Director Tyler Gregory.

See recordings of all the past programs at jewishportland.org/weeklywednesday.

JFGP 2020-21 Continuing Board Members (from page 6)

Lauren Goldstein, Chair: As a Chief Revenue Officer, Lauren helps marketing and sales leaders at growth-focused organizations transform their demand marketing to drive revenue growth and excellent customer experiences. Lauren cofounded Women in Revenue, a nonprofit built to empower women in sales and marketing with education, mentorship and networking opportunities. Lauren has served on the Federation board in different leadership capacities for more than 15 years.

Leslie Beard: Leslie is originally from Milwaukee, Wisc., and has lived in Portland for 30 years with husband, Peter, and their four children. She works as a physical therapist at Emanuel Hospital specializing in adult neurology and is also a member of their clinical ethics consultation team.

Emily Benoit: Born in Upstate New York, Emily moved to Florida when she was 10. She moved to Vancouver, Wash., in 2016 and quickly became involved with the greater Portland Jewish community. Emily has worked for city, state and county governments and now works as a transportation planner in the private sector.

Jack Birnbach: Jack grew up in Portland and attended Neveh Shalom and Camp Solomon Schechter. He currently chairs Federation's Allocations Committee. Previously, he was Federation's Treasurer and a member of the Pathways mentor committee. He is a member of the Jewish Community Response to COVID-19 Steering committee.

Karen Blauer: Currently on the board of the Eastside Jewish Commons, Karen has had a leadership role at Jewish Family & Child Service, Mittleman Jewish Community Center, Cedar Sinai Park and B'nai B'rith Camp. In 2019 she won Metro's Bill Tolbert Diversity award for leading outreach efforts to engage marginalized communities.

Debbie Frank: Debbie's diverse career spans from politics to helping start a statewide nonprofit to PR work and sales strategy for social venture and internet companies. She runs a corporate gifting company called The Right Promotions. She founded a meetup group called PDX MOTS (Members of the Tribe) in 2014.

Simon Gottheiner, ex officio, JFGP rep to OJCF: Simon emigrated to the U.S. from South Africa at age 5 and grew up in Palo Alto. After 12 years in various sales and marketing positions at Intel, Simon joined his wife, Janine, and sister-in-law, Lee Lazarus, at The Presentation Company, LLC.

Rick Haselton: Rick is an Oregon native. He served on the Oregon Court of Appeals from 1994 until retiring in December 2015 as Chief Judge. Rick and his wife, Sura Rubenstein, are long-time members of Kesser Israel. Their daughter graduated from PJA.

Jessica Hilbert: A native of Wilmington, Delaware, Jess has lived in Oregon 10 years, in Portland since 2014. She is a co-founder and General Counsel of Red Duck Foods.

She and her husband, Matt, enjoy travel with daughter, Kayla. She is a member of the JFGP's Women's Giving Circle.

Hank Kaplan: Hank came to Portland in 1981 for a one-year clerkship with the Hon. Gus Solomon. He practices labor and employment law with Bennett Hartman, LLP. Previously chair of Federation's Jewish Review Committee, he is now Legislative Advocacy Committee Chair of the JCRC. He and wife, Marni Glick, have two grown daughters, both PJA grads.

Ronnie Malka: Born in Israel and brought up in Los Angeles, Ronnie moved to Portland 20+ years ago. Along with husband, David, she owns Malka Diamonds & Jewelry in downtown Portland. They have two daughters, Ellie and Maya. Ronnie chaired the campaign to raise funds for Rachel's Well Community Mikvah.

Jim Meyer: Jim moved to Portland from Boston with his wife, Lora, in 1960; they have three sons and eight grandchildren. A long-time investor in Portland small businesses and real estate, he is now semi-retired. Jim has been involved with Federation since 1966, including as board chair 1970-72 and campaign chair 1988-89.

Ted Nelson, Campaign Chair: Ted has lived in Portland since he was 13. A CPA for over 30 years, he is head of finance for a business unit that is part of a large Swedish-based paper company. He was as Board President of Congregation Beth Israel 2016-2018. He has served on the Federation Board since 2018. He has two children and two grandchildren.

Jeff Robinson: Jeff is professor and chair of the Department of Communication at Portland State University. Jeff moved from New Jersey to Portland in 2009 with his wife and two daughters, who attend PJA. They belong to Congregation Neveh. He has volunteered for the Federation in various roles over the last 10 years (e.g., chairing Super Sunday and the Allocations Committee).

Ed Tonkin, Immediate Past Chair: Eddy is a Portland native, affiliated with Congregation Beth Israel. He received his J.D. of law in 1979 from UW and practiced law in Portland before joining the family automobile business. Eddy chaired National Automobile Dealers Association in 2010-11. Eddy has served on boards of several charitable organizations. He is married to Michelle and has two kids and one grandson.

Mark Zeitzer: Mark was born in Phoenix. He and his wife, Mindy, moved to Portland in 2008 to raise their family. They have three sons, who attend Portland Jewish Academy. Marc is an emergency physician and the Medical Director of Acute Care Services at ZOOM+Care. They belong to Congregations Neveh Shalom and Kesser Israel. Mindy and Mark chaired the Federation Campaign Kick-Off event in 2013 and chaired the Federation Campaign from 2016 to 2019.

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Upcoming issues

Issue date	Deadline
July 8	July 2
July 22	July 16
Aug. 5	July 30
Aug. 19	Aug. 13
Sept. 2	Aug. 20
Sept. 16	Sept. 10

Send news and photos to
editor@jewishportland.org

Rabbi's Corner

Out of the Wilderness

BY RABBI KEN BRODKIN

Divisions in our country have always run deep. In the wake of recent and concurrent crises, the lines of division have, amazingly, become even more pronounced. What is our calling in a society marked by division and rift?

American society tends to divide along multiple lines, from political affiliation and geographical region, to socio-economic backgrounds, race and religion. Perhaps beneath these apparent lines of division lies a more basic challenge: the way we speak to one another.

In the social media milieu, we have spun to a point where we cannot believe the other side is well intentioned, much less has anything of value to say.

Bamidbar (Numbers) is the section of Torah we read during summer months. It is about crisis. The Hebrew word *Bamidbar* literally means "in the wilderness." Yet, the term *Midbar* (wilderness) is also related to the Hebrew word "*Dibur*" (speech).

Additionally, the letter *Mem* at the beginning of the word "*Midbar*" literally means "from," but it implies *coming from* or *being outside* of a place. So upon reflection, the Hebrew word *Midbar* – wilderness – can be thought of as "without speech."

Speech is the way we give meaningful expression to something. A wilderness is that desolate place where we lack the ability to find meaningful expression. When good words are lacking, crisis ensues.

During *Bamidbar*, many crises unfold. In each crisis – from Miriam and Aharon slandering Moshe, to the complaints of the spies or *Korach* – there is a deficit of good words. Each crisis festers in an environment of complaint, slander and ill will.

In the midst of the crises, Moshe looks toward a future time beyond his own leadership. Moshe turns to G-d and says, "HaShem, G-d of the spirits, appoint a man over the assembly in whom there is spirit." Why did Moshe refer to the Almighty as "G-d of the spirits" in this prayer? What does it mean that a leader should have spirit within them?

In Jewish thought, *Ruach* or spirit is suggestive of both inner soul and speech. Moshe related to his Creator as the "God



Ken Brodtkin is the rabbi at Congregation Kesser Israel in Portland.

of spirits" who knows the soul of each person. Likewise, good leaders are people who can connect to that inner spirit of each person, especially through words. The leader moves people through empowering, inspiring words.

The prophet Isaiah foresaw a time when a great Messianic leader would rule with the "rod of his mouth." The defining attribute that Scripture ascribes to the Messiah is the ability to speak words that bring people to righteousness and justice. Indeed, the psalmist declares "grace is poured upon his lips."

A profound example of this from the modern era is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a man whose words stirred a generation. His words were poetic, even prophetic. He confronted the injustices that marred American society, but he did so with words of hope, promise and love.

How was King able to move a generation? He was not a president nor a governor. Yet, the words of this Atlanta pastor carried authentic moral authority. They conveyed the inner hope of America. He spoke of a future time when American society will be founded upon "the rock of brotherhood."

Times of crisis and division are like a wilderness. In that desolate place, we need to seek the language of leadership. We need to listen deeply to the words of our fellow, and we must speak words of justice and righteousness.

Words of Shalom.

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

Chaplain's Corner

Who is your teacher(s)?

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Who has been your teacher? Who has been your kindred spirit?

One Jewish teacher, Yehoshua ben Perachyah, instructs: "Provide yourself with a teacher; acquire a companion; and judge every person in the scale of merit." Yehoshua lived in the lower Galilee in the 2nd century. We find his teaching in Pirke Avot 1:6, part of the Mishnah.

A plain reading of his text is that we should never isolate ourselves because solitude breeds error, failure and despair. In addition, we are to find a kindred spirit, someone we can study with and deepen our friendship. Lastly, Perachyah teaches that we should strive to view everyone positively and appreciate whatever they have to offer.

Why does Perachyah instruct to acquire one teacher, as opposed to many? He likens one teacher to sewing one field with wheat, barley, olive trees and fruit trees; through this one field we derive great wealth and blessing. If we have multiple teachers, then we have too many fields each sewn with different crops; as a result, we are spread too thin and acquire little wealth or blessing.

I respectfully disagree with Perachyah. Through my years, I have acquired multiple teachers, only to my benefit. My first teachers, understandably, were my mother and father. My next teachers were all musicians; through their lyrics and soulful melodies, I have acquired wisdom. The following only scratches the surface: Bruce Springsteen, The Who, Marc Cohn, Bonnie Raitt, Prince, Pearl Jam, John Lee Hooker, BB King, Aretha Franklin, Charles Mingus and Miles Davis. Through pivotal moments in my life, they provided hope, inspiration, encouragement, compassion and love. We continue to travel, side by side.

In college, I acquired many other teachers. But one was Friedrich Nietzsche. Before anyone chastises me for following someone who allegedly inspired the Third Reich, let me emphasize: Nietzsche would have despised Adolf Hitler and everything he stood for. I learned much from Nietzsche, mainly his desire to question the evolution and repercussions of Western Morality.

In rabbinical school, I acquired many more teachers. One of my favorites

was Elisha Ben Abuya, someone brave enough to indict the construct we call "Rabbinic Judaism." I encourage you to read Milton Steinberg's *As a Driven Leaf*, his exploration of Ben Abuya and the interdependence of reason and faith.

Another teacher was Rebbe Nachman of Breslov; he continues to inspire me with his passionate pursuit of faith. I also learned from Elie Wiesel, a survivor of our greatest tragedy; I am amazed by his demand for answers from God without rejecting God. And then there is Martin Buber and his landmark teaching of the "I-Thou" relationship; he helped me develop my personal theology, and my embrace of the idea that God is not an external entity but the result of sacred relationships.

Along the way, I have found many kindred spirits, of diverse backgrounds and backstories. Some were close companions, some were acquaintances and some were pains in the behind. But I learned that all of them had kernels of wisdom to share.

During these days when we still must maintain social distancing, we can heed Perachyah's teaching to acquire a companion. Too many of us, particularly our elderly, are suffering the tolls of social isolation. Let's make an extra effort to reach out to the generation older than us who live alone; they are more than our "companion." They remain our "teacher."

So who have been your teachers? Your companions/kindred spirits? How are you better because of them?

I feel fortunate that I have acquired many teachers through the years. Each in their own way, they have ensured that my connection with both the Jewish and secular world continues to develop and evolve, and I continue to grow emotionally and spiritually as a result.



As the Community Chaplain for the Greater Portland Jewish community, Rabbi Barry Cohen serves as a resource for all Jews in our community. Call 503-892-7401 or

email chaplain@jewishportland.org.

JCRC annexation statement

On June 22, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland board voted unanimously to approve this statement on Israel's potential annexation of portions of the West Bank.

"Our Jewish Community Relations Council has long been committed to building strong bipartisan support for Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship, promoting a positive face of Israel in the greater community, and combating the assault on Israel's legitimacy waged by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement," says JFGP Director of Community Relations and Public Affairs Bob Horenstein "A move by Israel to unilaterally annex or extend sovereignty to parts of the West Bank will undermine these important efforts, and the BDS movement will likely have far greater success in its campaign to isolate Israel diplomatically, economically and culturally. As a result, the Jewish Federation, through the JCRC, is issuing the following statement."

Proposed actions in Israel of unilaterally annexing and/or extending Israeli sovereignty to parts of the West Bank could have deep consequences, including undermining efforts towards achieving a two-state solution and the creation of a future viable Palestinian state. It could also further damage the broad bipartisan support for Israel in the U.S., including among Members of Congress.

The Jewish Community Relations Council believes:

A two-state solution, achieved through direct bilateral negotiations conducted in a spirit of reconciliation and compromise, is the surest path to a permanent resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The two-state solution envisions two independent states—the Jewish and democratic state of Israel and a future demilitarized state of Palestine—living side-by-side in peace and security.

In present and reasonably foreseeable circumstances, unilateral actions undertaken by either side that change the status quo of the West Bank (e.g., a declaration of statehood by the Palestinians; the extension of sovereignty by Israel) are unhelpful and will only serve to extend the impasse.

Both the Israeli and Palestinian people have legitimate historical and religious claims to the land that comprises the West Bank (Judea and Samaria). However, it is unconstructive in the pursuit of peace for either side to insist on exercising their full claims to the territory (i.e., peace envisions an eventual territorial compromise).

The preservation of broad bipartisan support for Israel in the U.S. is vital for Israel's well-being.

Jobs board

Gap Year Resident Advisor

[Tivnu: Building Justice](#) is looking for a caring, organized, and dedicated individual to complete our Jewish social justice gap year staff team. The Tivnu Gap Year Program is a 9-month immersive experience for high school graduates, aged 17-20, from across the United States. The Tivnu Gap Year Resident Advisor & Mentor will live on site with Gap Year participants, mentor program participants in formal and informal settings, contribute to creating an atmosphere of personal and communal growth, and perform a variety of organizational support tasks. tivnu.org/careers/

Email cover letter and resumé to Steve Eisenbach-Budner at Steve@Tivnu.org and Adinah Miller at Adinah@Tivnu.org, with subject "Resident Advisor and Mentor."

Music Coordinator

[Havurah Shalom](#), a participatory, egalitarian, fiercely collaborative congregation of 440 family units, seeks an amazing Music Coordinator. Successful candidates will have skills in building community through music, a thorough grounding in Jewish music, will welcome collaboration and commit to nurturing others' talents. Our .5 FTE Music Coordinator will report to and work closely with the rabbi in organizing Havurah's member musicians to provide music for services, the Education Director to support parent/teachers in infusing music into our cooperative youth education programs, and the Program Director and the Music Committee to create and promote opportunities for Havurah members to weave music into all aspects of congregational life. havurahshalom.org/music-coordinator

Send resume and cover letter to: havurahjobpost@gmail.com

Operations Manager

[Congregation Kesser Israel](#) seeks a full-time Operations Manager to join our staff leadership team. Our synagogue, centrally located in SW Portland, serves more than 130 families and owns our small building.

The Operations Manager is a key position in a small tight-knit staff and will work very closely with our full-time rabbi in a broad array of areas. In addition, s/he will work closely with our part-time staff, board members and lay volunteers in an array of areas including business management, development and fundraising, membership and program support, PR and communications, and office and building management.

Job description at: <https://bit.ly/2V0tWiK>
To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to kesserisraeljobs@gmail.com.

Obituaries

Obituaries are posted online as they are received. Submit obituaries to:

editor@jewishportland.org

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

ELSA SCHEIB

Elsa Scheib, z"l, died June 21, 2020, after a brave battle against cancer. She was the beloved mother of Patty (Ryan) Arvizu and Joni Scheib. She was preceded in death by husband Berel (z"l).

A private graveside service will be held at Shaarie Torah Cemetery on June 24.

BILL HOFFMAN

Bill Hoffman, z"l, died June 15, 2020, in Portland. He was the brother of Barbara (Marvin) Wolf. Bill is also remembered by his sons, Brett and Bradley; nephews Eric and Howard Wolf; many cousins in the community; and partner of many years, Charlene Miller.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends our deepest condolences to the Hoffman/Wolf family.

HARRY GLICKMAN

Harry Glickman, z"l, passed away on June 10, 2020, at age 96. He was the beloved husband of Joanne Glickman; father of Marshall Glickman (Lisa), Jennifer Glickman-Hett (Mark Hett), and Lynn Rice (Bob Rice); and grandfather of Laz, Sydney and Joel.

A private service will be held at Beth Israel Cemetery

Harry was the founder and president emeritus of the Portland Trail Blazers, and has been called the "father of professional sports in Oregon."

Glickman grew up in Portland playing basketball at the JCC and Lincoln High School. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1941. He served three years in the Seventh Army's 12th Armored Division that went through Belgium, France and Germany in World War II. Returning to Oregon after the war he resumed his studies and earned a degree in journalism from the University of Oregon in 1948.

In The Jewish Oregon Story 1950-2010, Ellen Eisenberg writes: "Carving out a career in sporting promotions, Glickman began with boxing, and then brought pre-season National Football League games, the Harlem Globetrotters and the National Basketball Association all-star games to Portland beginning in the mid 1950s. ... as early as 1954, he aspired to bring a profes-

sional basketball team to the Rose City. ... In 1970, Glickman raised funds for a new NBA expansion team, founding the Portland Trail Blazers and serving as general manager until his retirement in 1987."

He also founded the Portland Buckaroos minor league hockey team in 1960. He served as the club's co-owner and president over 12 seasons, during which the team won three titles.

In memory of trailblazing Harry Glickman, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education posted this 2005 interview: ojmche.org/oral-history-people/harry-glickman/

OJMCHE featured Glickman in its 2012 exhibition "In the Game," where he was inducted as an inaugural member in the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. A quote from sports journalist Ken Wheeler, collected during the research for the exhibition, aptly describes this great sports icon: "When Glickman speaks, it seems the earth should shake and pictures should sway or fall from the wall. That voice, that deep, rumbling voice with the timbre of rolling thunder, stands as a personal signature."

In Glickman's memory, the Blazers ask that people consider making a donation to the Oregon Jewish Museum & Center for Holocaust Education, Congregation Beth Israel or the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

MICHAEL MARX

Michael Marx, z"l, died May 30, 2020, under hospice care in his home in Portland. Michael is survived by his spouse, Donald Marshall; their pet companions, Pepper and Pumpkin; nephew, Steven Mackler of Maryland; and cousins, Ilene Harris of California and Norman Goldblatt of New York. He was born April 12, 1933, in Newark, N.J., where he was raised by his Aunt Doris.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alan and Jeanne Marx; and sister, Renee Mackler.

Marx overcame prejudice for being Jewish and gay, built a successful business career, supported causes that fought discrimination and protected animals, and enjoyed a 32-year relationship with Donald Marshall, who he was finally allowed to marry in 2013.

In the early 1980s, at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, he worked setting up hospice care in Los Angeles and San Diego.

Memorial donations may be made in Michael's name to the Oregon Humane Society, Oregon Public Broadcasting and the Dove Lewis emergency animal hospital.