

# The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

Community  
Resources  
for today's  
reality  
— pages 2-3

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Volume 55, Issue 5

## Help set a world record April 17 at Unity Shabbat

BY DEBORAH MOON

On April 17, you are invited to join (virtually) Jewish residents of Oregon and Southwest Washington in a bid to set a world record for the largest simultaneous online Shabbat candle lighting. The free online event begins at 7:10 pm and concludes by 7:25 so people who observe Shabbat free of electronics can participate while maintaining their observance.

To register to get the Zoom password for the Unity Shabbat, visit [jewishportland.org/unity-shabbat-2020](http://jewishportland.org/unity-shabbat-2020).

"With the end of Passover (April 16), this is a way for the community to celebrate together," says JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner.

"Before the days of 'physical distancing,' we took it for granted that Shabbat was a way for families, friends and congregants to get together," says Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen. "For the sake of safety and health, we have had to sacrifice what we always assumed was possible."

"But that does not mean all connections have been lost. We used to look at Zoom as a tool for business. Being an adaptable people, we can now use Zoom for something a little more sacred. That's why the Unity Shabbat candle lighting is so important. We can use technology to virtually meet .... At the same time, we are fulfilling one

of the greatest mitzvot: celebrating Shabbat."

Even when life is normal and predicable, Shabbat offers a sacred reprieve from work, school and chores. In a time of uncertainty and fear, Shabbat is even more important.

"For the sake of our health and welfare, let's rest and recharge by reconnecting with our spiritual sides," says Rabbi Cohen. "Shabbat is security, a safe haven and a sanctuary."

The Unity Shabbat is being promoted by several congregations and organizations including Congregation Neveh Shalom, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Shaarie Torah and Portland's UnShul.

The Eastside Jewish Commons, which has drawn about 40 participants for weekly Zoom Shabbat candle lightings since March 27, is encouraging participants to participate in the April 17 Unity Shabbat.

EJC Board Chair Mia Birk says the Zoom candle lightings reflect the importance of community. "We're focused on building and strengthening the local Jewish community by engaging people virtually to reduce feelings of isolation."

Rabbi Cohen says the world record attempt has the added bonus of "tapping into one of our people's greatest skills: humor. ... Let's have some fun and set the world record for the largest simultaneous Shabbat candle lighting."

JEWISH GREATER  
PORTLAND TOGETHER

COVID-19 RELIEF

## Emergency fund awards 14 grants

In mid-March, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Oregon Jewish Community Foundation created the COVID-19 Emergency Campaign with commitments of \$250,000 and \$100,000, respectively. Since then, 231 donors have contributed, bringing the crisis fund to \$760,000 to provide assistance to individuals in need and capacity support for Jewish organizations impacted by COVID-19.

As of April 8, the COVID-19 Emergency Campaign has made 14 grants totaling \$243,348, with additional funds committed to some of those recipients for May and June, as well. While the grants are all to organizations, three of the grants enable the organizations to provide emergency aid to Oregonians: Jewish Family and Child Service, Jewish Federation of Lane County and Jewish Free Loan.

Organizations receiving grants, the amount received (\* indicates additional grants set aside for May and June) and what the grant funds are:

- **B'nai B'rith Camp: \$13,500**; mitigate loss of rental income and operational support

- **Camp Solomon Schechter: \$10,000**; mitigate loss of rental income and operational support

- **Cedar Sinai Park: \$33,333\***; purchase personal protective equipment for medical staff and residents

- **Chabad of Hillsboro: \$3,000**; mitigate loss of fee income

- **Congregation Neveh Shalom: \$16,000**; payroll support and mitigate loss of fee income

- **Congregation Shir Tikvah: \$1,000**; additional support to pay educational coordinator

- **Jewish Family and Child Service: \$91,515\***; emergency financial assistance and mental health support – if you need help call 503-226-7079

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Passover4All is an annual program that provides Passover food boxes to families in need. A grant from the crisis campaign helped provide boxes for 150 families.

# Community Connection offers tips for coping

BY DEBORAH MOON

During a weekly Community Connection conversation on Zoom, Jewish Family and Child Service staff shared tips and strategies for coping with our swiftly changing reality and the challenges and anxieties of pandemic living.

JFCS Clinical Director Douglass Ruth said it is important to focus on what we can control during this era of uncertainty, when new information comes out every day that contradicts what you heard the day before.

“We have some control of our consumption of information,” he said. “Predictions are interesting, but not calming. They are hypotheses with not a lot of data ... so don’t participate too much.”

Ruth said the enforced simplicity of isolated life today is “an opportunity to give ourselves the time and space to tweak our daily routines, sleep and eating habits.”

See CONVERSATIONS next page

## Interest-free loans available for needs related to COVID-19

In recognition of the sudden change of circumstances faced by many individuals and families in our community due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the [Jewish Free Loan Program](#) of the Jewish Federation has expanded its offerings.

Individuals around the state who have been impacted by the COVID-19 virus and require a loan may be eligible for a no-interest loan of up to \$1,000 with no cosigners. The number of these loans is limited.

Loan repayments will begin after 120 days and will be divided into equal payments of \$28/month for 36 months.

As of April 13, six applicants have received loans for needs ranging from rental assistance to ChromeBooks for online school work.

For information, call 503-892-7417 or visit [jewishportland.org/jewish-free-loan](http://jewishportland.org/jewish-free-loan).

## GRANTS continued from page 1

- **Jewish Federation of Lane County: \$10,000;** provide emergency financial assistance to Jews outside of the Greater Portland area
- **Jewish Free Loan: \$25,000;** provide additional \$1,000 interest-free loans for those impacted by COVID-19
- **Maayan Torah Day School: \$15,000;** payroll support and mitigate loss of tuition income
- **Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education: \$5,000\*;** payroll support
- **Passover food for people in need: \$12,500;** provide Passover food boxes for 150 families, purchase Passover food for Jewish people around the state and enable the Sunshine Pantry to purchase Passover food
- **Portland Kollel: \$2,500;** payroll and rent support
- **Temple Beth Israel-Eugene: \$5,000;** mitigate decrease in donations.

Many local Jewish organizations are applying for the federal Small Business Association loans that have the potential to convert to grants if certain conditions are met. Future grant applications will likely depend on each organization’s ability to receive SBA funds.

For 100 years, the Jewish Federation has been positioned to support individuals and organizations in our Jewish community. The pandemic is not over; the work is not done. Donations to the relief fund are still needed. Donate at <https://www.jewishportland.org/covid19relief>.

### Women’s Circle responds to altered reality

On April 3, the COVID-19 Emergency Campaign passed its initial goal of \$750,000 when the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland’s Women’s Giving Circle decided to donate \$18,000 to the crisis campaign after an emotional phone call.

“It was a beautiful, thoughtful and tearful experience,” says Wendy Kahn, who both staffs and participates in the giving circle. “We all should be proud – they would not have made the decision to shift if it were not for the trust they have in all of the work we are doing and how magnificently we have pivoted and responded in the face of this crisis.”

The Women’s Giving Circle had just accepted grant requests for 2020 and was about to conduct site visits when the pandemic altered reality.

“To that end, the members of the giving circle unanimously decided to both honor and acknowledge the fact that each woman has made a financial commitment to the giving circle to her best capacity with the expectation that her funds would impact the Portland Jewish community,” says Kahn, JFGP associate director of financial resource development. “The women understand that the agendas of the agencies who submitted grant requests were for growth and development and of a different time. The impact we want to make is through the Emergency Fund with the understanding that crises like these are what Federation is set up for, and we want to help the community in this time and then look forward to returning to our regular grant-making process next fall.”

# Volunteer match program is meeting needs

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has responded to the urgent need for support and developed a resource to match those in need with volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

People in need of help fill out a form about the type of assistance needed and then receive a call from Wendy Kahn, who is coordinating the program with fellow JFGP staff members Caron Blau Rothstein and Nadine Menashe. “We have a conversation about their needs,” said Kahn, who then matches them with a volunteer or refers them to Jewish Family and Child Service for financial or mental health needs. Tavia Berrigan manages the JFCS Emergency Aid program.

As of April 13, 90 volunteers are making reassurance calls to more than 1,500 households of our elders. An additional 29 requests for assistance have been assigned to 24 volunteers or referred to either JFCS or a secular resource. Volunteers have met



requests for grocery or prescription pickup.

“It is such a relief,” one recipient told Kahn. “I had been worrying for about a week about how I was going to get my husband’s allergy medicine.”

Though those who request grocery or prescription pickup generally pay for their own supplies, Kahn said one volunteer insisted on both picking up and paying for one recipient’s groceries. “He just wanted to do both parts,” she said.

This is a constantly developing situation, so everything is subject to change. As people’s daily lives continue to evolve, the program will seek to meet those changing needs.

“We have made a pivot,” said Kahn. “This may not be what we (Federation) are known for, but this is part of the need that needed to be filled. We created the intake form and methodology to meet the need.”

“Everything is about taking care of people,” she added. “People’s lives have changed so drastically ... it was important for us to facilitate (assistance), so that’s what we did.”

Healthy adults with low risk factors for getting COVID-19 can sign up to be paired with an elder or immunocompromised member of the community who could use assistance. The match may be for a one-time need, or it can be an ongoing pairin. Volunteers 21+ of any health level can make telephone reassurance calls and people of all ages can sign up to send cards and pictures to area elder care facilities.

To ask for assistance or to volunteer, visit [jewishportland.org/jewish-portland-together](http://jewishportland.org/jewish-portland-together). For questions, call 503-245-6219 or email [volunteer@jewishportland.org](mailto:volunteer@jewishportland.org).

## CONVERSATIONS continued from previous page

Staff therapist David Molko shared his personal ground rules: “Filter out rumor; anchor my day around activities that have always been part of my day ... such as physical activity.”

“I attempt to identify something every day that I am grateful for or that is amusing, interesting or curious – I pause for a moment to reflect on something positive,” added Molko.

The group talked about the additional challenges of relating to children, the elderly and adult children with disabilities.

JFCS staffers noted that reassurance, predictability, consistency and structure are helpful for all three groups. Choosing language that is age- and ability-appropriate and not alarming is also important.

Ruth said he has talked to parents who face unfamiliar challenges of encouraging positive consumption of something – screen time – they once limited. “Now I helped them figure out a good video game for kids to play that can be good structured use of time.”

The next Community Connection group will be 10 am, Friday, April 17. The group, open to all, is focused on challenges, coping skills and connections.

Ruth said JFCS will also consider tar-

geted support groups if they are needed. He noted that Zoom conversations and virtual counseling have presented fresh challenges to the JFCS staff – but also opportunities.

“I would not have done ‘telehealth’ a month ago, but I’m being forced to do it,” Ruth said. “We are all going to build new capabilities and will come out with new skills.”

### Resources from Jewish Family & Child Service Community Connection

Weekly Zoom conversations about the challenges and anxieties of pandemic living, coping skills to help balance out our daily lives and ideas on how to connect with our community in this digital social world! Day/time varies weekly: [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) with meeting ID: 606 166 438.

### Emergency Aid

With funds from the community crisis fund created by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, JFCS has reinvigorated its Emergency Assistance program with funding to provide limited gifts for emergency needs.

### Adapted Programs

Disability support, Holocaust survivor resources and counseling programs have been modified to meet the needs of clients while meeting physical distancing protocols. JFCS provides telephone and tele-therapy (video and audio) support to clients. Extra support for existing clients experiencing increased symptoms of distress includes delivering food and ensuring weekly connection with providers.

**For more information on any of these programs, visit [jfcs-portland.org/covid-19/](http://jfcs-portland.org/covid-19/) or call 503-226-7079**



SEDER 2019: Above, Amy Shapiro, standing, visits with participants of the 2019 seder in Rose Schnitzer Manor's crowded Zidell Hall. Amy and her husband, Jeff Olenick, have been leading seders at the senior living facility for several years.

SEDER 2020: With communal activities suspended during the coronavirus crisis, Amy Shapiro and Jeff Olenick recorded a video seder, at right, for CSP residents to enjoy in their rooms with the seder meal prepared by Chef Jon Wirtis.

## Pesach brings CSP community together, separately

By Deborah Moon

Cedar Sinai Park staff and volunteers have gone above and beyond to make Passover a joyful, communal experience even as the seniors remained in their rooms or apartments.

"We are able to create togetherness even though we are far apart," says Kim Fuson, who became CSP CEO March 1 after seven months as interim CEO. "We are able to facilitate soul connections and heart connections even though we are physically apart."

For the first seder this year, residents received room service with a small plate of ritual foods and a seder meal prepared by Chef Jon Wirtis, including gefilte fish he made using his Grandma Goldye's recipe. At Rose Schnitzer Manor, residents were able to tune in to the in-house cable channel and enjoy a video seder led by Amy Shapiro and Jeff Olenick. Barbara Slader recorded a condensed seder, available on YouTube, for residents who wanted a shorter service. CSP staff helped residents at Robison Health Center and the Harold Schnitzer Center for Living, which do not have the in-house cable, use technology to stream one of the seders.

"Amy and Jeff and Barbara are part of the fabric of Cedar Sinai Park, and this is their latest act of living kindness – chesed (in Hebrew)," says Fuson. "Because of the chesed of people like Amy and Jeff and Barbara and my staff, even in unprecedented times like these, we are able to celebrate."

Amy and Jeff have been fixtures on the campus since the mid 1980s. Robison residents often asked her to sing for them since she sings Yiddish songs. The couple, often joined by their son, Louis, led Shabbat services at Robison for many years. In 1998, Louis became a bar mitzvah in the new sanctuary at Rose Schnitzer Manor, where the cou-



**GEFILTE FISH:** This year Chef Jon Wirtis made his Grandma Goldye's gefilte fish, the first time Cedar Sinai Park residents have been treated to homemade gefilte fish.

ple has led the seder for several years. "It is our synagogue," says Amy.

Barbara created and has led the RSM choir for the past 14½ years accompanied by Barry Lavine on the piano. She initially came to the campus to help her mother-in-law. But after her mother-in-law passed just before Passover in 2001, she began volunteering to lead RSM's Friday night services. For several years, she has joined Jeff and Amy to lead the seder.

Fuson praised her staff for their tireless dedication during the crisis. Development and financial staff are working remotely. Staff from the adult day service program, which has been suspended under "Stay Home, Save Lives," have joined the RSM enrichment staff to help engage residents through these unprecedented times.

"The team here is really rising to the occasion," she says.

Fuson has had an up-close view of the staff and residents changed lives since she has been living in an RSM apartment while serving as interim CEO. Though she has an off-campus apartment lined up, she doesn't know when she will be able to move under current restrictions.

"I'm grateful to be living on campus (now)," says Fuson. "It gives the staff and

residents the knowledge there is *always* someone here."

Fuson says she is also enjoying the Kosher for Pesach menu that offers residents an elaborate selection for each meal. Throughout Pesach, residents are being treated to room service with a varied menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner each day including such mouthwatering options as matzoh brie and various omelets for breakfast; ginger rockfish or kale, spinach and mushroom kugel; Hawaiian seafood salad or braised BBQ short ribs for dinner; and fruit and salad options for side dishes. And that's just a small sampling of the menu that looks like the holiday menu of a kosher restaurant in a big city.

After Passover, Fuson hopes to continue the in-room enrichment with exercise and music videos recorded by local volunteers and aired on the in-house cable channel.

Barbara is already working on the idea.

"We are inviting musicians who have performed here in the past to make video sing-alongs for the in-house cable channel," says Barbara, adding she is really missing seeing everyone at RSM, especially her choir members. She says the videos will give residents a chance to sing along with people they know.

# Portland Jewish Academy poets honored

Four Portland Jewish Academy middle schoolers are winners of the 2020 Cascadia Poetry Contest for Oregon's K-12th grade students.

Although there won't be an award ceremony this year, the students will still receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement, a \$10 prize, and two copies of the Cascadia 2020 Anthology, where their winning poems will be published.

PJA offers a big *yasher koach* to 8th-grader Liana Kressel; and 6th-graders Lily Manne, Noam Peleg and Zoe Sweek; and to their writing teacher, Middle School Humanities Teacher Harriet Wingard.



## The Last Song

by Noam Peleg

\*Inspired by "Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou

*One silent spring morning, there was no trill  
Not a single tune and all was still  
The caged bird broke his bars of rage  
For now he was free of his cage*

*That silent day, at last he flew  
Escaping from the world he knew  
And for a moment, he stood still  
Before releasing his final trill*

*For that was the caged bird's last song*

*I learned his story.  
All their stories.  
All the stories that shouldn't exist.  
My father lied.  
What if the gun chose me?  
But I am day, not night.  
Why should that matter?  
Aren't we all just stars?  
Will he help?  
Will he let me make a change?  
Do I give him a chance?  
Or does the ghost boy get justice?  
Do I choose the one who gave me life, or  
the one whose life was lost?  
I choose both.*



## A Soaring Melody

by Liana Kressel

*swing  
up  
and  
down  
the  
body  
of  
the  
Violin  
like  
a  
small  
slender  
hummingbird*

*Just a bundle of wood  
and string but when played  
it is as light as air and with a voice  
so clear it might as well be human,  
the bow coaxes out the notes  
and makes them sing  
oddly in tune,  
a perfect C#  
Some songs making you  
weep with sadness, or overflow with  
joy, needing no other instrument  
to harmonize, it makes you forget  
that such a human could  
make a strong and  
fragile thing*



## Ghost Girl

by Lily Manne

\*Inspired by Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

*Bam!  
He's dead.  
The choice wasn't mine,  
Yet the blame is.  
The gun's scream sounded too much like  
my voice.  
"You did good,"  
they say.  
"He deserved it,"  
they say.  
They just don't know.  
Emmet Till...  
Did he deserve it too?*



## The Truth

by Zoe Sweek

\*Inspired by the life of Sophie Scholl

*Take the leaflets. I sneak upstairs and post  
some up.  
Don't be seen. I slip back down the stairs  
and take the last stack.  
Let them know. I go back upstairs and  
pause.  
Make the move. I let them fall, like doves  
from above.  
The bell rings. I hear hundreds of pairs of  
feet about to learn the truth.  
The custodian approaches me. Somehow  
he knows.  
He alerts the Gestapo. We must be strong.  
Don't let him know. He pesters us with  
questions.  
The truth burns inside me. We have to tell  
someone.  
Our secret is exposed. Time is short.  
His voice rings out. Sentenced to death.  
Our story will live on. We look at each  
other for the last time.  
I am the first to go. I count to three.  
I feel myself floating. Up, up, and up.*

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**Upcoming issues**

Issue date	Deadline
April 29	April 23
May 13	May 7
May 27	May 21
June 10	June 4
June 24	June 18
July 8	July 2
July 22	July 16

**Portland checks in on Israel's vulnerable**

As COVID-19 changes daily life here, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland realizes it is also important to remember we are part of the global community.

“While we are understandably focused on our own local community needs, it’s important to remember that we also have responsibilities overseas including helping those organizations that assist the most vulnerable populations in Israel,” says Bob Horenstein, JFGP director of community relations, who staffs the Overseas Special Projects committee.

Horenstein reached out to Israel projects that are current or past partners and fund recipients to see how they are coping with the crisis. Here are replies from three of those projects.

**KREMBO WINGS**, Israel’s only all-inclusive youth movement for children with special needs, normally hosts 7,000 young people of all abilities and backgrounds to gatherings at 74 branches around the country.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Krembo has moved its activities online for the 7,000-plus members in the movement. A new website, KremboCorona, features various activities such as live-streamed and interactive origami tutorials, inclusive exercise lessons, riddles and more.

“For children with disabilities, routine is really important,” says Lia Kimchi. Lia, who is 17 years old, is the youth coordinator for the Kochav Yair-Tzur Yigal Krembo Wings branch and big sister to 9-year-old Roni, who has cognitive disabilities. “The KremboCorona site makes this hard time a bit more stable and allows for me and Roni to be active together with other members, even while we are confined to our homes.”

**NEVE MICHAEL CHILDREN’S VILLAGE** provides refuge and a loving home for children and youth at risk. The village also includes two emergency crisis centers.

Many children’s homes in Israel have closed during the



Krembo Wings has shifted to virtual events to bring youth with and without special needs to connect.

***It’s important to remember that we also have responsibilities overseas including helping those organizations that assist the most vulnerable populations in Israel.”***

pandemic, but Neve Michael must stay open, since the parents of the children will not take care of them. Children are being referred to the village’s emergency centers.

“We have a new little girl in the crisis center who just turned 5,” writes Hava Levene from the village. “She was removed from the home with an older sister, and they are doing so well. During one of the group sessions last week, the little one told Ruti, the housemother, that she is happy that there is corona... Why? She loves it at NM and doesn’t want to go home and doesn’t want her mother to visit. You can imagine what she went through at home.”

“Because of you, we can give the boys and girls the life that they deserve ... and we are able to save more children, even during the corona era.”

**BE-ATZMI** is an NGO that works to create fundamental, positive change in the lives of underprivileged, poor populations by promoting their participation in the workforce to increase their economic independence and personal empowerment. Their workforce integration and career-focused programs in over 100 locations assist approximately 10,000 people. In addition to guiding

the employment participants, Be-Atzmi also works with their families and communities. Participants are primarily single mothers, Ethiopian-Israeli children, new immigrants, Haredi men and women, Arab citizens of Israel and unemployed individuals over the age of 45.

“We are making (efforts) to continue activity as best as possible under the COVID-19 restrictions,” writes Ruth Meisels, Be-Atzmi resource development and foreign relations coordinator.

“According to the regulations and in order to protect their health, the Sherut Leumi mentors have been instructed to stay at home and accompany the families remotely,” Meisels says. “The girls talk to the families once or twice a day, by phone or video calls. They received special training and tools for mentoring the children remotely and have weekly or bi-weekly Zoom meetings with the program coordinators and director to give them more tools for the remote mentoring, as well as personal support for them during this challenging period.”

“We wish to take this opportunity to thank you again for your partnership in this important, life-changing, program. We couldn’t continue to carry it out without you.”

# Remembrance during a pandemic

BY DEBORAH MOON

With physical distancing requirements during the current pandemic, Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, will be observed virtually this year.

A short service created by the Oregon Board of Rabbis will begin at 7 pm, April 20. For link, visit [jewishportland.org/community-calendar/online-events](http://jewishportland.org/community-calendar/online-events).

Every year on Yom HaShoah, the Day of Remembrance, communities around the world uphold the memory of victims of the Holocaust through Unto Every Person There Is a Name, a public recitation of Holocaust victims' names, ages and birthplaces.

On Tuesday, April 21, 2020, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education will once again sponsor this special Yom HaShoah program – though in recognition of the COVID-19 health crisis, this year the reading will be virtual. OJMCHE is creating a video for this year's Reading of the Names, nor-

mally held at Pioneer Courthouse Square. The video will be posted on OJMCHE's website, [ojmche.org](http://ojmche.org), on April 21.

The readings are from lists of names provided by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Research Center.

"Unto Every Person There Is a Name seeks to defy indifference and historical revisionism, which denies that the Holocaust ever happened, by personalizing the individual tragedy of the dead and the survivors," explains OJMCHE Executive Director Judy Margles. "Furthermore, keeping the memory of the victims alive fulfills one of the vital tenets of our collective experience – zachor – to remember."

Though OJMCHE traditionally announces the winners of the annual Sala Kryszek Art & Writing Competition for middle and high school students by Yom Hashoah, the deadlines have been extended due to Covid-19 and school closures. The writing submission deadline is now May 15; the deadline for art submissions is May



In past years, the Reading of the Names was held in Pioneer Courthouse Square. This year, Yom HaShoah programs will be online.

30. For entry information, visit [ojmche.org/educate/education/sala-kryszek-art-writing](http://ojmche.org/educate/education/sala-kryszek-art-writing).

A similar contest (for 8th- to 12th-graders, college students and adults) has an entry deadline of April 16. The winners of that contest will be part of the virtual Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony presented at 5 pm, April 20 by the California non-profit David Labkovski Project, [davidlabkovskiproject.org](http://davidlabkovskiproject.org). The Zoom link will be available on the website soon.

Lithuanian-Israeli artist David Labkovski (1906-1991) left a visual diary that examines and

documents his recollections of World War II, the Holocaust and their aftermath in autobiographical drawings and paintings.

The virtual ceremony will feature the winners of a writing contest in which participants will ponder the meaning behind Labkovski's art. For entry information, visit: [davidlabkovskiproject.org/reflect-and-respond-commemoration](http://davidlabkovskiproject.org/reflect-and-respond-commemoration).

The ceremony concludes with the grand opening of the non-profit's online exhibit "Documenting History through Art."

## MJCC shares virtual fitness, cultural and other programs

Some 100 Jewish Community Centers across the country are closed during the public health crisis caused by COVID-19.

In Portland, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center offers live virtual programs, video programs and, as a member of the Jewish Community Center Association of North America, links to programs developed at JCCs around the United States and Canada. The online programs were created for members but are open to the entire community.

MJCC has 1-6 live programs per day, including Yoga, Arts & Crafts, Dance Parties, Movement, Karate, Krav Maga, Zumba, Hebrew, Stretching, Book Club, etc. For instance, today, April 14, the Center is offering Gentle Yoga with Tara and a Krav Maga Technique Course for those wanting fitness activities. This MJCC Book Club will discuss *On All Other Nights* by Dana Horn. And you can brush up on you Hebrew on your lunch hour. While the programs are designed for members, they are open to anyone.

To participate in a program or event, visit: [oregonjcc.org/live-events](http://oregonjcc.org/live-events) and [oregonjcc.org/at-home](http://oregonjcc.org/at-home).

## Virtual Best Bets:

See all online events at:

[jewishportland.org/community-calendar/online-events](http://jewishportland.org/community-calendar/online-events)

ALL AGES: [Unity Shabbat](#), 7:10 pm, April 17

TOTS: [Virtual Good Morning Moment](#), 10 am, Mon.-Fri.

YOUTH: [BB Camp's Virtual Shabbat Walk](#), 4 pm, Fri.

TEENS: [NFTY-NW Wonderful Wednesdays](#), 1 pm, Wed.

FAMILIES: [Zoom Gali Gali Shabbat/Rabbi Rose](#), 6 pm, Fri.

ADULTS: [Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Eve](#), 12:30 pm Thur.

BOOMERS & BEYOND: [Yad b'Yad](#), 11:30 am, Fri.

Israel Independence Day online celebrations are being planned for April 29. We will share links in the next Jewish Review, which comes out that morning.

# Chaplain's Corner

## This year's Seder had so many questions

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

How did your Seder go this year? I begin with a question, because the Passover Seder is all about asking.

Did you use technology to have a Zeder (a Zoom Seder)? I thought about it but in the end chose not to go that direction. Most of my family, including my three siblings, lives in the Central Time Zone. Another challenge is that they all do Seder in their own way. Having a joint Zeder would have been comparable to solving an equation with too many variables.

How did this year's Seder feel for you? What was different? What was the same? This year, I had Seder with my 15-year-old twins; just the three of us. I felt a range of emotions that at times almost was overwhelming. I felt joy, hope and encouragement. But I also felt anger, frustration, discouragement and cynicism. And that is just part of what I felt.

This year's Seder was so different from the Seder of my youth. In Memphis, multiple generations of my family would gather at the home of one of my uncles, the family's patriarch. Seder was a reunion with aunts, uncles, cousins and distant family from little towns in Arkansas and Mississippi. Though I did not know it at the time, with Passover, I was not only learning about my connection with the ancient Israelites, but I was learning about my connection with my contemporary family. With Passover, I learned who I was and where I came from.

My children have only experienced Seder with their extended family once, when we were able to fly home from Chicago. In that way, this year's Seder was not so different for them. In order to learn about where they come from, they are dependent

upon family stories I share with them. And stories are nothing like the real thing.

With Seder, I have tried to teach them that we learn our story by using our imaginations to be in multiple places at same time: We are enslaved in Egypt, we are gathered at a Roman symposium discussing the theme of "freedom," and we are in our home, safe and secure. With this year's Seder, my imagination was overwhelmed by the COVID-19 "stay at home" order. I struggled to escape the harsh reality of here and now.

For part of the Seder, we also asked questions about whether the Jews will become the scapegoat for the origin and spread of the virus. For generations, we have been blamed for the spread of plague. Why would this plague be any different from any other plague?

We also talked about the Israel trip that could have been. I shared with them my hopes to incorporate my memories of being in "Ha'aretz," the Land of Israel, in the telling of the Passover tale.

This year, I felt grief. But I also felt relief that my children, loved ones and friends are all safe and sound.

How will my children remember this year's Seder? How will they incorporate the Passover of 2020/5780 into their experience? Years from now, how will they tell the tale to their kids?

Like the Seder, I have more questions than answers. But then again, maybe that's the point.

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



## How will you connect for Pesach during "Stay Home, Save Lives"?

Here are two replies we received before Passover began:

My son and daughter-in-law are hosting a virtual seder in Cincinnati via Zoom. It will be my first experience with Zoom, and I'm really looking forward to it. As for the meal itself, since I live alone, Elephant's Deli will be delivering everything I need! Hag Sameach!

**Linda Stern**  
Portland

We are doing Seder on Zoom for 20 families.

**Sondra Pearlman**  
Portland

## Life cycle

Since the COVID-19 crisis began, life-cycle announcements are one of the most popular links that people click on. Please send us your simchas from the past three months so that the community can kvell with you:

[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

**Births:** Name, date of birth or adoption, parents' names, city, congregation, grandparents' names and siblings' names.

**B'nai Mitzvah:** Name, date, congregation (or location) and parents' names.

**Engagements & Weddings:** Names, city, congregation (or location), date and parents' names.

**Anniversaries:** Names, city, congregation and number of years celebrating.

# Obituaries

## ELSA STUBBS GARCIA

Elsa Stubbs Garcia, z"l, passed away March 29, 2020. Elsa is survived by her wife Sara McAulay, her daughter Maya, her granddaughter Sasha, her sister Joni (Jane Ros-evelt) Cady, and her nephew Robin.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends our deepest condolences to the Cady/Garcia family.

## ARLENE SCHNITZER

Arlene Schnitzer, z"l, died at home April 4, 2020. She was 91. She is survived by her son, Jordan Schnitzer; four grandchildren; and extended family members. She was preceded in death by her husband Harold in 2011. She was a prominent philanthropist in the Jewish and arts community, as well as a gallery founder and real estate executive. For several years, Jordan has served as CEO of the family real estate business, Harsch Investments.

Arlene was born in Salem to Helen and Simon Director. The family moved to Portland and opened Director Furniture when she was 2. She married Harold Schnitzer in 1949.

Her interest in art began in 1958 when she enrolled in art classes at the Portland Art Museum. According to Ellen Eisenberg's book *The Jewish Oregon Story 1950-2010*, the training "lit a fire in her." She established the Fountain Gallery in 1961, and it became "Portland's first truly professional gallery," and "made public art more visible in the city."

Read more at [oregonlive.com/news/2020/04/arlene-schnitzer-leading-lady-of-portland-philanthropy-dies-at-91](https://oregonlive.com/news/2020/04/arlene-schnitzer-leading-lady-of-portland-philanthropy-dies-at-91).

**Obituaries are posted online as they are received. Congregations and families are invited to submit obituaries to:**

**[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)**