

Life-cycle flexibility

BY DEBORAH MOON

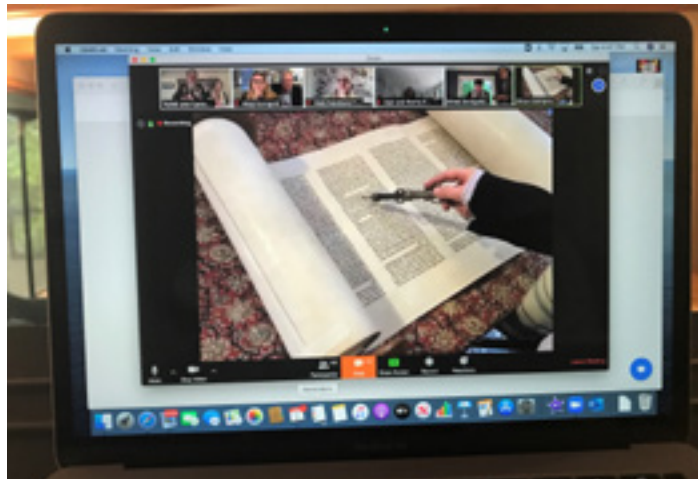
In our new reality, flexibility, creativity and compromise are the guiding forces in crafting life-cycle events. These events now follow tradition as much as possible while adhering firmly to *pikuach nefesh* – preserving life – a core principle that overrides almost every Jewish law.

“I don’t know if there are any best practices,” says Rabbi David Kosak of Congregation Neveh Shalom. “There are a lot of different good and competing compromises we need to make as we schedule life-cycle events.”

Rabbi Ariel Stone of Congregation Shir Tikvah concurs. “So we make our way carefully and yet aware that our people need community in whatever ways we can find that are authentically Jewish.”

Rabbi Benjamin Barnett of Havurah Shalom says, “Amidst these challenges, I think often about all the Jews of past generations who have celebrated life cycles and holidays in much more precarious and even dangerous times. While this is difficult and there is even a sense of grief for what is lost, whether in a *simcha* or in the added complexities of separation during dying and mourning, within Havurah we are doing everything we can to step into this moment and embrace the power of community and ritual as means of navigating through this time together.”

Rabbi Kosak mentions an added complexity. “All of this



Most life-cycle events have gone virtual or been delayed. Above, a “Torah cam” view of Ben Korngold reading his portion at home while family and friends watch on Zoom. Congregation Beth Israel Rabbi Michael and Cantor Ida Rae Cahana donned masks and gloves to deliver the scroll to his home before his bar mitzvah.

is a little bit of a moving target. The virus is in charge.”

BRIS/BABY NAMING

Mohel Rabbi Tzvi Fischer says bris ceremonies are proceeding essentially normally – though he now wears a mask and glove to enter the home with an extra set of gloves for the procedure. Only the immediate family is present, with another rabbi, family and friends attending on Zoom.

Bruce Birk, M.D. and mohel, has performed five brit milah from mid-March to April 6.

“As brit milah has been deemed essential during the quarantine, I have continued to perform this service for our community,” says Dr. Birk. “Although the service is essentially the same, the mood

is very different. Where before we were celebrating the welcoming of a new baby to our community, now it feels more like a testament to togetherness and Jewish ingenuity in finding a safe way to continue our traditions. They are, as expected, only attended in person by myself (wearing mask and gloves) and immediate family (parents, child, maybe a grandparent if considered safe). The honorary roles are being filled by myself or the parents rather than close family or friends. Most of the attendees are attending virtually. ... But life goes on! Prayers are stated. Wine is blessed and drunk. Bread is broken. Songs are sung. So the quarantine bris is different but equal.”

See LIFE-CYCLE, page 8

JEWISH GREATER
PORTLAND TOGETHER
COVID-19 RELIEF

Crisis fund increases but needs still growing

The Portland Jewish community’s COVID-19 Crisis Campaign has raised more than \$800,000. Last week an anonymous donor made a matching challenge grant of \$50,000 to grow the fund.

“Our initial goal was to raise \$750,000 to get our community through June 30,” says Marc Blattner, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, which created the fund with support from the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and individual donors. “We now recognize operational funding challenges will continue through the summer months. Please help us maximize this challenge grant by making your gift (jewishportland.org/covid19relief) and enable us to raise over \$900,000.”

Contributions are being put to important use. To date, the COVID-19 crisis campaign grants committee has granted \$603,500 in funds to 32 different Jewish organizations in our community, with new grant requests arriving daily.

On April 30, \$156,076 was allocated to 12 organizations

See GRANTS, page 4

Israeli folk dancing expands in virtual world

BY DEBORAH MOON

Pre-pandemic, Israeli folk dancers in Portland could find dances several evenings a week at community centers and other venues around town. Now Portlanders can join a dance session on Facebook or Zoom at almost any hour of the day or night.

"All of the sudden the world opened up," says Sue Wendel, editor of Portland Israeli Folk Dance News and leader of the Leedy Grange with Sue & Friends dances. "Hundreds of virtual sessions have popped up from all over the world."

On May 11, Sue added the Leedy Grange dances to the Zoom world with a pilot session. For a schedule of future sessions and Zoom link, email pifdnews@gmail.com.

"We are finding innovative ways to stay connected and to keep dancing," says Donna Cole, who normally leads dance sessions at Fulton Park Community Center and Israeli couples dancing in Portland.

"During the initial days of sheltering, I joined the first FaceBook Live Virtual Israeli Dance Session facilitated by Sagi Azran from Southern California. Sagi was uncertain how the dancers would respond. But an amazing thing happened – dancers from Israel and around the world joined in. This is when I knew that virtual dance sessions would be an important way to stay connected, even though it felt strange to be dancing alone in my living room."

California dancer Aaron Alpert, who has taught sessions for Donna and Sue, runs weekly virtual sessions on Zoom that several Portland dancers mentioned they enjoy. He also maintains a comprehensive list of virtual dance sessions all over the world on his website: nirkoda.com/virtual.

Portland dancer Cindy Merrill is taking full advantage of the online offerings. Before in-person dancing was cancelled, Cindy says she usually danced two evenings a week for about four hours total.



Zoom Etiquette: Mute Your Mic

Sue Wendel and her sister, Debbi Montrose, learned an important lesson that had nothing to do with dancing the first time they joined a Zoom dance session. The sisters were sharing a condo in Palm Desert in mid-March and decided to join a virtual session led by Mike Fox from Maryland.

"I hadn't muted the microphone (Zoom etiquette I now know), so hundreds of dancers could hear Debbi and me singing, chatting and laughing. I hadn't learned about the Zoom Chat feature either, and apparently many people were sending me messages to mute my microphone. Finally, Mike Fox announced to everyone 'Sue Kern Wendel, please mute your mic!'"

AT LEFT: Sue Wendel dances to a Zoom session in her dining nook. She has learned to mute her mic!

"Dancing is my favorite activity for exercise and socializing; it makes me happy and always cheers me up," says Cindy. "When in-person dance sessions were canceled, I was disappointed, but ... I heard about a virtual dance session from Chicago on Thursdays – the very group where I used to dance before moving to Portland 21 years ago. I was excited about the opportunity to dance again with my old group."

Cindy found more and more options online: "This past week I danced over 9 hours ... With so many Zoom session options

worldwide, there are so many more opportunities to dance throughout the week than there normally are in one city."

Those expanded options are a bright spot in our physically distanced world. Donna says the virtual dances give "our dancers an authentic experience by allowing them to actually participate live with dancers in Israel. In fact, Israel is coming live (on FB) to Portland several days a week – right here in the comfort of our living rooms!"

For those who want to learn to dance so

Continued on next page



Rhona Feldman leads cul-de-sac dancing for her neighbors on sunny Sundays as a physically distant dance option.



Like many Israeli folk dancers, Debbie Montrose now dances with people from around the world on Zoom sessions.

Dance (continued)

they can join this phenomena, local instructor Allison Victor and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center have brought the long-running beginning Israeli folk dance class to Zoom in its normal 7 pm Wednesday slot (oregonjcc.org/live-events).

"Zoom dances are not the same, but it is something," says Allison.

Rhona Feldman agrees that Zoom dancing doesn't fill all her dance needs. She says she has enjoyed Zoom sessions with people she used to dance with in Seattle before moving here two years ago. But when she was walking in her neighborhood and met a fellow dancer, the two came up with another option. The other woman lives on a large cul-de-sac, so Rhona brought over her computer and five people gathered to dance (physically distanced) on the street. Since then, a group of five to seven people has met on Sundays an hour before sunset when the weather is nice. "I love the cul-de-sac dance," says Rhona. "It's great to be outside as the sun is going down. Zoom is really fun, but it's hard to have conversations with each other."

Online or on the cul-de-sac, Rhona says, "Dancing moves my soul – the rhythm and motion."

As the world starts to eye a return to (an altered) normality, Rhona says that in-person dancing will be different. Holding hands while dancing will be a thing of the past.

But the worldwide connections and varied options may also move into the future.

"I'm definitely going to keep dancing virtually until I can dance in person again," says Cindy. "But when I do go back to my Portland sessions, I wonder if there will still be some virtual dance sessions, now that so many people have found it to be fun and are connecting with dancers far away."

portlandisraelidance.com

Saving one life is akin to saving an entire world

Approximately 100,000 people nationwide and 600 people in Oregon need a kidney

BY MARSHAL SPECTOR

Our sages teach that saving one life is akin to saving an entire world. The COVID-19 pandemic is a brutal reminder of the fragility of life. I recently saw a post, saying, "Save a life, you're a hero. Save one hundred lives, you're a nurse." While many of us are not first responders, doctors or nurses, we can still save lives through kidney donation.

On May 21, 2007, I donated a kidney to a dear friend. I went through extensive testing. I engaged in medical and Jewish learning, got into great shape, regularly saw a naturopath, acupuncturist and therapist, along with the transplant team. I completed an estate plan with great intention and thought.

I involved my children throughout the process. They made memorable contributions – my younger son asked if the surgeon could also remove my mobile device. My daughter mused about writing a book for children about kidney donation. My older son told me, "Dad, if you ever need a kidney, I've got your back."

My "former" kidney transitioned perfectly and immediately into my friend's body. I was home from the hospital in a few days, was quickly off pain killers and was walking, eating and sleeping comfortably almost immediately. I reengaged in my family law practice two weeks later and carefully resumed other activities. Thirteen years later, I see a nephrologist twice a year – my only real sacrifices were giving up Advil and white water kayaking. That's it.

Mitzvot, acts of good will, can uplift individuals and community. Following the surgery, many friends and community members helped our families in so many ways. Charity was given in our honor to synagogues and institutions. Two years later, my friend's wife asked if she could set me up with someone. That blind date is now my wife.

Mitzvot can inspire others to do mitzvot. Just after the surgery, the Lake Oswego newspaper reported that a local woman needed a kidney. A fellow church goer



Marshal Spector

showed her a piece in the Oregonian about a guy in Portland who donated a kidney to a friend and fellow synagogue member. A plea was made to the church, a congregant stepped up, donated a kidney and saved the woman's life.

We live in an age of unfortunate divisiveness. In donating or receiving a kidney, the human body cares not about gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, economic status or political leanings. Being a match, donating and receiving, is about an organic merger of one human to another. The club is a human club, one life to another.

I am available to speak with anyone interested in donating. Approximately 100,000 people nationwide and 600 people in Oregon need a kidney. And, please visit the Donate Life NW website:

www.donatelifenw.org.

Following the surgery, our rabbi wrote a piece in our synagogue bulletin. It often comes to mind as I move through the blessings and challenges of my life. His message was that while my donation would add days to my friend's life, it would also add life to my days. It has.

Marshal Spector is a family law attorney with Gevurtz Menashe.

As part of giving back during this difficult time, his firm is offering complimentary basic will packages for frontline first responders in our community. If you are interested or know anyone who may benefit, please visit gevurtzmenashe.com.

Weekly Wednesdays keep community informed

BY DEBORAH MOON

Weekly Wednesday Updates were created to keep our community informed of how COVID-19 is affecting all of us. The updates have provided an overview of the coronavirus, reports from local leaders on the health of our Jewish agencies, and news from U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley on the federal response and its impact on Oregon.

Past updates can be viewed at jewishportland.org/weeklywednesday.

Today, May 13, at 1 pm, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will share fresh news and views from Washington. Register: jewishportland.org/covid-19-community-health-update-with-senator-ron-wyden.

On Wednesday, May 20, we will be joined by Israeli Deputy Consul General for the Pacific Northwest, Matan Zamir. He will provide a briefing and take your questions at 4 pm. A link to register will be posted on jewishportland.org on the events tab.

ADAPTING JEWISH AGENCIES

On April 29, Zoom attendees heard from leaders of B'nai B'rith Camp, Cedar Sinai Park, Jewish Family and Child Service, Mittleman Jewish Community Center, Portland Jewish Academy and the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

Agency executives said they are largely "OK," at least through June, thanks in large part to financial support from the Community Crisis Fund (see **related story below**), local donors and members, and the federal Paycheck Protection Plan.

"We are OK. Thanks to all of you, we are really OK," said OJMCHE Executive Director Judith Margles.

"OK seems to be the operative term," said Marc Blattner, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, which hosts the series.

JFPG Board Chair Lauren Goldstein ob-

served, "The entire Jewish community has come together."

"Staff morale is high," said CSP Executive Director Kimberly Fuson, noting the community support with the Joy Ride parade and donations of masks have had a positive impact.

Beyond June 30, several leaders said they are looking at various budgets and options depending on when and how they will be able to reopen.

"All our programs feel quite viable," said PJA Principal Merrill Hendin, who noted enrollment for next year has continued even after the school shifted to full online education March 17.

BB Camp Executive Director Michelle Koplan said they are still awaiting guidance from government, health agencies and national camp associations regarding camp sessions this year.

All of the agencies have shifted to virtual programming and gained important skills for the future.

"This is an opportunity reach rural Oregon in ways we haven't," said Margles, noting that this is especially important as OJMCHE explores how to help schools meet the new mandate for schools to provide Holocaust and genocide education. She said staff is developing virtual tours, because physical school tours are unlikely until sometime in 2021.

This is a great opportunity to look at new ways of serving the community," said MJCC/PJA Executive Director Steve Albert. "Post-crisis, we will have a much larger virtual presence than we have had."

"We have been able to provide a lifeline to a lot of folks going through difficult times," said JFCS Executive Director David Block, noting the agency has provided emergency financial aid and emotional support. Post-crisis, he said he envisions the agency

will "take advantage of the expertise gained in the virtual world and expand ... our counseling program with virtual counseling."

WASHINGTON UPDATE

On May 6 Senator Merkley discussed the federal response to COVID-19, the challenges facing state economies, the role of the Paycheck Protection Program and reaching small businesses that need the funding, the potential Israel-Palestinian peace plan, and other issues impacting our state and nation.

Senator Merkley spoke about the response from Congress "as we try to find our way through this uncharted territory ... (in which) the health-care crisis created an economic implosion."

He spoke about the ground-up efforts to support small businesses and nonprofits with the PPP loans/grants and increased unemployment benefits of \$600 per week and expanded eligibility to the gig economy.

He believes it is also essential to support state and local governments as they struggle with massive losses of revenue during this crisis. Asked about the impact if state and local governments were allowed to fail, Merkley said emergency response, education, health care, transportation and construction would be impacted. "I think the ripples would deeply impact everything in the state and the economy."

Universal access to health care and mail-in ballots, at least for the duration of the crisis, are other areas he is focusing on. Ultimately he would like to see the nation follow Oregon's Vote by Mail model, but if Congress won't pass that, he hopes legislation can at least ensure absentee ballots are available to all.

Senator Wyden's May 13 briefing will be a good opportunity to get updates on those and other initiatives in D.C.

CRISIS FUND GRANTS (continued from page 1)

(some had previously received funding). Grants were awarded to the following:

- As the Spirit Moves Us (Portland's Unshul) received \$1,800 for loss of revenue.
- Cedar Sinai Park received an additional \$33,333 to buy personal protection equipment for medical personnel and residents.
- Chabad of Northeast Portland received \$3,000 for payroll support, rent support and loss of revenue.
- Chabad at Reed College received \$2,500 for payroll support and loss of revenue.
- Chabad of S. Oregon received \$3,600 for payroll support and loss of revenue.
- Congregation Ahavath Achim received \$3,600 for payroll support.

• Congregation Kesser Israel received \$10,000 for payroll support, loss of revenue and cemetery maintenance.

• Congregation P'nai Or received \$1,500 for loss of revenue.

• Congregation Shaarie Torah received \$15,000 for loss of rental income from a preschool tenant.

• Greater Portland Hillel received \$10,000 for payroll support, rent support and loss of program funding.

• Jewish Family and Child Service received an additional \$66,743 for emergency financial assistance and mental health support.

• Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for

Holocaust Education received \$5,000 for payroll support.

On May 7 the grants committee allocated \$83,600 to five organizations (one had previously received funding):

• Alberta Shul received \$1,800 for loss of revenue.

• B'nai B'rith Camp received an additional \$25,000 for loss of rental revenue.

• Chabad of Eugene received \$1,800 for payroll and rent support.

• Mittleman Jewish Community Center received \$50,000 for payroll support, enhanced cleaning and building modifications.

• NCSY received \$5,000 for loss of revenue.

Mask maker, mask maker make me a mask

BY DEBORAH MOON

As doctors, nurses, other frontline workers and vulnerable individuals have scrambled to find masks during this pandemic, an army of volunteer sewers and people with connections to mask suppliers have stepped up to help fill the need.

At Cedar Sinai Park alone, donations have flowed in – including 1,000 from David Saltzman, whose mother Ruth Saltzman lives at CSP's Rose Schnitzer Manor; 900 made by Sew to Save volunteers; and more than 100 from Sharon Flock.

CSP CEO Kimberly Fuson says, "We are deeply touched by and grateful for the generosity of David Saltzman, Lisa Schneiderman (Sew to Save), Sharon Flock and countless others who have so lovingly fashioned masks in every fabric, design and size to assure each resident and staff member of Cedar Sinai Park are safely 'covered' on our campuses and at home ... that's over 1,000 lives protected by these social action angels!"

The donors are emblematic of the ingenuity of volunteers, who stepped in early in the crisis. While in the past couple weeks, large corporations have turned their resources to making PPEs (personal protective equipment), in the early days of the pandemic, it was individuals who took the lead.

Sharon Flock has churned out more than 800 masks on her 26-year-old sewing machine. She has been shopping for material and sewing or delivering masks from 5:30 am to 11 pm every day for nearly two months, though she did take off a day for her 70th birthday May 7.

Sharon takes a personal approach to her mask making. She likes to provide a bit of whimsy in her masks. She gave CSP bingo caller "Bingo Barbie" Enkelis a bingo mask. She sent pet-themed masks to vet techs and masks decorated with money to Key Bank. A Portland native, she also has sewn masks for a multitude of relatives in the



Sew to Save founder Lisa Schneiderman

Nudelmann and Nemer families.

Founded on April 3, Sew to Save has taken a much broader approach. The volunteer group now has more than 600 sewers and more than 60 delivery drivers, who distribute at least 1,000 masks a week.

Sew to Save is the brainchild of Public Relations professional Lisa Schneiderman, who has devoted her career to cause-related publicity. While growing up in Portland, Lisa says she was immersed in the importance of tikkun olam. She calls Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, z"l, a huge influence. As a teen she served as president, vice president and membership chair of BBYO and was a camp counselor at B'nai B'rith Camp for five summers.

"Tikkun olam was engrained in my soul," says Lisa.

So on March 22, she reached out to doctor and nurse friends and asked what they most needed. She heard horror stories, including a delivery room nurse who said her nursing assistant had a panic attack while the two were delivering a baby without masks.

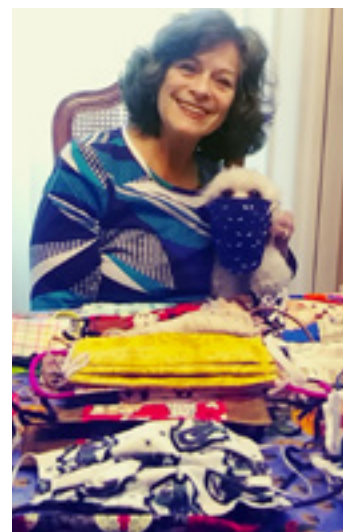
"That told me a lot of nurses and doctors were having major anxiety without personal protective equipment," says Lisa.

"I thought it was unbelievable this was happening in the United States."

So she decided to tackle the problem in a big way. She turned to her friend Lisa Schroeder (chef and owner of Mother's Bistro) to help spread the story. "We're cut from the same cloth; it's tikkun olam in our blood." She recruited tech expert Joseph Krahn from ShiloRune to build a website and Kathleen Krushas of To the Point Collaborative to design a logo.

The four have become partners in Sew to Save, which has expanded its initial focus on health-care workers to include all first responders. In addition to giving masks to CSP and health-care staff at numerous hospitals and medical clinics, they also filled requests for masks from the Oregon Food Bank and Jewish Family and Child Service. The two Lisas will be sharing their tikkun olam story on a Zoom program with local Lions of Judah later this month. Lions are women who make gifts of \$5,000 or more to the Jewish Federation's Campaign for Community Needs.

All masks made by Sew to Save volunteers are from two



Sharon Flock, above, likes to add a touch of whimsy to the masks she sews – such as pet-themed masks for vet techs modeled by her dog Sadie and the special mask, below, for CSP's "Bingo Barbie" Enkelis.



patterns approved by doctors and nurses; the masks have two or three layers of fabric and a pocket that will hold a filter.

One of Lisa Schneiderman's neighbors stepped in early to help in another way. Formerly a Nike employee, the neighbor had maintained supply-chain relationships in China when he opened his own small athletic footwear company. He told Lisa he could get her 1,000 surgical-grade masks from China within a week. Knowing the difficulties hospitals and governments were having arranging shipments in those early days, Lisa was skeptical. But exactly a week later, he brought 1,000 masks to her door.

Those wanting to volunteer (to sew or deliver masks) or to request masks can fill out a form on sewtosave.org under the "Your Role" tab.

News in brief



Study "Girls in Trouble" for Shavuot

Earlier this month, Alicia Jo Rabins' highly acclaimed, three-album Girls in Trouble song series interpreting the stories of women in Torah was released as an online educational experience.

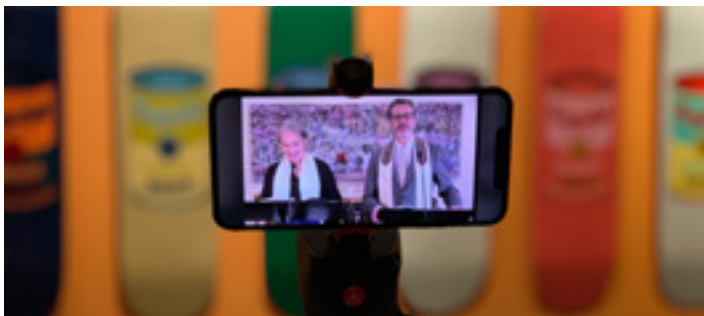
The Girls in Trouble curriculum, a series of modular study guides exploring the stories of 24 women in the Torah, has been released just in time for Shavuot, when study sessions celebrate the giving of the Torah.

"We were planning to do an official launch in fall 2020 along with a tour of live concerts by Girls in Trouble," says Alicia. "However, fall touring seems questionable. Between uncertainty and the need for online materials at the moment, I decided to simply do a virtual official release this spring."

Alicia received a Covenant Foundation grant for 2014-16 to create the first 13 units. However, there was still demand for study guides on the remaining songs, so a second grant (2018-19) supported creation of the 11 additional units.

In these songs and study guides (geared toward teens and adults), modern feminism melds with ancient wisdom. The curriculum includes visual art, Midrashim and a recording of the original song from the albums. The full curriculum bundle starts at \$36 for individuals, with levels up to \$360 for institutions.

For details, visit girlsintroublemusic.com/study-guides/.



Rabbi and cantor find national audience

Rabbi Michael and Cantor Ida Rae Cahana are a rare example of a congregation able to broadcast Shabbat services with the rabbi and cantor side by side. In today's pandemic where people are searching for spirituality and warm Shabbat services, the married couple has been attracting a wide audience. While Congregation Beth Israel has been streaming Friday evening services for years, the audience has swollen to more people than normally come to services in the sanctuary.

The couple set up a production studio in their living room with a high-quality sound system to broadcast during the pandemic.

"People are hungry for spirituality right now, and it's wonderful to see people finding us," says Rabbi Cahana.

You can stream the kabbalat Shabbat service at 6 pm each Friday at: bethisrael-pdx.org/worship/watch-services-live/.

Song of Miriam additional nominee

In the article announcing the cancellation of this year's 28th Annual Song of Miriam Awards Brunch, the name of one honoree, Shari Raider of Havurah Shalom, was omitted. We offer our heartiest thank you and congratulations to Shari.

Jewish Women's Round Table invites the community to formally recognize this year's 14 honorees during next year's brunch.



Physical distancing from OJMCHE's archives.

OJMCHE & Yeshiva University document life

Two Jewish organizations want to be sure these extraordinary times are documented for the future.

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education is collecting stories of living through a pandemic. Community members are invited to record observations, experiences and thoughts about this pandemic while it is happening. If we wait until it is all over, we will miss the nuances of our day-to-day experiences.

The museum has set up a recorded line to capture what will be the oral history of our community. Call the Oral History Hotline (Archivist Alisha Babbstein's voicemail) at 503-505-6281 to leave a short, 2-4 minute, observation of your experience.

Prompts to help you craft your observations can be found at: ojmche.org/app-news/history-is-now.

Yeshiva University has launched an effort to document this period on a broader stage.

"You are probably too busy now to think about how historians will document and interpret the period we are now living through, but at some point if you can take a few moments to forward any relevant material to Yeshiva University Archives, future historians will thank you deeply," says Natan Meir, academic director of Portland State University's Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies.

Yeshiva University Archives is collecting material relating to the coronavirus pandemic and the Jewish community, focusing on Jewish communities in North America. Examples include community notices, announcements by rabbinic organizations, synagogues, schools and other Jewish organizations and businesses, and rabbinic responsa. Please send material in digital format (or provide links or forward original emails) or any questions to: jewishcovidarchive@gmail.com.



Chad and Gadya munch ivy in the Fischer backyard.

Kids for kids

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Passover song “Chad Gadya” (One Little Goat) inspired the arrival of two little goats at the home of Rabbi Tzvi and Esther Fischer.

This year, the Fischer kids (human) asked for a kid goat as their gift for finding the Afikomen at the seder.

“We were singing Chad Gadya, and we were being a little silly,” says Rabbi Fischer.

But later the kids, whose ages range from 6 to 19, pressed the idea noting they are all stuck at home during the pandemic. After telling them he would consider the idea if they researched city regulations, costs, etc., he shared the story during a Zoom coffee klatch he has been hosting weekly as part of the Portland Kollel’s virtual programming.

“My sister saw it and mentioned it to another sister, who mentioned it to her husband, who is a jokester,” says Rabbi Fischer. “Within a

couple hours, he had two kids (goats) delivered to our door.”

The two dwarf goats are within Portland city regulations, which allow up to three small barnyard type animals.

“It’s been fantastic,” says Rabbi Fischer. “The kids have taken a lot of ownership. It’s kept them outdoors and off screens. When they are on screens, they are watching videos or reading articles about caring for goats.”

He said they have also been learning the laws (halacha) of keeping animals. “You may not eat until your animals are fed – that has been a good lesson in caring and responsibility.”

The high schoolers have done most of the work of building a fence for a pen and a shelter for the goat kids, but have been very good about engaging the elementary-age kids in the goats’ care.

Whether the family remains goat owners post-pandemic remains to be seen, but for now the Rabbi says, “It’s really a blessing at this point.”

BB Camp eligible for Grinspoon matching grant

Summer camp, like many institutions, is in jeopardy this summer. Camp directors and their boards are busily working to develop contingency plans to reopen in accordance with national and state health guidelines. To assist camps during this unprecedented time, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation has created the All Together Now matching grant to offer access to a \$10 million emergency fund through its JCamp 180 program.

B’nai B’rith Camp, located on the Oregon coast, is one of about 100 nonprofit Jewish summer camps across North America eligible to receive \$1 from the HGF for every \$2 raised from other donors through the end of 2020.

Since 1921, BB Camp has built a strong, immersive community based on shared ideals, serving over 1,200 overnight and day campers each summer. BB Camp is developing plans in hopes of welcoming its first campers beginning June 29.

“Whether we have a full camp season this summer or fewer sessions at lower capacity, we’re doing everything we can to ensure that we’ll be able to continue to provide meaningful, magical experiences for Jewish children in future summers,” says BB Camp Executive Director Michelle Koplan. “But we need the help of the entire community to work toward that

goal, and we’re hopeful that the matching component of the All Together Now grant will bring us the necessary funding to achieve our goals.”

Since launching JCamp 180 15 years ago, the HGF has invested \$35 million in Jewish overnight and day camps throughout North America as well as provided training and support to boards of directors and professional leadership.

“The timing of the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting camps especially hard. We don’t yet know the full extent of the resources that camps will need to weather this storm, but we know they need extra cash flow now, and their needs will be significant if camps can’t open this summer,” says HGF founder Harold Grinspoon. “Jewish summer camp is a transformative experience for more than 90,000 children and young adult counselors each summer and is vital to our Jewish community. We hope that this new \$10 million commitment will inspire others to help with needed funds to protect and sustain Jewish camp at this critical moment.”

In addition to the All Together Now matching grant, JCamp 180 mentors will continue to assist camp leadership with contingency planning, strategic communications and navigation of financial resource opportunities.

bbcamp.org

Milt Carl Way Awards event postponed

Initially scheduled for May 17, the second Milt Carl Way Awards event, presented by B’nai B’rith Camp and Congregation Shaarie Torah, has been postponed.

Milt Carl was an icon in our community, a tremendous soul, a mensch, a dedicated father and grandfather, and a leader who changed the landscape of the Portland Jewish community. The Milt Carl Way Awards honor individuals who “do it Milt’s way” – those who care deeply about the Jewish community, those who do profound work for many organizations, those who feel most themselves when they are giving their time and personal resources. Most importantly, the award honors those who encourage and inspire others to give.

Both organizations look forward to rescheduling when the community can come together and celebrate the incredible work of honorees Priscilla Kostiner, Irving Potter, and Diane and Jay Zidell.

LIFE-CYCLE (cont. from page 1)



Rabbi Brian Zachary Mayer, top left, had planned to fly to San Jose for a baby naming. Instead on April 20, he led a virtual naming for Isaac Eliahu ben Avigdor v'Miriam Rachel Isaac, son of Aaron Rosekind and Madalyn Radlauer (top row, third from right).

Continued from page 1

Rabbi Brian Zachary Mayer of Religion-Outside-The-Box had planned to fly to San Jose for a baby naming. “COVID made that an impossibility,” he says. “So I officiated via distance technology. What it allowed was for more family members to attend – not everyone can drop plans to get to San Jose within a week and a day’s notice. But, to click a link, that they could do.”

B’NAI MITZVAH

“So far we have celebrated four b’nai mitzvah, all remotely,” says Rabbi Barnett. “While of course there have been challenges, and it is not the same as physically being together, they have each been meaningful and beautiful in their own right. We have used Zoom for all of them, allowing for interaction rather than simply live-streaming, so that we can work to create a sense of community and connection in the moment as much as possible. ... We also make it a point a few times during the service to invite the family and everyone else to scroll through and appreciate everyone who is there. Many of our families in the b’nai mitzvah cohort and also other family and friends have been making signs and doing other fun things they hold up to show their love for the bar or bat mitzvah, which has been very sweet.”

Neveh Shalom offered b’nai

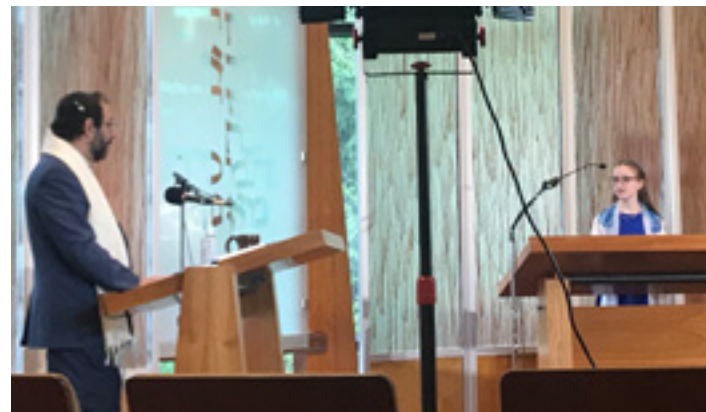
mitzvah families a variety of options to accommodate the family and be as safe as possible. Some b’nai mitzvah have chosen to record their Torah reading, which is then broadcast during the streamed service. Most families have chosen to reschedule in hopes of being able to celebrate with family and friends.

“We will reschedule once, then move ahead with whatever model is available at that time,” says Rabbi Kosak.

For Lily Crow, being in the sanctuary was very important, so in consultation with an infectious disease specialist, Neveh Shalom allowed Lily and her parents, Debra and David Anchel, to join clergy in the Stampfer Chapel. When it was time for Lily to read her parashah, or Torah verses, the cantor stepped away from the bimah (taking off a face covering) and Lily stepped up. The entire service was streamed.

“It was a unique experience and Lily will certainly have a story to tell,” says Debra. “We are very proud of her and her accomplishment. She advocated for what she wanted her bat mitzvah to be during this extraordinary time and when the time is right, we will reschedule her party, so we can celebrate with family and friends.”

“We are welcoming them (the b’nai mitzvah) into the Jewish community, so you want to uphold Jewish traditions as much



as possible,” says Rabbi Kosak. That thought is also the driving force at Congregation Beth Israel. “They are part of the community, and that is what bar/bat mitzvah is supposed to be about,” says Rabbi Michael Cahana.

Many Beth Israel families have also chosen to reschedule for the future. Two families have chosen a Zoom b’nai mitzvah. Rabbi and Cantor Ida Rae Cahana deliver the Torah scroll to the b’nai mitzvah’s home the week before the ceremony. They wear masks and gloves and give the family guidance on caring for the Torah.

“The cantor and I lead from our home and the bar/bat mitzvah from their home,” says Rabbi Cahana. “Afterwards we unmute so everyone can wish Mazel Tov. One boy’s great grandma, who was watching from Florida – she wouldn’t have been able to fly out – said ‘Mazel Tov! Am I doing this right?’” After the service, friends drove by his house honking and shouting. One held a chair up through the sun roof to simulate the chair dance at the typical party. At Congregation Shir Tikvah, bat/bar/brit mitzvah rituals are left up to the family. “Some have chosen a non-minyan Zoom event in which the Torah is chanted from a Humash, the Torah printed in book form, with a promise that we look forward to calling them up to the To-

rah when it is again possible,” says Rabbi Stone. Others are choosing to reschedule; we will give them any available date to chant what they’ve learned and call it ‘flashback Shabbat.’ Others are holding off for an entire year until that parashah rolls around again.”

WEDDINGS

Most planned weddings are being rescheduled.

“I have been trying to get a definitive answer whether it is legal to conduct weddings over Zoom,” says Rabbi Cahana, adding the requirement to get a marriage license in person is also an issue.

FUNERALS/ MOURNING

“COVID-19 restrictions have created significant hurdles. Conventional funerals are not possible,” says Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen.

Funerals are now limited to a maximum of 10 people at outdoor graveside services; additional mourners are able to attend by Zoom for most services. Havurah Shalom, whose cemetery is under Metro governance, is limited to five vehicles near the grave, with no one permitted to go to the grave until it has been filled.

Havurah has had one funeral since the stay-at-home orders took effect. After the grave had been filled and workers left the

Continued on next page

From previous page
cemetery, Rabbi Barnett says he and the family held a graveside ceremony. "We brought a shovel and each placed shovelfuls of earth onto the plot. It was difficult, but we made it as meaningful as we could and were still able to honor the life of the deceased and comfort the mourners in ways that honored the tradition."

Neveh Shalom and Beth Israel are both offering Zoom streaming for the graveside services with immediate family and clergy only in attendance.

Shir Tikvah also offers only graveside services. "I officiated at a funeral last week ... all wore masks and respected social distancing, and we brought our own shovels to the burial," says Rabbi Stone.

"Because of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, clergy of all faiths are struggling to provide personal, face-to-face pastoral care to those who are grieving," says Rabbi Cohen. "I now realize the incredible power of simply touching a shoulder or clasping a hand to offer compassion and strength."

Cohen adds, "The community cannot gather in mourners' homes for an in-person shiva minyan. Their support network cannot easily pay personal visits. For now, mourners cannot attend synagogue in person and recite Kaddish with their community in remembrance of their loved one."

Many movements and congregations are counting Zoom participants for a minyan to say the mourner's Kaddish. But in the Orthodox community, the lack of a physical minyan has meant not saying the mourner's Kaddish.

Rabbi Fischer has turned to an alternative found in many old prayer books that can be

said by individuals. It includes many of the same verses from the Tanach and sections from the Talmud as the Kaddish.

"The protection of life is of paramount importance," says Rabbi Fischer, adding that it is important to find virtual ways that are meaningful for mourners. "We value life and we honor those who passed because of the life lived and the value of life. ... That is what honoring life is – preserving and protecting it – our own and others."

"Shiva minyans are very effective," says Rabbi Kosak. "It allows many people to speak and see each other."

Rabbi Cahana says he has relied on personal conversation and video conversations to comfort mourners. "It's nothing like physical presence," he says. "It's hard not being able to hold hands."

LOOKING FORWARD

"I imagine some of these changes are going to remain permanently – some for the better and some not," says Rabbi Kosak.

Rabbi Cahana expanded on that thought. "We've learned a lot, and undoubtedly it will affect what we do in the future. If we can be more inclusive, fantastic."

As Oregon Gov. Kate Brown begins to share steps for slowly and carefully reopening the state, congregations are examining what that will mean. Large gatherings are banned until at least the end of September.

Rabbi Cahana says that Congregation Beth Israel is developing its own reopening plan. "It starts with our principles first guided by science and the advice of politicians. ... The decision is anchored in the principle of pikuach nefesh, protecting life."

MIKVAOT DURING COVID PANDEMIC

RACHEL'S WELL

Rachel's Well Community Mikvah is closed until further notice for all immersions during this time of pandemic. This decision was made based on the Jewish principle of pikuach nefesh, the belief that preserving human life takes precedence over most all other religious mandates. The Mikvah will follow state guidelines for salons and similar institutions when Multnomah County meets state criteria for reopening. For updates, visit: jewishportland.org/mikvah

MIKVAH SHOSHANA

Mikvah Shoshana-Portland's Women's Mikvah remains open for immersions for Taharat Hamishpacha (family purity) and brides.

In consultation, the mikvah has made "unprecedented modifications to our religious practices in order to slow the spread of COVID-19," says Mikvah Director Simi Mishulovin. "We have incorporated the highest standards and are regularly in touch with medical and rabbinical experts to ensure that we are doing everything humanly possible to keep the mikvah users and attendants at least exposure." For complete rules and an appointment, contact Mishulovin at 503-309-4185.

NATURAL BODIES OF WATER

When no official mikvah is available, one may immerse in another body of water if it conforms to halachic requirements. Oceans and some rivers may be used as a mikvah; consult your rabbi.

Rabbi Ariel Stone of Congregation Shir Tikvah plans to use this resource. "I will soon be present at a conversion immersion in a park along the Columbia River, with social distancing observed."

TAHARA DURING COVID PANDEMIC

Tahara, the ritual cleansing of the body for burial, has faced serious challenges to both honor the dead and protect the living. The two Portland hevra kadisha (burial societies) have adapted to meet those needs.

HEVRA KADISHA OF PORTLAND

The Hevra Kadisha of Portland has expanded the use of personal protective equipment and social distance between hevra team members.

Michael Rosenberg, who chairs the Hevra, praises Holman's Funeral Home for working with hevra authorities to incorporate all the guidelines. The changes were also in consultation with epidemiologists in the New York area "who unfortunately have done too many of these."

CHEVRA KAVOD HAMET

Chevra Kavod HaMet decided to suspend traditional tahara in response to the COVID-19 virus and instead offer "tahara from a distance," says Chevra co-chair Donna Erbs.

"The ritual of tahara is, in part, about comforting the soul of the deceased, and we feel strongly that with the assistance of technology ... (we) can do that from afar. The team members, via video conferencing, recite all of the traditional ritual prayers. ... Team members ritually wash their hands and simulate the pouring of water over the deceased by pouring water from a pitcher into a bowl. ... It is our intention that the soul of the deceased be honored and comforted at all times."

Erbs says the decision was reached based on consideration of pikuach nefesh: "We believe the requisite personal protective equipment needed by our volunteers to safely perform tahara is more critically needed ... for care of the living." Additionally, "most of our volunteers are in the more susceptible age groups for COVID-19."

Three-Clergy Conversation:

Congregations in COVID – 7 pm, May 14

Join Msgr. Patrick S. Brennan of St. Mary's Cathedral, Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana of Congregation Beth Israel and Dean Nathan LeRud of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral for a virtual dialogue on what it's like to be a religious leader in these times, and how the nation's response to pandemic may continue to influence religious life in the years to come. bethisrael-pdx.org/events

Published biweekly by
Jewish Federation of
Greater Portland
6680 SW Capitol Hwy.
Portland, OR 97219
503-245-6219
JewishPortland.org

Editor

Deborah Moon
editor@jewishportland.org
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
May 27	May 21
June 10	June 4
June 24	June 18
July 8	July 2
July 22	July 16
Aug. 5	July 30
Aug. 19	Aug. 13

Guest Column

Saving those rainy day funds? Very, very rainy days are here

BY RABBI BENJAMIN
SINGER

Here in Jerusalem, the last two days have been rainy. Very rainy, with thunder and lightning. As a native Portlander, I'm used to May showers (frankly, June and July showers too), but here in the Holy City it's unusual.

Our Portland Jewish community, and indeed our nation, faces a multifaceted challenge of massive scale. There's the health component, and that comes first. There's also the human well-being component and the financial component. I'm pondering this third point on this rainy Jerusalem day.

Our Jewish organizations, from religious to community to social service and more, are just beginning the struggle with the fallout from this unique economic crisis. It is clear that revenue streams like memberships, programs, event tickets, and donations will be impacted. To date, the community has stepped forward with unprecedented support, and those who have given their time and funds have saved many organizations from the first wave of financial fallout. All who have participated deserve a heartfelt yasher koach.

And to date, the government has gone to bat for our businesses and organizations with an unparalleled outpouring of funds, to our community and around the country.



Rabbi Binyamin Singer is a fifth-generation Portlander who loves the Rose City from his Jerusalem home. He is active in adult education while maintaining a role in Portland Jewish philanthropy. He is the son of Peter Singer and Sharon Stern, brother of Jonathan Singer and Anna Kodesch.

Yet, the Covid-19 rainy day is still here and its floodwaters seem to be rising. Many more funds will be needed, and now is the time to put our heads together and continue brainstorming about how to weather the storm.

Endowments, foundations, and donor-advised funds might be a crucial source of funds for this next stage. These entities hold and invest tens of millions of dollars to generate ongoing revenue. The proceeds generated are distributed to community organizations, thereby supporting a thriving Jewish community now and

for generations to come.

Future-mindedness ensures the long-term stability and viability of our community and its institutions, and those who support this end are to be applauded. Endowments and donor funds are impactful and they're here to stay.

Endowments and donor-advised funds also serve to store resources for a rainy day. This is a very, very rainy day – not just a recession or cyclical time of need – and perhaps a greater portion of these long-term resources should be activated to stem the tide.

Some may argue that activating these funds is short-sighted, or that that current market conditions do not allow for equities to be sold. Others may counter that this approach actually sacrifices the future by allowing present organizations and individuals to drown. We all agree that investing for the future is crucial. Perhaps it's time to invest in the future by securing our present, and put a meaningful percentage of these endowments and donor-advised funds to work now when our organizations and people need them to survive.

This is a question that begs open community-wide dialogue, and I invite our leadership to get together and consider the proper role of endowments and donor-advised funds on this very, very rainy day.

Monthly Mitzvah: *Ahavat Yisrael*

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 May the focus is *Ahavat Yisrael*: Love your

fellow Jew. "Love your fellow as yourself," is a basic principle in the Torah. Reaching out to your fellow Jew with patience, love, concern and unity is among the greatest mitzvot a Jew can do.

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

Rabbi's Corner On Haircuts, Staying Home & the Omer

BY RABBI ELIZABETH DUNSKER

It's getting hairy out there! Or in here, as the case may be. Since going out for a haircut became a stay-home-order impossibility long before Pesach, many of us are overdue for some personal grooming. For many, this Omer period that we are in now may always be a time to refrain from haircuts, but this year we began the Omer already needing haircuts.

The issue with haircuts during the Omer is a little more confusing than most of our other Jewish rituals. I love the logic connected to the vast majority of Jewish rituals, but the abstention from haircuts during the Omer is one that always leaves me scratching my extra hairy head. The Torah tells us to count off seven weeks between Pesach and Shavuot (Leviticus 23:15-16), and this seems like it might just be a joyful time as we move from slavery to the receiving of Torah. Talmudic traditions

turn the Omer into a period of mourning (when we abstain from haircuts), in memory of a plague that killed thousands of Rabbi Akiva's followers because they did not treat each other with respect (Yevamot 62b). Luckily there was a break in the plague on the 33rd day (Lag b'Omer), and that day has become a giant celebration of haircuts (among other things). This year, of course, our only shot at a Lag b'Omer haircut is if we do it ourselves.

Without a decent pair of scissors, my family, like so many others will likely go well past Shavuot before a good haircut is again a part of our lives. Soon we will all look like woolly sheep, but ultimately that's not the worst thing that could happen to us.

There is plenty to say these days about suffering from plagues and not treating each other with respect. We are certainly struggling with a pandemic, and too-long hair is only a small part of the struggle.

But if the mourning practices of the Omer are meant to remind us of the punishments that happened because of a lack of respect, perhaps there are rituals we might create to remind us of the benefits of respect. This year, wearing masks in public is a perfect way to honor the Omer and show respect for others. Most masks will not serve for self-protection but will serve as communal protection. This year it is perhaps a more important ritual than avoiding haircuts.

I share with you a blessing written by Rabbi Michael Knopf for the wearing of a mask – a ritual for this year's Omer that makes a lot of sense.

Baruch Ata, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al shmirat hanefesh.

Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the world, who has sanctified us with commandments, and commanded us to protect life.



Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker has led Congregation Kol Ami in Vancouver, WA, since 2008. She was ordained from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1996. She has served several congregations in the last 24 years including Congregation Beth Israel in Austin, TX, and Temple of Suffer-Shir Shalom in Suffern, NY, where she facilitated the congregation's merger with Beth Haverim of Mahwah, NJ.

Chaplain's Corner Seek 'Wise Counsel' to reopen

BY BARRY COHEN

States across the country are starting the process of reducing their COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions. Various businesses are interacting with customers. Officials are opening beaches and parks. People are much closer together than 6 feet.

How has this made me feel? I am suspect, skeptical and scared about following their lead. When the time comes in Oregon, I don't see myself rushing out to meet at a café or restaurant. I am also nervous about hiking Portland's beautiful trails, because I imagine that they will be packed.

What is going on here? Why do I feel this way?

I look at what is going on in other states, and I am not satisfied that we are opening in the right way and for the right reasons. The process feels cha-

otic and Pollyanna-ish. I also struggle to grasp why people will put themselves and others at risk because they claim their liberties and freedoms are under siege.

I know what will lessen my fears. Our government officials across the country need to take a more organized response. We need to follow the "3-Ts," testing, tracing and treatment. This will strengthen our ability to identify and control the spread of COVID-19. It will also buy us time until a vaccine has been developed and implemented. Granted, that will take time, arguably a year, if not more.

I am pleased and relieved that Governor Kate Brown has taken a systematic response to COVID-19 and is trusting scientific findings and counsel about how to open up our state.

In the meantime, how do I address my fears, skepticism and

cynicism? I am turning to the wisdom of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, latter 18th and early 19th century spiritual scholar and master.

With his meditation, "Wise Counsel," he speaks of the power of surrounding ourselves with the best people: "O God, how can I make my way through the confusion and uncertainty that cloud so much of what I do? Guide me to wise teachers and mentors, whose advice is pure and in tune with Your will. Guide me to true friends, whose counsel is caring and promotes my best interests. Guide me to clear, correct decisions, to conclusions that are sound and free of all doubt."

Rebbe Nachman also taught about the power of fostering a personal connection with nature, whether through walks, sitting outside, or simply gazing through a window.

With "Recognizing Life's Miracles," Nachman prays: "Open my eyes, O God, to the marvels that surround me. Show me the wonder of each breath I take, of my every thought, word and movement. Let me experience the miracles of the world I witness – ever mindful and always appreciative of all that You have made."

Through developing and maintaining healthy relationships with others and through fostering a connection with the Creation greater than ourselves, we can lessen our fears, stresses and anxieties and develop the strategies to weather this storm of uncertainty.

As the Community Chaplain for the Greater Portland Jewish community, Rabbi Barry Cohen serves as a resource for all Jews in our community. Contact him at chaplain@jewishportland.org or 971-361-6124.

Chatting with grandmas during pandemic



BY GLORIA HAMMER

FaceTiming with my 8-year-old grandson, Henry, I was telling him that I missed his hugs. Kidding Henry, I said “I’m going to get a large sheet, cover you up and squeeze.” A week passed and on our weekly visit where we try to stay 6 feet apart Henry said, “Gogo, where is the sheet?” I was just being silly, but kids are so literal. I got the sheet and we hugged. It was priceless.

We can all agree this is a frightening time. How do we stay up when everything is upside down? My children and my

grandkids (Henry and Sadie) are rallying.

What are other bubbes thinking during this pandemic? I asked eight special grandmas to comment, and here’s what they had to say in their own words.

Lynne Cohen

Retired sales exec, Old Republic Title; grandchildren Sofia, Lilly, Eloise and Willem

No more play dates, dinners and weekly slumber parties at our house with granddaughters Sofia and Lilly, and I do miss our trips to Berkeley to visit our other two grandchildren, Eloise and Willem. Frequent phone calls, FaceTime and Zoom keep us connected. Our daily virtual story hour with granddaughter Eloise has drawn us closer. I miss exercise classes but take long walks and look forward to sharing dinners out with good friends. Last week we attended our first virtual Shabbat service beamed from Shaarie Torah.



Sue Garber

Retired x-ray tech; grandchildren Phoebe & Ravi, 13 & 10

Sheltering in place reminds me of being confined to a ghetto. We have freedom but places we normally visit, even grocery stores, are restricted. This is a time of need for health-care workers, public servants and homeless.

This is our normal/abnormal for 2020 – not being able to gather for meals, celebrate

Passover, go to services or meet friends for card games and mah-jong. We have Zoom, drive-by visits, time outdoors. It is not easy for our families working from home. They are fortunate to have jobs. Feeling isolated, but also blessed to have a husband whom I like. This is our normal for 2020; hopefully, we return to health as a nation and as a world.

12 Jewish Review May 13, 2020

Grandparenting today

The Jewish Grandparents Network has announced three sessions on “Grandparenting Today: Joys, Opportunities and Challenges.” The series begins today (May 13), with each session beginning at 11 am on successive Wednesdays.

Join one or all three Zoom conversations on issues grandparents face today – with particular attention to the impact of the pandemic. Each features panelists chosen for their professional wisdom and experiences in our changing families.

May 13 – Today’s Jewish Families: Different, Joyful, and... Sometimes Challenging

May 20 – What Is Carried Forward: Sharing Values with Our Grandchildren

May 27 – “The Whole World Is A Narrow Bridge”: Grandparenting During Times of Crisis

For a full description of these free programs and to sign up, email info@jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org or visit:

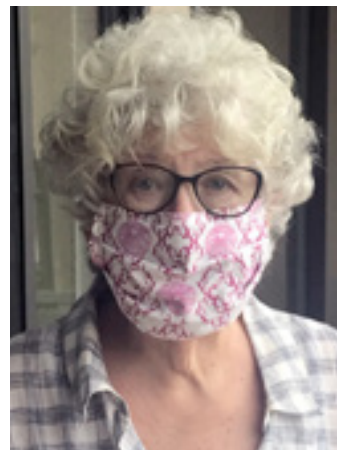
jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/2020/05/04/grandparenting-today-joys-opportunities-and-challenges/

Carolyn Gorin

Retired human resource manager and consultant at Wells Fargo

Grandchildren are the ultimate joy. My grandchildren ages 14, 11, and twins 10½ are funny, bright, kind; all are technological consultants, helping me navigate through social media. When I call for help, they say, “BUBBEEEEEE ... just press this or click that”! I know they are rolling their eyes ... LOL!!

There’s a bookstore at the beach. I call and explain who my grandchildren are and what their personalities are like, they pick out books, and mail them out. My grandson told me, “Bubbee, one day this will be in our history books.” There’s good that comes from adversity... like taking less for granted and enjoying the little things.



Laurie Rogoway

Retired associate executive VP of Federation

My heart aches for our high school senior granddaughter, who will not have a graduation, prom, senior skip day, not doing any of the things that normally mark this moment. My heart aches for my college freshman grandson, whose freshman year has been turned upside down. I FaceTime with our youngest grandchildren and wonder what kind of world lies ahead. All nine of my grandchildren have

loving parents and a supportive extended family. This pandemic has forever changed the world in ways we have yet begun to understand.

Janis Schleifer-Rosenfeld

Retired; three grandchildren

As a former Morah at Neveh Shalom Foundation School, we were able to applaud and record children's achievements and milestones. I have three beautiful grandchildren: Daniela, 5; Dylan, 1; and Kayden, 1. Providing them daycare allowed me to witness many of their first accomplishments. Daughter Erin La Rosa is a LCSW; her husband, Edward, is in the tech industry and can work at home. Daughter Keli is an LPC for Trillium Family Services and her husband, DeAndre, is a Portland Police Officer. With the pandemic we are not able to have physical contact; through technology I can still see milestones. But it's not the same without hugs and sloppy kisses!



Teri Simon

Retired Cascade Women's Health; five grandchildren

Living alone, I've had a range of emotions. All my kids are in town. I only drive by or hope for a surprise knock on the back screen door! I miss the hugs! The isolation is the worst. Trying to put a positive spin on it daily is not in my nature. I am scared and talk to myself way too much! This too shall pass, and it is said, "All things happen for a reason." I hope and pray we all learn from this. A time to show more respect for each other and appreciate that we each are going through this the best we can. L'Chaim!



Lisa Schroeder

Chef owner Mother's Bistro & Bar; grandmother to Bella, 17; Taylor, 15; and Oliver and Julian, twins almost 8

The pandemic basically shut down my restaurant (open for dinner takeout/delivery only). It has brought me closer to my grand twins, whom I've been helping raise since they were 4. First we had to quarantine and couldn't see each other. Now we're spending weeks together 24/7 doing schoolwork, cooking, reading, gardening and more. For Shabbat, I made Dafina (Moroccan Sabbath Stew) with the twins, we lit candles, said the prayers. The next morning we woke to the scent of the stew permeating the house. Sabbath blessing during these COVID-19 times!



Linda Singer

Community concierge MJCC; six grandchildren

How is this Corona virus different than all other times? In all other times we can drop off or pick up our grandchildren from school. Now we wave from afar. In all other times we eat dinner with them one to three times a week. Now we watch them play from 10 feet away. In all other times I eat in restaurants with friends eight-14 times per week. Now I cook! We are healthy, have shelter, food and toilet paper. I am NOT complaining!



Searching for Light II: Interview with Adam Greenman

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. (The full interview is online at jewishportland.org/jewishreview.)

BY JATHAN JANOVE

My buddy Adam Greenman, a member of Kesser Israel, has had an interesting career path.

Let's start with Hollywood. How did you become a screenwriter?

My father had been a successful child actor and moved from New York to LA to further his career. Unfortunately, he grew out of his cute phase and the

acting work dried up. Yet he always pined to get back into the movie business. Growing up in that environment, that same desire rubbed off on me.

In school, I made a Super 8 movie with my best friend who had similar dreams. We were hooked by the love of filmmaking. We went on to shoot lots of our own "student films" and eventually worked our way up to purchasing a 16-millimeter camera. We won a couple of local competitions.

What was your big break?

I got a job as a location manager, scouting places for filming and making logistical arrangements for the shooting. I got to work with directors and producers. It was a great job and lasted a little over four

years, but it wasn't leading me to a career as a famous film director.

My new plan was to write a script so good I'd be allowed to direct it. I committed myself to writing every day and tending bar at night to support myself.

Yet I kept writing. And in my frustration I gave up on trying to be "commercial" and wrote a script about a love triangle between a male escort and two lesbians. It was called "Three of Hearts." From there I was solicited by CBS to write scripts for what was known at the time as the Movie of the Week.

How did Portland enter the equation?

My wife, Robin, gave birth to our daughter, Eleanor. We decided we didn't want to raise

her in LA. As a screenwriter, I thought my work was portable.

We decided to look for a place on the West Coast with good public schools. Portland checked the necessary boxes and we moved here in 1995.

Is that what happened?

Growing up in LA, both my wife and I were highly assimilated. However, after Eleanor was born, we took an Introduction to Judaism class. The rabbi conducting the class encouraged us to attend religious services, which we started to do, never expecting to find some real meaning for ourselves.

I read in the local Jewish Review an article about a class being offered by a new rabbi in town named Oppenheimer.

See GREENMAN, next page

GREENMAN

(from previous page)

He'd come to revive a tiny Orthodox congregation in town, and I thought, well, it wouldn't hurt to attend his Wednesday Pirke Avot class being held in a downtown law office.

He asked me my story and after I told him he exclaimed, "You're the reason I came to Portland!" I told him he was gravely mistaken, but he insisted we come to his shul for Shabbat services.

What's it like going from assimilated Jew to attendee at an Orthodox synagogue?

I'd say it's akin to visiting another planet. Robin and I were clueless and of course did everything wrong.

What made it stick?

Primarily our daughter. She loved the place and Jewish observance. Eventually, Robin and I became acclimated and Kesser Israel became our shul.

With Eleanor's interest in Judaism, we enrolled her in the Portland Jewish Academy where she had a great experience.

How was the Hollywood biz going?

Just fine. I was cranking out script after script. Then a new kind of programming emerged called, "reality TV," which not only blossomed into every network's cash cow but dried up the "Movie of the Week" business within six months.

Now, well into my 40s, I had no backup career. However, as a screenwriter, I'd written several courtroom dramas and thought, "Hey, I can be a lawyer!" After all, how hard could it be?

I somehow passed the LSAT and applied to Portland's only law school, Lewis & Clark. On my second attempt I passed the Oregon bar at age 51.

Then I got my dream job: Multnomah County prosecutor.

Any words of wisdom?

I don't know about "wisdom," but I can tell you I believe I'm the luckiest guy in the world. Lucky professionally, lucky as a husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, and lucky to be part of the Portland Jewish community.

Obituaries

SYLVIA SCHWARTZ

Sylvia "Sylvie" Schwartz, z"l, passed away the week of May 4, 2020. She was the mother-in-law of Congregation P'nai Or member Sheryl Chomak.

P'nai Or offers prayers of comfort and healing to Sheryl, her husband, Sid Schwartz, and their son, Gomah.

SOLOMON MENASHE

Solomon Menashe, z"l, passed away May 8, 2020. He was the husband of Roslyn; father of JoAnn (Barry) Forman, Marinda (Bill Lotshaw) Menashe and Elise (Jay Miller) Menashe; brother of Vic (Toinette) Menashe; and a loved grandfather and great grandfather.

In keeping with Congregation Neveh Shalom's, and the family's commitment to keep our community safe and healthy, and in compliance with our governor's directive, a private interment was held. A Zoom shiva minyan was held May 10.

IDAN GREENSTEIN

Idan Greenstein, z"l, passed away May 5 in North Carolina. He was 21. Idan was a true and beloved light for his family, friends, and all those who knew him.

Idan was the nephew of Congregation Kesser Israel members Steven Meyerowitz and Jennifer Edelson and cousin of Kesser members Jodi Fried and Leanne Dall. May Idan's memory be a blessing and may all of the mourners be comforted.

JAMES A. SHRYBMAN

James Aaron Shrybman, z"l, passed away in Maryland on May 3, 2020. James was the husband of Rochelle Testa, father of Congregation Neveh Shalom member Cory (Jake) Raiton, Anna Shrybman and Jacob (Menucha) Shrybman, and grandfather of Elliot & Katherine Raiton, and Aria Shrybman.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends our deepest condolences to the Raiton/Shrybman family.

MICHAEL ROTHSTEIN

Michael Rothstein, z"l, brother of Congregation Neveh Shalom member Marcy (Ron) Morris, passed away in Van Nuys, Calif., May 5. He is also survived by his son, niece, nephew and fiancée.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends condolences to the Rothstein/Morris family.

PAUL MEYER

Paul Meyer, z"l, passed away on May 1, 2020. He was the husband of Alice Meyer; father of David, Sarah and Andrea; and grandfather of Eliana and Naomi.

Congregation Beth Israel offers condolences to Alice, David, Sarah, Andrea, Eliana, Naomi, and to the extended Meyer family.

MYERS MILLINER

Myers Milliner, z"l, passed away May 1, 2020, in Roanoke, Va. He was the father of Congregation Neveh Shalom member Beth (Liza) Milliner.

A shiva minyan was held via Zoom May 3.

ALBERT MENDLOVITZ

Albert Abraham Mendlovitz died April 30, 2020, near Salem. He was born in Scranton, Pa., Aug. 19, 1930, to Samuel and Celia Mendlovitz. He was predeceased by his long-time wife, Sarah Mendlovitz.

Al spent most of his career as a nursing home administrator, first at Drexel Home in Chicago, then the North Carolina Jewish Home, followed by the Robison Jewish Home in Portland.

Al was the youngest of five children and liked to tell stories about what that meant – like sleeping in a crib until late into his teens. He was a committed Jew who enjoyed celebrating Shabbat and all the holidays. He was a veteran of the Korean War where he worked on breaking codes which was hard to do when you are dyslexic.

After leaving the army, Al received a master's from Columbia in social work with the help

of his older brother, Saul.

Al was the father of Joshua Nicks, Mira Wolf (Alexander), Howard (Sara Painsner) and Ari (Sarah); and grandfather of Seth Nicks; Alex Rand; and Annie, Natalie, Lucy, Harry, Ella and Allie Mendlovitz.

The private funeral was held on May 1, 2020. Donations can be made to the Chabad Jewish Center – Greensboro, N.C. To plant a memorial tree:

tree.tributecenterstore.com/memorial-tree?oId=12811534

NATHAN GOLDFOOT

Nathan Bernard Goldfoot died April 26, 2020. He was born on Feb. 25, 1934, in Portland to Helen and Charles Goldfoot. Nate lived most of his life in Portland. He attended Benson High School but graduated from Grand Coulee High School in Grand Coulee, Wash. Nate lived in Omak, Wash., before being drafted into the Army in 1956. He moved back to Portland in 1966 and had a 30-year career as a Ford mechanic.

Nate met the love of his life, Lorraine Slifman in 1966. They were married in 1967. Together they had three children, Tami (Bob) Jensen, Charlie Goldfoot, and Wendy (Thomas) Hardy. They also have four grandchildren, Andrew, Kaiti, Sarah and Ben and four great grandchildren, Trey, Tristan, Ryder and Grayson.

After seven years of dialysis treatment, Nate decided to end his treatment and spend his final days with family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to your favorite charity in Nate's name. Arrangements are through Holman's Funeral Service.

MARIAN HOFFMAN

Marian Hoffman died April 22, 2020.

Congregation Shir Tikvah offers sincere condolences to survivors Judith and Michael Hibbard, Johanna Hibbard and Michael Annuse, and their children Dov, Alma and Justine.