

## 8 Days of Giving: Spread the light



A girl enjoys a Harry Potter party at Ophelia's Place, a prevention-based nonprofit dedicated to helping girls ages 10-18 make healthy life choices.

BY DEBORAH MOON

In recognition of the devastating impact of the pandemic on nonprofits and the individuals they serve, 8 Days of Giving enables the Jewish community to support worthwhile charities in the general community with dollars and time.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has partnered with eight organizations to show that the Jewish community cares, is impacted by these same issues and can do our part during this holiday season.

Each day of Chanukah, Federation will post photos, descriptions and quotes about that day's featured organization online at [jewishportland.org/8daysofgiving](http://jewishportland.org/8daysofgiving) and on social media. One hundred percent of the proceeds raised during the 8 Days of Giving campaign go directly to the nonprofits featured each day.

"The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is proud to partner with these eight important community organizations," says JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner. "Each brings a high level of social service expertise to their clients. Join me in supporting one or all of these organizations during the eight days of Chanukah."

The partner organizations are Dress for Success, Oregon Humane Society, Transition Projects, Portland Backpack, Oregon

Food Bank, Schoolhouse Supplies, Raphael House and Ophelia's Place.

"Chanukah is an opportunity to teach our children and ourselves the power of giving to others," says Rabbi Barry Cohen, community chaplain. "Giving gifts to others, especially to those in need, can be compared to light."

Rabbi Cohen shares this teaching on light from Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, founding chair of the National Havurah Committee: Light gives of itself freely, filling all available space. It does not seek anything in return; it asks not whether you are friend or foe. It gives of itself and is not thereby diminished.

"When we give freely to others, we do not diminish what we have," concludes Rabbi Cohen. "We only selflessly share our light, joy and hope."

Celebrate the Festival of Lights by spreading the light to a new organization each day.

"8 Days of Giving started last year as an opportunity for JFGP to elevate voices in our community and support those voices with our dollars," says Nadine Menashe, the JFGP staff person in charge of the program. "In 2019, we featured ... Federation programs. This year, with the toll that the coronavirus pandemic has taken on our nonprofit community, we thought it was important to show our secular community partners that they are supported."



Transition Projects is a leader in transitioning people from homelessness and living on the streets into housing in Portland.

Oregon Humane Society finds homes for more than 11,000 pets each year.



## Local firm with Israeli ties wins PitchFestNW

HILOS won PitchfestNW, part of TechFestNW, held online Dec. 2-4. HILOS co-founder and Chief Executive Elias Stahl is a member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Israel Advocacy Committee and Congregation Neveh Shalom's Israel360.

[HILOS](#) creates made-to-order, digitally manufactured shoes.

"Being awarded winner of TechfestNW's Pitchfest competition by the most prominent and savvy investors in the PNW is an incredible honor," says Elias. "It's reaffirmed why we're so lucky to be building HILOS in Portland, where we're fortunate

to have an incredible community supporting us and where our vision for zero-waste footwear has really resonated. Together with a few other exciting announcements we'll be making over the next few weeks, we've got the momentum, the team and the infrastructure in place for an exciting commercial debut. The way we make and buy will never be the same."

More than 60 startups from around the world pitched their visions to a panel of venture capital judges, with HILOS announced as the winner Dec. 4.



HILOS co-founders Elias Stahl and Gaia Gialadi show off the shoes that impressed the venture capital judges at PitchFestNW.

See [HILOS](#), page 9

# Connect on Super Sunday

BY DEBORAH MOON

Super Sunday is about connections – it connects people with each other, and it enables the community to connect people with the services they need.

For at least half of its 100-year history, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has used phonathons to help fund needed services in the community. In about 1980, UJA (now Jewish Federations of North America) created a nationwide Super Sunday when Federations hosted huge themed parties, and volunteers called supporters the Sunday before the Super Bowl; now communities choose their own dates, often in December.

“It connects people on so many levels,” says Laurie Rogoway, who was Federation Campaign Director for nearly three decades beginning about 1984. “It has importance way beyond the dollars raised.”

Priscilla Kostiner, who chaired Portland’s second Super Sunday in about 1982 with her husband Tony, explains that Super Sunday gets people involved, educates them on what Federation does, thanks them for their past support, finds out if they are in need and raises essential funds for community needs.

Though Super Sunday reaches a large percentage of donors, it only raises a small percentage of the total campaign since most of the gifts are small. This year, the financial impact will get a boost from a generous donor, who will match dollar for dollar all increases of 10 percent or more over the previous year’s gift. They will also double match all increases of 20 percent or more.

“Make a gift that directly saves lives,” says JFGP Campaign Director Wendy Kahn. “A gift to Federation will provide dignity for Holocaust survivors who are living in isolation by providing a meal, your gift will provide lifesaving funds for PPE and other support for seniors, access to education and equipment to learn during the pandemic for schools, and build relationships through outreach with the Black, Indigenous, Latinx communities in Greater Portland and so much more.”

Priscilla has worked on Super Sunday as both a volunteer and Federation professional over the years.

She remembers the year Super Sunday’s outreach began by asking, “Are you OK?” When callers took to the phones during the Willamette Valley flood of 1996, they first asked, “What do you need? before asking What can you do for someone else?”

“We were able to help a lot of people in dire situations,” she says.

Priscilla and Laurie both recall years of



## VIRTUAL SUPER SUNDAY Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020

Two Shifts: 10-11:30 am

& Noon-1:30 pm

ANSWER THE CALL:

[Volunteer](#) to make a difference  
and be ready to [make a gift!](#)

Register here:

[jewishportland.org/  
growing-up-to-live-generously/  
ways-to-give/super-sunday](http://jewishportland.org/growing-up-to-live-generously/ways-to-give/super-sunday)

Questions? Contact Campaign

Director Wendy Kahn at

[wendy@jewishportland.org](mailto:wendy@jewishportland.org) or  
503-892-3015.

huge celebratory Super Sundays at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and Portland State University. In both the early years and the past few years, Super Sunday has been a bit smaller with callers gathering in donated office space or Federation’s offices.

“We can’t come together now,” says Priscilla of this year’s gathering limitations due to the pandemic.

But Wendy, Campaign Chair Ted Nelson and their team plan to bring the party atmosphere of old into the Zoom room. This year’s Super Sunday will be different, but it will still connect people, celebrate community and raise important dollars for critical needs.

“This year, we need it to be a Super day and it is easy,” says Wendy. “Everyone can participate from home. Participation means everyone can make a meaningful gift – you don’t need to wait to be called.”

So answer the call and make a gift, or donate online at [jewishportland.org/campaign-for-community-needs](http://jewishportland.org/campaign-for-community-needs).



## Final crisis grants made

The final \$17,000 from the Jewish community COVID-19 assistance fund was allocated late last month.

The Greater Portland Jewish Community COVID Emergency Fund was a joint project of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. Over the past eight months, 42 Jewish organizations across the State of Oregon and SW Washington have received a total of \$901,243.

The final grants went to:

Beit Am Mid-Willamette Jewish Community (Corvallis) – \$1,800 for technology needs

Cedar Sinai Park – \$4,200 for additional personal protective equipment

Jewish Community of Central Oregon, Congregation Shalom Bayit (Bend) – \$1,000 for technology needs

Oregon Board of Rabbis – \$10,000 to provide food gift cards to community members in need.

“I am so proud of our community for not only raising these needed funds, but also for the leaders who volunteered their time to responsibly allocate them,” says JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner. “Unfortunately, as we all know, we are still struggling with the pandemic. That is why your support of the Jewish Federation’s Campaign for Community Needs matters so much at this time. That is how you can support our community agencies.”

You can make your pledge at [jewishportland.org/donor2021](http://jewishportland.org/donor2021).

## Women's Giving Circle accepting grant requests

The Women’s Giving Circle seeks to expand and improve opportunities and choices in all aspects of Jewish women and girls’ lives through strategic and effective grant-making.

On Dec. 1, the Women’s Giving Circle began its 2021-2022 Grant-making Cycle and is accepting applications for grants. Grant submission deadline is Feb. 15, 2021. Grants will be announced June 7, 2021. Individual grants will be between \$1,000 and \$5,000, with a total of \$28,000 available.

Apply: [jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/womens-philanthropy/womens-giving-circle](http://jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/womens-philanthropy/womens-giving-circle)



# HAPPY CHANUKAH

**The Jewish  
Federation of  
Greater Portland  
wishes you and  
your family a  
very healthy and  
happy Chanukah**



**Jewish Federation®**  
OF GREATER PORTLAND



[www.jewishportland.org](http://www.jewishportland.org)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Chanukah Gift Bag Pickup Israel Philharmonic Pre-Hanukkah Global Celebration Chanukah Store	Chanukah Store	Chanukah Store	Chanukah Store	Gelt Chanukah Retreat for Couples 8 Days of Giving: Day 1 Chanukah Store 8 Nights of 88 Camp Chanukah Candle Lighting with Neveh Shalom MJCC's Eight Nights of Light: A Virtual Chanukah Experience to All	8 Days of Giving: Day 2 8 Nights of 88 Camp Chanukah Candle Lighting with Neveh Shalom MJCC's Eight Nights of Light: A Virtual Chanukah Experience to All	8 Days of Giving: Day 3 8 Nights of 88 Camp Shalom Torah Chanukah Party Chanukah Candle Lighting with Neveh Shalom MJCC's Eight Nights of Light: A Virtual Chanukah Experience to All
Gelt Chanukah Retreat for Couples 8 Days of Giving: Day 4 Chanukah Celebration 8 Nights of 88 Camp Celebrate Chanukah with 88 Camp and DIY Steel! Chanukah Drive In Congregation Kol Ami Virtual Latkes Fest First Or Chanukah Storytelling Party Chanukah Candle Lighting with Neveh Shalom MJCC's Eight Nights of Light: A Virtual Chanukah Experience to All	8 Days of Giving: Day 5 8 Nights of 88 Camp Chanukah Candle Lighting with Neveh Shalom MJCC's Eight Nights of Light: A Virtual Chanukah Experience to All	8 Days of Giving: Day 6 8 Nights of 88 Camp Chanukah Candle Lighting with Neveh Shalom MJCC's Eight Nights of Light: A Virtual Chanukah Experience to All	8 Days of Giving: Day 7 8 Nights of 88 Camp Chanukah Candle Lighting with Neveh Shalom MJCC's Eight Nights of Light: A Virtual Chanukah Experience to All Celebrating Chanukah with Song, Prayer, and Conversation	8 Days of Giving: Day 8 8 Nights of 88 Camp Chanukah Candle Lighting with Neveh Shalom MJCC's Eight Nights of Light: A Virtual Chanukah Experience to All	Hanukkah Shabbat	

Explore events at [jewishportland.org/community-calendar/chanukah-happenings](http://jewishportland.org/community-calendar/chanukah-happenings)

## Eight Nights of Lights

Join the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and the Greater Portland Jewish community each night of Chanukah at 5:30 pm for candle-lighting, blessings, and family-friendly activities, all of this virtual.

"Just because we can't be together in person doesn't mean that we can't be a community together," says MJCC Arts and Culture Manager Lenny Steinberg. "The MJCC invites you to explore our new virtual Chanukah platform, to connect with us on Facebook and Zoom, and to stay engaged in the ways that we are able. Our goal is to ensure the whole community still has a place to learn, celebrate and light our menorahs as one Portland Jewish family."

Dec. 10 Sing-along: We will open the Festival of Lights with local musical talent Kim Schneiderman. Kim will play all the best Chanukah hits for your family to enjoy!

Dec. 11, Chanukah Shabbat: Join us as we light the Chanukah menorah and bless the Shabbat candles on the same night!

Dec. 12, Chanukah Havdalah: Create Chanukah-themed crafts that you and your family will be sure to love!

Dec. 13, Latkes with Lenny: Tired of the same old latke rec-

ipe? Join Lenny as he explores different takes on latkes from all over the world in this cooking demo.

Dec. 14, Story Time and Activities: Laura Gehl, author of *Happy Llamakka!*, presents this highly interactive presentation. The award-winning author of nearly 20 books for young readers draws on her theater background to provide fun for all ages.

Dec. 15, Chanukah Zumba: Join MJCC Zumba instructor Mandy for this fun and high-energy Zumba class with Chanukah-themed music.

Dec. 16, An Evening with Cantor Bitton: Join Congregation Neveh Shalom's Cantor Eyal Bitton for Chanukah insights and another sing-along!

Dec. 17, Story Time and Activities: Join Erica Perl, author of *The Ninth Night of Hanukkah*, for an evening of fun. She has received the National Jewish Book Award, the Sydney Taylor Silver Medal and is a Sydney Taylor Notable. Erica is a crowd-pleasing presenter at schools, libraries and community events. She will bring that same energy to Zoom.

For more information, contact Lenny at [steinberg@oregon-jcc.org](mailto:steinberg@oregon-jcc.org). At 5:30 pm, Dec. 10-17, join in on [Zoom](#) or [Facebook](#).



This year, families will share the light of Chanukah with menorahs in their windows and in Zoom rooms. Last year, Jodi Garber-Simon and her family lit up their neighborhood with window menorahs.

## Public menorah lighting moves to Zoom for 36th annual event

Chabad of Oregon will light Portland's Public Chanukah menorah at Pioneer Courthouse Square on the first night of the eight-day holiday at 5:30 pm, Dec. 10. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance is limited to organizers and the media. The public is invited to participate and light their own menorah at home via Zoom.

"This year, the menorah's message of light and hope is more important than ever," says Rabbi Moshe Wilhelm of Chabad of Oregon. "Our goal is to increase the points of light as we light the menorah in Pioneer Square in unison with families throughout Portland lighting their own menorah."

The event will feature the menorah-lighting at the square, a synchronized menorah-lighting in homes throughout Oregon, reading of the winning essay of Oregon's Chanukah essay contest, and greetings from leaders and elected officials.

This year, the holiday has added significance as so many will be isolated at home on Chanukah amid these difficult times. As the Rebbe – Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory – would often teach, the menorah is a reminder that light can be brought to the darkest of times, and uniquely, at the core of the holiday's observance is sharing the light with others who may not be experiencing it. This year has seen illness, death, quarantine, closures and business collapses. In addition, two fires at the Chabad House of SW Portland, which are still under investigation, destroyed Everything Jewish, a primary provider of Chanukah menorahs and candles.

Continued on next page

### ORA's Virtual Marketplace

Purchase gifts of local arts and crafts through 5 pm, Dec. 17. Add item to shopping cart. Pay for item and shipping online via credit card (shipping fee listed in item description; If you arrange pickup with artist, receive coupon code to remove shipping fee from shopping cart).

[northwestjewishartists.org/shop/](http://northwestjewishartists.org/shop/)

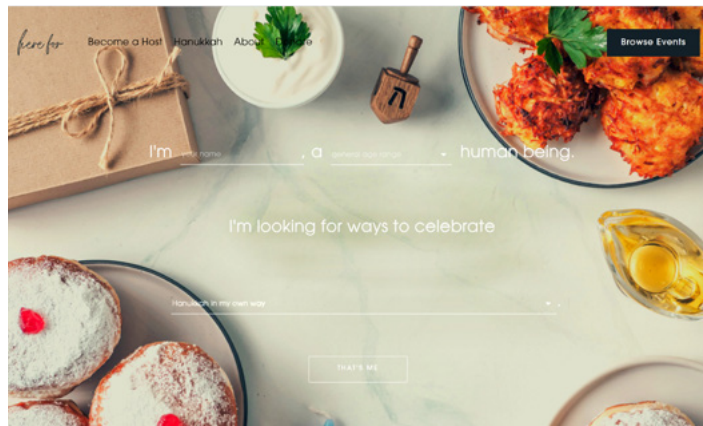


# OneTable expands to embrace Chanukah

From the team behind Seder2020, The Great Big Jewish Food Festival and PAUSE: First Fridays comes Here for Hanukkah. Built on the success of the Here for The High Holidays platform, Here for Hanukkah brings engaging content, curated resources and user-supported gatherings to the site.

Known as the eight-day Festival of Lights, at its core Chanukah is a dedication of light at the darkest time of year – it is a reminder that we are stronger together when we share our light. By offering ways to safely observe and celebrate during the ongoing coronavirus crisis, Here for Hanukkah provides the best of Chanukah, all in one digital space.

On the Hebrew calendar, Chanukah begins on the 25th of Kislev and is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games and gifts; this year it is from the evening of Dec. 10 through Dec. 18. As with most everything else in 2020, this year's celebration will be different. With Here for



Hanukkah, OneTable is providing a free resource offering a wide variety of Chanukah assets. Information and options can be found at [herefor.com](https://herefor.com).

While Shabbat dinners supported by the nonprofit OneTable have traditionally focused on the 21- to 35-year-old demographic, Here for is a broader, adaptable piece of technology available to anyone. Initially launched to support the High Holidays, Here for has evolved into a malleable platform available to individuals and organizations to modify, plan and

share their experience. As Here for Hanukkah, the site offers enough content to fill eight days, including DIY projects and resources and user-supported gatherings (either virtual or safely in person). Communities and individuals alike can organize digital gift exchanges, donut-making workshops, candle-lightings and more.

In collaboration with nationally recognized partner organizations, Here for has curated Chanukah resources for all ages. Visitors to the site can find guides and DIY inspi-

ration to elevate their holiday experiences at home. Learn the Chanukah blessings with a video from BBYO, dive into OneTable's guide on Shabbat dinners, order Chanukah activity boxes from Days United, explore PJ Library's 10 kid-approved Chanukah recipes and more!

When COVID-19 took hold, OneTable pivoted from its model of in-person Shabbat dinners to offer virtual and socially responsible options and has hosted nearly 13,000 dinners since March. With Passover, OneTable shifted focus and developed Seder2020, an online resource allowing users to create or join a virtual seder experience; more than 36,000 people participated. Several initiatives launched since March have a common thread – community building + technology; it is finding and strengthening community in a time when that isn't easily done.

Visit [onetable.org](https://onetable.org) for more information on year-round resources for young adults.



This will be the 36th year Chabad of Oregon has lit a public menorah downtown.

## PUBLIC (from previous page)

"The dark times we are facing only make the call to bring more light more important," says Rabbi Wilhelm. "For indeed, a little light dispels much darkness." For more information about Chanukah and local events, visit [Chabad.org/Chanukah](https://Chabad.org/Chanukah) or [JPortland.com](https://JPortland.com) or contact Rabbi Motti Wilhelm at 503-381-7119 or [RabbiMotti@ChabadOregon.com](mailto:RabbiMotti@ChabadOregon.com).

## TV brings holiday volunteers to CSP & community

"The miraculous eternal light of our tradition shines at Cedar Sinai Park," says CSP Spiritual Life Coordinator Cathy Zheutlin.

Each night of Chanukah, blessings and songs or a story will air on Rose Schnitzer Manor's internal TV Channel. Community members and residents of Robison will be able to see these same virtual programs on Open Signal TV public television.

"We have always been blessed to have volunteers lead candle-lighting in person, until now, when we continue to adapt every tradition," says Cathy. "This year, our volunteers will be on screens. Their light and love still comes through. These generous friends will lead candle-lighting, tell stories and sing songs for Cedar Sinai Park this year."

Program dates and volunteer leaders are: Dec. 10, Dorice Horenstein; Dec. 11, Chanukah & Shabbat with Gershon Liberman; Dec. 12, Linda Zahavi; Dec. 13, P'nai Or storytellers (90 minutes) led by Rabbi Hannah Laner; Dec. 14, Maggid Cassandra Sagan and Cantor Baruch Morris; Dec. 15, Rabbi Barry Cohen; Dec. 16, Maimonides Jewish Day School; and Dec. 17, Cantor Barbara Slader.

On the Dec. 11, 12, 13 and 16 volunteers are streaming live to RSM residents on the internal TV station. On those nights, Cathy or Cantor Barbara Slader will lead the program on Public TV since Open Signal needs pre-recorded content. The Chanukah programs will be on channels 11, 22 and/or 23 each day. The first night of Chanukah airs Dec. 10 on channel 22 at 4:30 pm and on channel 11 at 7 pm. The final night of Chanukah airs Dec. 17 on channel 23 at 12:30 pm, on channel 22 at 2 pm and on channel 11 at 7 pm. For the other days, search for each channel on the day's schedule at [community.opensignalspx.org/programming/schedule](https://community.opensignalspx.org/programming/schedule).

"During these times of pandemic and isolation, every connection to our friends, to our tradition, to our ancestors and the generations to come is important," says Cathy. "These connections help sustain us."

Residents appreciate receiving holiday cards. Address the card "From our family to you and yours" and mail to 6125 SW Boundary Street, Portland, OR 97221.

For details, contact Cathy at 503-535-4038 or [Cathy.Zheutlin@cedarsinainpark.org](mailto:Cathy.Zheutlin@cedarsinainpark.org).

# Two families talk COVID Chanukah

By Gloria Hammer

Deep into a pandemic, Jewish families plan to celebrate Chanukah with the spirit of tradition and good memories from their childhoods. Two families shared how COVID has impacted their lives and how they hope to create a few new holiday memories for their young families.



## Jaimie and Jacob Harper family

Jaimie is a fourth-generation Portland native, and Jacob was raised in Santa Rosa. Both have been on the front lines since the pandemic started. Jaimie is a palliative care social worker at Kaiser Permanente, and Jacob works at New Seasons Market.

It hasn't been easy. Now they flex their schedules to accommodate work and being home to support their kids with Portland Jewish Academy's distance learning. Reuben, 10, is a fifth grader, and Esther, 7, is a second grader. The family are members of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

Jaimie says her work with vulnerable people has become more intense with the virus. She works with physicians and nurses to care for people in their final months or years of life. She addresses both physical and emotional aspects of their illness and promotes their quality of life. The pandemic has added "a difficult layer to our conversations." There is a lot of isolation.

"It is awful having to tell family members they cannot visit their loved ones in the hospital or make visits to their bedside," says Jaimie. "Many of our patients ... have had to say goodbye to loved ones by phone or video." The intimate work has had to adapt to physical distancing requirements. "In the past, we could hold a patient's hand." Now she and those she works with are behind masks and face shields.

Reuben has a different take. "I am going to miss hanging out with my friends and family this year," he says, adding, "I'm thankful for masks because we can still go places and see our friends and family if we social distance."

The family also appreciates Zoom.

They look forward to sharing special holiday moments virtually, though they will miss gathering to eat latkes and sufganiyot. "Jacob's parents, Stephen and Muncie in Santa Rosa, and family in Portland have become accustomed to our virtual time together," says Jaimie. "I anticipate we will have a night when we light our menorahs and celebrate with them and with other family."

The family also expects to maintain most of their home Chanukah rituals. "We light the candles saying traditional prayers, exchange some gifts ... but not every night," says Jaimie. "We make homemade sufganiyot, jelly donuts, and send cards to family and friends. We may have more time, so maybe our gifts will be more creative and homemade. We will contribute to toy drives and support families in need."

Both Jacob and Jaimie have fond memories of their parents making delicious latkes – Jacob's mom for the synagogue Chanukah party and Jaimie's parents, Teri and Mort, for the family Chanukah. Their favorite Chanukah memory as a couple is bringing their newborn son home on the fourth night of Chanukah in 2009 "just in time to light the menorah."

Lighting the candles and enjoying the warm light of the menorah again will be a key focus. "In the past years, we have lit a family menorah along with helping the kids light their own homemade menorahs that they created at school," says Jaimie. "This year we are looking forward to presenting our kids with their own special menorahs that they can light for years to come."

Despite the stress caused by COVID, "Our family has been incredibly grateful to have such stability at a time when so many people's lives have been radically shaken. We are fortunate to have our health, our home and work when so many have lost their jobs and incomes. We realize the privilege we have that many others do not enjoy. It is our hope we will acknowledge our many blessings and the inequalities around us as we light the Chanukah candles."



## Lindsay and Joel Krivosha family

Lindsay Kantor grew up in SW Portland and met Joel Krivosha on a blind date when she moved to Seattle after college. Joel grew up on Mercer Island. They moved to Portland while they were engaged.

Lindsay is a financial advisor working at Baird. Joel is a customer experience manager for Akamai Technologies. Both are working from home due to the pandemic, and their children are home with a nanny. Eddie, 6, is a first grader at West TV Elementary School, and Abby, 4, normally attends preschool downtown.

Lindsay's holiday childhood memories feature annual Chanukah parties with other Jewish families. Volunteering with Congregation Beth Israel to serve hot meals to the homeless on Christmas is another tradition she associates with Chanukah: "Chanukah celebrates freedom from oppression and helping those in need is part of expressing our freedom."

Joel was always close with his cousins, and they have had an annual Krivosha Chanukah White Elephant party for as long as he can remember. It is "a blast" that they will miss this year.

Making Chanukah really special for their kids is high on their list every year. In the past, since the kids don't attend a Jewish school, they have dressed in dreidel costumes and taken Chanukah treats and games to their children's classes. "We also threw a big Chanukah party last year, where they each got to choose a few families to invite. Although we can't do it this year, we plan to continue in the future."

This year will be different, but the couple want to make this year

Continued on next page



# Pondering the power of Chanukah in a pandemic

Jewish children from 18 different schools participated in Maimonides Jewish Day School's fourth annual essay contest on how to help their community in today's challenging times.

MJDS in Southwest Portland announced the two winners of Oregon's fourth annual Chanukah Essay Contest on Dec. 7. They were selected by three judges – award-winning children's authors Trudy Ludwig and Eric Kimmel and journalist Jenn Director Knudsen.

Shira Wilhelm, 10, a fifth-grader at Maimonides Jewish Day School, is the winner in the third- through fifth-grade category. Steven Rogosin, 12, a sixth-grader at The Marylhurst School, submitted the winning essay among students in sixth through eighth grades.

This year's participating students responded in 150 words or less to the following: The Festival of Lights celebrates how the Maccabees found the strength to overcome difficult obstacles their community faced. How can you help support your community of friends and family in today's challenging times?

For sharing their thoughts, Shira and Steven each will receive \$200, \$150 of which is a cash prize, with the additional \$50 for the students to gift to the school of their choice.

In prior years, the winning students also have enjoyed lunch with contest judges. Ludwig and Kimmel aren't letting COVID-19 stop that; they are lunching with the young writers – via Zoom, of course – on Dec. 13. The authors also are giving the winning students a signed copy of one of their books. Ludwig selected for both Shira

and Steven *Gifts from the Enemy*, and Kimmel's choice for the young writers is *Harry and the Hanukkah Goblins*.

Ludwig says this about Shira's essay: "She did a lovely job capturing how she can help others, even though she's not a grown-up, by turning her community concerns into caring action."

About Steven's work, Kimmel says, "Steven's essay reminds us to think about our actions, to seek out accurate information to make sure that we are making the right decisions. As he points out, we cannot always rely on leaders. ... Today, our weapons are science, knowledge and doing what we believe is best for everyone."

"Going ahead this year with the contest was a great way to find good in every opportunity, at any time," says Rabbi Shneur Wilhelm, principal of Maimonides Jewish Day School, which launched the annual contest that now has been replicated at other schools across the country. MJDS is an accredited, kindergarten through 8th-grade school committed to teaching the whole child. "The positive and inspiring thoughts and ideas students shared are a reminder to find the blessing within the hardship, the opportunity within the challenge."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland helped support the contest with cash prizes. President and CEO Marc Blattner says, "The Jewish Federation is proud to support this essay contest encouraging young people to expand their horizons and create thoughtful responses to important questions. Congratulations to the essay contest winners. Thank you for your impactful and inspiring words."

## WINNING ESSAYS

BY SHIRA WILHELM

As the number of cases was rising in Oregon, a friend of my family got COVID-19. It was quite serious and dangerous.

I'm only a young girl in fifth grade. I am not a nurse or a doctor, but I still can help.

I called my friend and checked to see if they had food, and I sent him videos wishing him well.

My friend messaged me back, "Thank you! You made my day!"

During quarantine, another woman in our community was alone, and each Wednesday I called her to share stories of the Torah.

My grandfather had a kidney transplant and needs to be careful, so sometimes I help them by bringing things to their house.

I can help my community by caring for other people and letting them know that I think about them.

Chanukah celebrates light, and whenever it is dark, I can help my community by lighting a candle.

BY STEVEN ROGOSIN

This year has been hard! It is also different from other years. This year, it's more important than ever to support your community, friends and family through these trying times.

Today, we face a different problem than the Maccabees had. Instead of fighting with weapons, we are forced to fight a novel virus called COVID-19 with masks, social distancing and hand washing.

The Maccabees also faced pressure from their rulers on how to live their lives in ways that threatened their survival. Today, our leaders don't always give good advice. We must make sure to listen to experts and science.

Today, our scientists have advised us in ways to limit the spread of the virus. These are also times to support your community by giving to charity and tzedakah, being nice to neighbors and family. Don't give up, because the Maccabees survived and we can too!

## COVID CHANUKAH (continued from previous page)

super special with extra baking, cooking and decorating. The kids love to decorate the house, and Lindsay thinks this year they will take it to a new level. "I have a feeling they'll get a few extra presents this year," she says. "My heart hurts for them when I watch them attend virtual school every day."

Joel and Lindsay also want to help their children understand the importance of helping in their community. "We plan to make this year more about the greater good. This is an incredibly difficult time in our country," says Lindsay. "We will be involved and participate in a toy and clothing drive for children less fortunate than our kids." Eddie and Abby will get to choose items

they think other kids would enjoy.

Lindsay says not being able to gather with friends for Chanukah is the saddest part.

"We are helping by staying home and stopping the spread of the virus," says Lindsay. "The kids really understand that, and it's a lesson in responsibility and empathy that will hopefully stay with them."

The holidays are a great opportunity to open conversations to help their kids grow into compassionate, kind people. Both parents started talking about bigger topics with Eddie and believe he can grasp the things going on in the world. They carefully talk to him about the virus and how their job is to protect the vulnerable, about the civil

unrest and that their family believes in the equal rights of all people and that they have a responsibility to protect the planet.

"Don't get me wrong, they will get plenty of fun and toys," says Lindsay. "After all they are going to be stuck inside all winter."

Abby says, "I'm grateful for presents and staying up late on Chanukah, but the thing I miss most are my swimming lessons."

Eddie has learned how to ride a bike. He really misses his friends, but he is getting better and better at being away from them.

"We are trying to look at the time spent at home with our young kiddos as a gift," says Lindsay, adding they are making new memories in a smaller setting.

# Portland volunteer expands efforts to Park City

BY DEBORAH MOON

Jodi Berris has been an unparalleled, tireless event-planning volunteer in Portland for some 15 years. She has organized Jewish events for Portland's young adults, as well as modern Orthodox Shabbatons. Now she is dividing her time between Portland and Park City, Utah, where she is taking a new city by storm.

Jodi bought a studio condo in Park City a year ago intending to use it for weekend ski trips. Soon after she bought her vacation condo, she was laid off from her job as a footwear developer for Keen Footwear during a company restructuring.

"I hopped in the car and drove to Park City," she says.

She started skiing and, of course, organizing events. But she kept her home in Portland. Over the summer, she spent about 90 percent of her time in Portland and 10 percent in Park City. She continued volunteering with the Ski Patrol at Mount Hood, which has year-round skiing.

She expects to reverse that percentage now that the ski season is in full swing in Park



Jodi Berris works with a skier participating in the National Ability Center ski program in Park City, Utah.

City. She now works full time for Skullcandy and volunteers at the National Ability Center, which provides adaptive sports options for people with disabilities.

Originally from Michigan, Jodi moved to Portland in 2004 to take a job at Nike, where she

worked in product creation – testing and development – for more than a decade. She also worked at Adidas before joining Keen.

In 2008, she launched Portland's original Moishe House, where young adult residents create Jewish experiences for

themselves and their peers.

Jodi created Portland Jewish Events in early 2005 offering hundreds of activities and gatherings for the local Jewish community from teens through masters (40+). She has put together 1-800-Shabbat dinners, Israeli Club Nights, dodgeball tournaments, kosher sushi and sake tastings, holiday parties, Sukkah hops and cooking classes. Now she has brought her long-time Portland Jewish Events banner to Park City, where she already has organized challah bakes, kosher ice cream socials, Shabbat onegs and Jewish trivia nights, as well as an upcoming Momentum women's Israel trip sometime next year. Jodi also has launched a Jewish Student Union, the public high school program of NCSY and a Junior NCSY chapter for middle schoolers in Park City.

Jodi's efforts in Park City were featured in a recent [article](#) on the website Jew in the City, a group dedicated to reversing negative attitudes about Orthodox Jews.

She can be reached at [jodiberris@aol.com](mailto:jodiberris@aol.com) or 248-760-0743.

## A seat at the table for police reform

BY DEBORAH MOON

Out of 150 applicants, Doug Blauer was selected as one of about a dozen members of the Portland Police Bureau's Bureau-wide Advisory Committee.

BAC was created to help police strategize how to reshape/reimagine the department and their approach to public safety, says Doug.

Doug has been the Intergroup Outreach Chair of the Jewish Community Relations Committee for about two years and will represent the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's JCRC on the BAC.

"I think any time that we can have a seat at the table for a task force or committee that is discussing an issue of critical importance to the general community, we should take advantage

of that opportunity," says JFGP Community Relations Director Bob Horenstein.

By Dec. 3, BAC had met three times to learn about the police bureau and the challenges it faces before they begin the task of suggesting solutions early next year. Doug says members of BAC are extremely diverse and have many strong and sometimes contrasting opinions and perspectives.

"But everyone feels in sync and wants to do something meaningful for the community," Doug says. "I think in the end, we really will reflect broad community concerns of what the police force should look like to protect and meet the needs of downtown business owners, peaceful protesters and residents in far eastern Portland, who deserve a prompt

response to 911 calls."

A fourth-generation Portlander, Doug can bring his long history of Jewish and business involvement to the discussions. In 1992-93, he was director of B'nai B'rith Camp, which he continues to support as a volunteer. He is also an active supporter of Federation and Congregation Neveh Shalom. In 1994, he joined ShedRain, the umbrella business started by his family in 1947.

"I am honored to help from a citizen standpoint," says Doug of his involvement on BAC.

He says the group is looking not to defund, but reallocate and reimagine the police bureau to be more of a public safety organization. For instance, he notes the police officers are often called to respond to mental health needs that they are not



Doug Blauer

trained to deal with effectively. He points to the example of Camden, NJ, which now dispatches mental health professionals to respond compassionately to 911 calls dealing with mental health or homeless people in need.

Doug hopes BAC will develop a strategy that will "Protect people, property and businesses to make sure Portland is safer for everyone in the city."



# Five years of study transformative

BY DEBORAH MOON

A class that began as a 10-week exploration of Kabbalah recently concluded a five-year study of the Tanya, an early work of Hasidic philosophy.

Taught by Rabbi Shneur Wilhelm, the in-depth study of the Tanya concluded Nov. 16, 2020. The group, with about 10 people completing all five years, met each Monday night at Chabad House in Southwest Portland until COVID forced the study online. Even before COVID hit, the class was being recorded and posted online on Soundcloud ([soundcloud.com/kabbalah-of-the-soul](https://soundcloud.com/kabbalah-of-the-soul)). More than 2,000 people from places such as Brazil, the United Kingdom, France, Israel, Russia and Turkey tuned in during the run.

"It has been a monumental task and transformative experience," says Rabbi Wilhelm, principal of Maimonides Jewish Day School and son of Rabbi Moshe Wilhelm, founder and head of Chabad of Oregon. "The class inspires everyone who comes – and even many who don't." The recorded classes have garnered almost 50,000 listens.

Local participant Gary Darling says, "It's hard to believe that we actually finished all 53 chapters of Tanya! For several years now, I have looked forward to Rabbi Shneur's always well-prepared classes, as well as the interesting questions, discussions and camaraderie from fellow classmates."



For the first four years of the class to study The Tanya, students met at Chabad House in SW Portland. After COVID hit, the class shifted to Zoom for its final year.

Darling says he learned three major concepts "that actually help me with life": the ability to follow the ways of the Torah are exceedingly near to us; the brain rules the heart; and when learning to do mitzvot and serve Hashem, the struggle itself is the success.

Bruce Banansky says the rabbi made basic aspects of our religion easier to understand.

"Learning Tanya with Rabbi Shneur was such an incredible foundational growth experience," says Mark Berkovitch. "The Tanya is like a 'one size fits all' playbook for life, a GPS for the soul. There is so much to learn and not enough time. The rabbi broke it down into bite-sized pieces so we would not be overwhelmed and taught in layman's terms so we could grasp the depth and breadth of Tanya's concepts and ideas."

Based on the Tanya, a book written by Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812),

the founder of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, the class examines the big question: "What am I and what is my potential?" The Tanya compacts four millennia of Jewish wisdom to answer the great personal and existential questions of life.

"The Tanya's teachings have been extremely inspirational, encouraging me with its many concepts," says Basha Rothstein Brewer. "Using my intellect over negativity doesn't come easily for me, but Moach Shalit al haLev (the brain/mind rules the heart) draws me to the comforting, sustaining hug of Torah study, where there is the light that pushes away darkness, and where I derive strength."

Basha goes on to thank Rabbi Wilhelm "for all these years that you have brought us to the Alter Rebbe's yechidus, imparting these life-transforming teachings which, B'eizras Hashem, I will implement and treasure for the years to come."



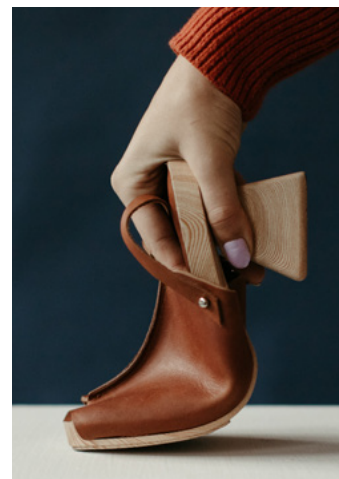
## Chaya Wilhelm certified as Nurtured Heart Trainer

Chaya Wilhelm was recently certified as a trainer in The Nurtured Heart Approach. NHA is a relationship-focused methodology founded strategically in "The 3 Stands" for helping children (and adults) build Inner Wealth and use their intensity in successful ways. It has become a powerful way of awakening the inherent greatness in all children while facilitating parenting and classroom success. The essence of NHA is a set of core methodologies originally developed for working with the most difficult children. It has a proven impact on every child, including those who are challenged behaviorally, socially and academically.

As a trainer certified by Howard Glasser, the creator of this approach, Chaya is able to train and coach people in NHA. Chaya is the wife of Rabbi Shneur Wilhelm, principal of Maimonides Jewish Day School, where Chaya teaches.

A recent participant in one of Chaya's parenting classes says, "Every child has greatness within them. And it's a parent/teacher's job to help the children in their care to discover, recognize and build on that greatness; but many of us aren't sure how to do that. With warmth, clarity and humility, Chaya Wilhelm can teach you how. One of the best parenting classes I've taken."

Chaya is available for classes, school workshops and individual coaching. She can be reached at [Whatsgoingright@gmail.com](mailto:Whatsgoingright@gmail.com) or [whatsgoingright.org](https://www.whatsgoingright.org).



## HILOS (continued from page 1)

The other five finalists were [YesOMS](#), [Heal Mary Technologies](#), [Steamchain Corp.](#), [Finder Technologies](#) and [KYTE Systems](#).

Elias and co-founder Gaia Gialadi are Israeli-Americans. Elias made aliyah to Israel from California in 2012 and served in the IDF. He and his wife, Kristen, moved to Washington, D.C., while Elias earned his master's at Johns Hopkins.

The couple moved to Portland and joined Congregation Neveh Shalom. They had their first child this summer. Harvey Stahl was born Aug. 3, 2020, the day before his dad's birthday.

HILOS was featured in the Jewish Review in May when it shifted its prototype printers to producing personal protection equipment. Read the article at [jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/from-shoes-to-ppes](https://jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/from-shoes-to-ppes).

# Rabbi's Corner

## Jewish law on vaccination: It's an obligation

BY RABBI DAVID KOSAK

On Dec. 2, England approved the distribution of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine against COVID-19, and the first batch of the vaccine was sent to the UK from Belgium. Earlier in the week, a colleague reached out because a congregant claimed Judaism does not permit people to take vaccines because they are (often) derived from animals, and therefore are not kosher. What did I think of this claim, my colleague wanted to know?

This person's congregant was clearly misinformed about Jewish law as it applies to medicine and kashrut. This, therefore, seems an appropriate time to explain Judaism's take on vaccines and the positive mitzvah to protect life. The goal of this column is to provide an overview as to why Judaism requires us to get vaccines.

Rabbi David Golinkin, one of the foremost living experts on Jewish law, issued a recent legal opinion on the subject (read the full opinion at [schechter.edu/does-halakhah-require-vaccination](https://schechter.edu/does-halakhah-require-vaccination)). His decisions are examples of the best of Jewish thinking, in which all significant counter examples are brought forth. My conclusions are based on a careful reading of his perspectives and the Jewish sources he marshals. What follows is a summary of Golinkin's conclusions.

### Judaism and Medicine

Throughout the ages, countless Jews have chosen medicine as their career, perhaps because Judaism believes we are required by God to heal people. By contrast, some religions believe medicine goes against God's will. Moreover, our tradition's positive stance on medicine extends to providing life-saving medicine to someone who doesn't want to receive treatment. (This is not the case for terminal illness, where treatment would extend suffering but not preserve life; but that's a different topic).

### Protecting the Health of the Body

During the current pandemic, many Jewish organizations have emphasized the Jewish value of *pikuach nefesh*, saving a life. So important is this value, that many prohibitions are suspended when confronted with the positive commandment to preserve life. Thus my colleague's congregant's concern about the kashrut of vaccines is irrelevant for this reason (and several others).

There is a famous statement in our tradition that saving a life is the same as saving

a world. This is more than a lovely utterance about the preciousness of life; it has real world consequences in Judaism.

### The Body is God's and *Sakkanat Nefesh (Danger to Life)*

One challenging Jewish belief is that we don't 'own' our body. That's not exactly an American notion, but it entails obligations to take care of ourselves and to refrain from actions that might harm our bodies. Thus under halacha, if nine people were exposed to a given virus or illness and did not die, the tenth person still needs to get vaccinated, because the danger is real, and a low mortality or morbidity rate doesn't exempt one from proper care.

### Jews Don't Rely on Miracles

There is a famous Talmudic story in which a person at a party is killed by a friend, and then God brings him back to life. The next year, when the manslayer invites him to attend the yearly party, the first individual refuses, saying "we don't rely on miracles." Judaism is a practical religion, and we understand that in almost all cases, the world follows scientific principles. We must rely on data and science. Thus, because it is clear COVID-19 causes death, we must inoculate ourselves when the vaccines become available.

As background, the smallpox vaccine was created in 1796; before that, 400,000 people a year died of smallpox; the disease has now been eradicated. The death rate from the smallpox vaccine comes out to about 0.7 per 100,000 individuals – a full order of magnitude safer than taking aspirin!

Over the past two centuries, vaccines have been proven to be extremely successful at saving lives. The minuscule death rate from vaccination pales in comparison and therefore can never be used in Judaism as justification for not getting vaccinated. In fact, not getting vaccinated is considered negligent by important Jewish experts. Getting inoculated has been standard halachic practice for the past two centuries, since the 1785 opinion by scholar Avraham ben Shlomo Nantzig. Rulings supporting vaccination span the Jewish world, from Ultra-Orthodox to Reform. A compelling body of Jewish legal experts declares that we can force people to be vaccinated, even against their will.

Our scientists, pharmaceutical companies and government agencies here and around the world have performed a herculean task in generating vaccines against COVID-19

in record time. Some will view the rapidity of development with suspicion and argue they should not have to be inoculated. Full scientific testing protocols have been implemented during vaccine development, and it is not such a novel process. Scientists already had viral vectors to safely deliver bits of the coronavirus genetics to host cells. The virus is also a relatively easy one to target, and previous research on SARS and MERS provided a leg up to researchers. Moreover, Chinese scientists released the full genetic sequence of the virus to the world very early, which allowed accelerated development.

I am not in a high-risk group, so likely won't have an opportunity to receive the vaccine early on. But if I were, I would get it as soon as possible. Not only do I have an obligation to care for my own body, I am equally obligated to care for those around me.

Jews like to make the toast of "l'chayim," to life. Sometimes we do so at a simcha event. This moment demands that we say l'chayim to the vaccines created by some of our most dedicated human minds, who have worked nonstop to protect us all. We owe them our profound thanks.



*Rabbi David Kosak is senior rabbi at Congregation Neveh Shalom. This column first appeared in his Dec. 4 weekly email "Oasis Songs."*

### Rabbi's Corner

The Rabbi's Corner is a space reserved for our community's rabbis to share their thoughts on the week's parsha or current events. The Oregon Board of Rabbis coordinates the project. Rabbis can schedule a date to submit a 500-word piece by contacting OBR President Rabbi Eve Posen at [eposen@nevehshalom.org](mailto:eposen@nevehshalom.org).



# Chaplain's Corner

## Chanukah's Nuanced Lessons

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Chanukah is one of the hardest Jewish holidays to explain.

Here's a typical explanation for young children: More than 2,200 years ago, an evil king named Antiochus Epiphanes tried to make the Jewish people just like everyone else. He made Jewish prayer, rituals and traditions illegal. He even trashed the Temple in Jerusalem and made it impossible for us to offer sacrifices. Finally, a group of brave warriors called the Maccabees rose up and fought a war for religious freedom. Miraculously, they defeated the mighty Greek army and took control of Jerusalem. They found a container of oil that should have burned only for 1 day but instead burned for 8 days. This gave the Maccabees the time they needed to rededicate the Temple. That's way we call the holiday "Chanukah," which means dedication.

Historically, Chanukah is much more complicated. Why would Antiochus try to strip away the Jews' unique identities and make them completely Hellenistic? After all, he was a polytheist; why would he prevent the Jews from worshipping their God when so many other gods were being worshipped?

A controversial argument is that the true villains of the story were "Jewish Hellenizers." They were the powerful, wealthy, upper crust who wanted to assimilate completely. They desired to become as Greek/Hellenistic as possible for the sake of economic, social and political power.

A civil war ensued between the assimilationist Jewish Hellenizers and the priestly Jewish families. The Hellenizers then asked Antiochus for support. Of note, every Jew had to choose a side; no one could remain neutral. The newly consolidated opposition called themselves "Maccabees." (They later changed their name to "Hasmoneans.")

Incredibly, the Jews who opposed the Hellenizers and Antiochus' army, after a bitter guerilla war, took back the Temple. But the war of dedication ("Chanukah") did not end there. A few years later, they pushed out Antiochus' army and obtained political independence.

If this were a Hollywood-produced movie, the credits would now roll. But that's not the end of

the story. Mere decades later, the Hasmoneans fully embraced Hellenism. Talk about irony. Even worse, they attempted to consolidate political power and religious power. In the past, only someone descended from a "Cohain" could become the High Priest; only someone descended from David could become king. When the Hasmoneans made this power play, another civil war began. Who was invited to mediate? Rome.

This is not the kind of story we share with our children.

But every year, we have an opportunity to learn Chanukah's more sophisticated and nuanced lessons. We can ask ourselves: "To what extent do we want to embrace the values of being just like everyone else, and to what extent do we want to be unique?" We are allowed to have a multifaceted identity.

A prevailing fear today is that the Jewish people are losing our distinctive, unique identity and are only a few generations from fading away. These are only fears. We can celebrate Chanukah's lesson of dedication to renew our uniqueness and strengthen our bonds with a Jewish community that grows more complicated and nuanced with every generation.

Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, leader of the Havurah Movement, teaches that we can take the light from our Chanukah menorah to ignite the flames of our souls. This inner light shines against the darkness of cynicism, anxiety and existentialist fear and kindles hope in others.

During these socially distanced, anxiety-filled, dark days of pandemic, we can still feel the warmth of the light within us. Let us continue to use this light to illuminate our darkened paths.

Chanukah reminds us of the many times we overcame long odds and not only survived, but thrived.



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

## Monthly Mitzvah: Kashrut

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 December, the focus is on kashrut, the

Jewish dietary laws. For a healthy and sound soul, eat kosher foods and make your Judaism part and parcel of your very being.

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

The JEWISH REVIEW  
Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

Published biweekly by  
Jewish Federation of  
Greater Portland  
9900 SW Greenburg Road,  
Suite 220  
Tigard, OR 97223  
503-245-6219  
[JewishPortland.org](http://JewishPortland.org)

### Editor

Deborah Moon  
[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)  
503-892-7404 (message)

### Circulation

To receive the Jewish Review in your email inbox, email your name and email address to  
[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto: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
<b>Dec. 23</b>	Dec. 17
<b>Jan. 6</b>	Dec. 30
<b>Jan. 20</b>	Jan. 14
<b>Feb. 3</b>	Jan. 28
<b>Feb. 17</b>	Feb. 11

Submit news, photos and obituaries by the issue deadline to:  
[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

# COVID Team Column

## Chanukah lights can brighten this dark winter

BY ESTEE EMLÉN

This Chanukah may feel far removed from “a great miracle,” as we continue to struggle through the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of Dec. 3, Oregon has hit 79,293 cases and nearly 1,000 deaths from the coronavirus. State health officials expect surges in cases to continue at least through the end of December. With the high risk in our region, and across the country, we all need to do our part to slow the spread, both in our daily lives and on special occasions like holidays. We may need to get creative about how we celebrate Chanukah in a fun and safe way.

Large family gatherings or Chanukah parties are simply not safe this year. State guidelines allow a maximum of six people from no more than two households for indoor and outdoor gatherings in most counties. It's important to note that even small gatherings pose a risk for spreading COVID-19, especially when indoors and without masks. It can be tempting to give in to pandemic fatigue and forgo the distancing protocols, but given the recent surge in cases, now is not the time to give up.

Despite the limitations on in-person gatherings, we can still embrace Chanukah traditions to celebrate safely. For those living alone, or those who want to connect with others, virtual get-togethers are a great option. Over video chat, you can light candles together, enjoy a festive meal or even play dreidel virtually. There are also many online Chanukah programs to tune into locally and around the world.

One way to share some light this Chanukah, besides placing candles in a window, is to drop off latkes, applesauce or sufganiyot on a friend's or family member's porch. Just be sure to wash your hands frequently while preparing drop-off items, wear a mask when you go and stay at least 6 feet apart. You can also make and send Chanukah cards to let your loved ones know you're thinking of them – you can even get kids involved. If you exchange gifts on Chanukah, think about giving cozy presents, like a soft blanket or games, that will make staying at home and isolating feel more palatable.

Giving gelt is another cherished Chanukah tradition that feels especially important now. While we all enjoy our chocolate gelt, let's

consider where we can meaningfully distribute money and resources this holiday. Organizations can use your support to help those who have been impacted most by the coronavirus, isolation or economic conditions. Let's not just focus on our own celebrations, but also on how we can give back. Explore eight worthy nonprofits for 8 Days of Giving at [jewishportland.org/8daysofgiving](https://jewishportland.org/8daysofgiving).

This year, I'm reflecting on the story of the Chanukah miracle, where oil meant to last just one night lit the menorah for eight nights instead. The ability to persist and to sustain light and hope is critical as we look ahead to a lonesome holiday and a difficult winter.

Although a vaccine is on the horizon, we can still expect months more of mask-wearing and socially distancing. Use this time to think about what you need to do to sustain your wellbeing and stay active in keeping yourself and your loved ones safe. That might involve reaching out to friends over the phone or video, focusing on a new project or goal, committing to helping communities in need, reflecting on your connection to Judaism and the Jewish community, or reaching out for help.

The Congregation Neveh Shalom COVID-19 Outreach and Services team is here to serve the entire Jewish community in the tri-county area, so please contact us for assistance and connection at [covid19@nevehshalom.org](mailto:covid19@nevehshalom.org) or 971-990-5652.

Happy Chanukah!

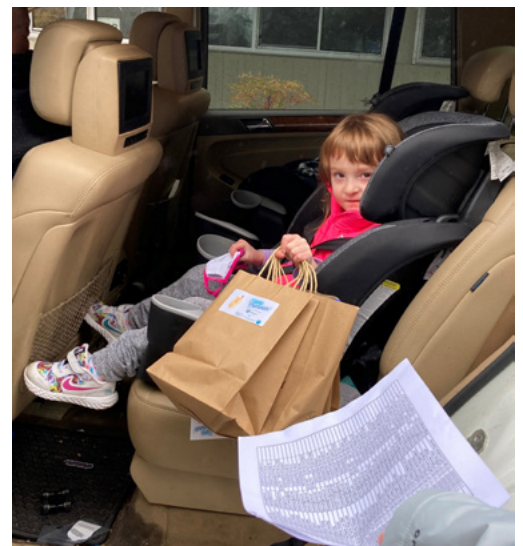


*Estee Emlen is an Outreach and Education Coordinator for Congregation Neveh Shalom COVID-19 Outreach and Services. CNSCOS is a team appointed by Congregation Neveh Shalom with funding from the Oregon Health Authority tasked with helping limit the spread of COVID-19 by providing services and timely information to the Jewish communities of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties.*



Volunteers passed out 100 free Chanukah gift bags to young families Dec. 6. Young families who registered received the gift from the PJ Library and Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. Bags included Chanukah candles, a dreidel and links to blessings. Westside pickup was at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, right. Eastside Jewish Commons hosted the the eastside pickup, above.

## Gifting Chanukah





## Event briefs (Chanukah Events pages 4-5)

### COVID team presents mental health panel

Congregation Neveh Shalom's COVID-19 Outreach and Services Team hosts a Zoom panel on mental health from 7 to 8 pm, Dec. 15. Our panel consists of two mental health experts, who will answer your questions about nurturing your mental health during what has been a deeply stressful year.

Registrants can submit up to three questions, which will be asked anonymously by CNSCOS's communications lead, JoAnna Wendel.

To put it lightly, 2020 has been a stressful year. Many of us might be struggling with new mental health concerns brought on by stress, or worsened mental health conditions. If you're looking for coping mechanisms or have questions about mental health in general, tune in to CNSCOS's panel.

We'll be joined by Dinah Gilburd, Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Jewish Family and Child Service, and Mitch Elovitz, Licensed Professional Counselor.

Register at [tinyurl.com/CNSCOSMentalHealth](https://tinyurl.com/CNSCOSMentalHealth)

### Community Wellness Havdalah Jan. 9

The winter is always a dark time in Portland, this year especially so with the ongoing challenges of the COVID pandemic. Come together in community to nurture our mental health and wellness and celebrate the start of a new week with a special Havdalah Service at 6 pm, Jan. 9, on Zoom.

The Br'it & B'rachot (Health and Blessings) Havdalah is part of a communitywide effort around mental health and wellness in January. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has curated a mental health web page with resources and opportunities at [jewishportland.org/wellness](https://jewishportland.org/wellness).

The Wellness Havdalah will be co-led by Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen and Cantorial Soloist Ilene Safyan.

"The upcoming wellness Havdallah is a wonderful opportunity to remember the connection between Shabbat and mental health," says Rabbi Cohen. "Every week, we can look to Shabbat to create a separation between the stresses and strains of the regular week and the sanctity and restorative power of Shabbat."

He adds, "Shabbat rest does not mean 'doing nothing.' Rather, it is about 'doing differently.' We can act with a greater sense of intention in order to care for our bodies and spirits. The Wellness Havdallah is a reminder to embrace the restorative power of Shabbat, and to carry a sense of self-care into the regular week."

Register at [jewishportland.org/wellnesshavdalah](https://jewishportland.org/wellnesshavdalah)

### College: A Conversation on Zoom Dec. 17

University of Oregon President Michael Schill and Portland State University President Stephen Percy will discuss college during COVID at 7 pm, Dec. 17, on Zoom.

Current and future university students (in Oregon and beyond) and their parents are invited to Zoom in to the conversation sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Oregon Hillel and Greater Portland Hillel.

JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner will moderate the conversation and pose questions from the audience.

The conversation will focus on what the winter/spring semester will look like and what the application process will look like for incoming freshmen. [jewishportland.org/college-conversation](https://jewishportland.org/college-conversation)

### Find more virtual events

Find online cultural, educational and social programs from local organizations and congregations on the Community Calendar: [jewishportland.org/community-calendar/online-events](https://jewishportland.org/community-calendar/online-events)



## Life-cycle events

Send news of births, b'nai mitzvah, engagements, weddings and anniversaries to: [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

### BIRTHS

#### ADAR SIMA ALPERT

Adar Sima Alpert was born Oct. 31 to Elana and Zev Alpert, joining big brother Lavi. Her naming took place at Congregation Kesser Israel. Her middle name is in honor of Zev's paternal grandparents Sonia and Menachem Mendel Alpert, both Holocaust survivors, who built a family in New Haven, Conn. Mazal tov to the extended families in New Jersey and Israel.

A Zoom bris was held where family and friends from near and far were able to welcome him. The family are members of Congregation Kesser Israel.

#### YAHIEL LAWS



Yahiel Laws was born Nov. 30 to Jared and Shani Laws. The bris was on Monday, Dec. 7, at the family home in Southwest Portland. Yahiel joins brothers, Lavi, almost 2; Yahav, almost 4; and Moshe, almost 12. The Laws are members of Beit Yosef and Kesser Israel. Yahiel was born on the third yearzeit of Shani's grandmother, Devorah Rozenblum. Devorah, who survived Auschwitz, had been the only member of her family to survive the Holocaust.

#### YONAH RAFAEL SOHN



Yonah Rafael Sohn was born Nov. 12. He is welcomed by his parents, Amy and Adam Sohn, and two proud older sisters, Talia and Eliora. Yonah is named after his great grandmother.

## Jobs board

The Jewish Review publishes job openings from local Jewish agencies and congregations. Job listings will be shortened to fit available space, with a link to the full job description and/or contact information. Submit openings to: [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

### JFCS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Jewish Family & Child Service has created a new position for a volunteer coordinator to create and manage the Volunteer Program, including marketing, recruitment, intake, volunteer screening and matching, management and coordinating various events (virtual and eventually in person). The coordinator will provide volunteers to support JFCS programs such as the pro bono expertise program.

Qualifications include a bachelor's degree plus two years relevant experience with a community-based nonprofit. Experience with database and office software required.

Salary Range: \$45,000-50,000 plus generous benefit plan.

For a full job description and complete list of qualifications, visit <https://bit.ly/JFCSVC>.

To apply for this new position, send a cover letter and resume to Susan Greenberg at [sgreenberg@jfcs-portland.org](mailto:sgreenberg@jfcs-portland.org).

# Obituaries

## DR. NORMAN BILOW

Dr. Norman Bilow, z"l, passed away Dec. 6, 2020. He is survived by children, Steve (Patt) Bilow, Richard Bilow and Sandra Whitmarsh; grandchildren, Matthew Whitmarsh and Jessica Wint; and great-grandchildren, Avery and Levi Whitmarsh.

Dr. Bilow was an active participant in the U.S. Space Program with more than 100 patents in high-temperature polymers.

There will be no public service due to COVID, but a Zoom memorial will be held.

## DIANNE HOFFMAN

Dianne Hoffman, z"l, passed away on Shabbat morning, Dec. 5, 2020, in Phoenix, Ariz. Dianne was preceded in death by her husband, Rabbi Sydney Hoffman, and son, Larry Hoffman. She is survived by daughter, Congregation Neveh Shalom member Judi (Joe) Goodman, Portland; daughter, Sally Snader, Phoenix; sons, Sanford Hoffman, Germantown, Md., and Daniel Hoffman, Gaithersburg, Md.; grandchildren, Josh Goodman, Memphis, Tenn., Nathan Goodman, Portland, Steffani (Anthony) Minella, Phoenix, and Cott Snader, Phoenix; and four great-grandchildren.

Private interment was Dec. 8 in Phoenix.

Neveh Shalom extends condolences to the extended Hoffman/Goodman family.

## SUSAN LOIS KLUGMAN SINGER

Susan Lois Klugman Singer, z"l, passed away Dec. 4. Susan was preceded in death by her husband, Seymour. She is loved and remembered by her children, Ellen (Eamon Malloy) Singer of Portland, Sally Singer of New York and Michael Singer of Kensington, CA; and grandchildren Benjamin, Daniel and Eli Molloy; Malachy, Pascal and Oscar O'Neill; and F. Theodore Singer and Leonora Heater.

A Zoom Shiva Minyan will be planned.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends condolences to the extended Singer family.

## JANE ROSENBAUM

Jane Rosenbaum, z"l, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Nov. 28, 2020. She is survived by son, Mark Rosenbaum; daughter, Lori Krasnowsky; grandchildren, David Rosenbaum (Lily Rosenbaum), Sara Rosenbaum Murry (Casey Murry) and Hanna Krasnowsky; and two great-grandchildren, Zoe Jane Murry and Leo Fritz Rosenbaum.

Born in Berlin, Germany, on July 9, 1930, she and her parents escaped Hitler and landed in America March 15, 1939, leaving behind 71 great aunts, uncles, grandparents and other relatives, who were never seen again. The family moved from New York to Portland.

She attended Grant High School then Lewis and Clark College. She met Fred Rosenbaum at the Friendship Club (German-speaking immigrant social club). He proposed after dating her for six weeks; they were married for 54 years. Their life together involved building a business, Fred's military career, many community board activities, travel and family time. The couple received, among many other honors, the Maurice Sussman award from the American Jewish Committee in 2000. Fred passed away in 2010.

Following Fred's death, Jane met Gordon Jensen, and they were together for nine years before her passing.

She was a founding member of the Oregon Holocaust Survivor, Refugee and Families Group. For nine years, she chaired the Oregon Holocaust Memorial Coalition, which created the memorial in Washington Park. She served on the boards of Oregon School of Arts and Crafts, Good Samaritan Foundation, Epilepsy Association of Oregon and the American Cancer Society. She was the "First Lady" of Camp Rosenbaum, which brings third- to fifth-grade children living in rental-assisted housing to a week-long camp.

A Zoom service was held Dec. 1. Due to COVID restrictions, only immediate family were present at the Beth Israel Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the [Oregon Holocaust Memorial and Education Endowment Fund](#) or [Camp Rosenbaum Fund](#).

## ROBERT EARLE RUDOLPH

Robert Earle Rudolph, z"l, passed away Nov. 27, 2020, at the age of 88. Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Terrye (Stein) Rudolph (06/11/18). They were married for 67 years. Bob is loved and remembered by his sons Steve (Sheryl) Rudolph of Sisters, OR; Jeff Rudolph of Palm Desert, CA; and Matt Rudolph in Tualatin, OR.

A private funeral officiated by Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman took place Nov. 30 at Neveh Zedek Cemetery.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends our deepest condolences to the Rudolph family.

## THELMA STEINBERG SCHNITZER

Thelma Steinberg Schnitzer, z"l, passed away peacefully at her home in San Francisco Nov. 27, 2020. Thelma is survived by her son, Gary Schnitzer (Sandra Wilder) and her daughter, Deborah Novack (Kenneth), both of San Francisco; her four grandchildren, Andrea Whitney (Deed), Gregory Schnitzer, Melanie Piziali (Eric) and Kevin Novack; six great-grandchildren; and her sister, Ilene Goldberg.

Thelma was born Feb. 3, 1919, in Portland to Lillian and Ben Steinberg and raised in Portland together with her sister Ilene (Steinberg) Goldberg and her brother

Stanley Steinberg.

Thelma met her future husband, Gilbert Schnitzer, about 1932 when they were both 13 years old. They married in 1938. Both graduated from the University of Oregon in 1940 and returned to Portland where their two children were born. They were married for 74 years until Gilbert's death in 2012.

For more than the last 20 years, Thelma suffered from debilitating eye diseases. She and Gilbert endowed chairs in ophthalmology at both Oregon Health & Sciences University and Devers Eye Institute.

## RUTH GORDIN

Ruth Annette Gordin, z"l, passed away on Nov. 27, 2020, at age 88. She is survived by sons, Alex (Barbara) Meiers-Gordin, Robert Gordin, Seth (Kristin) Goradietsky, Douglas (Melanie) Gordin and Howard (Christine) Gordin; and eight grandchildren.

Born March 31, 1932, Ruth was the only child of Alex and Eva Blond. She attended Vernon Elementary School and Jefferson High School. Ruth married the love of her life, Frank, in 1951. They had been married for 65 years when Frank passed. Together they raised five sons.

Ruth was a loving wife and caring mother, a hard-working homemaker who loved to cook. She delighted in spending time with her extended family. She was in the Shaarie Torah Sisterhood and was a member of Hadassah. Ruth was buried next to Frank at the Neveh Zedek Cemetery in a private service. A Zoom Shiva Minyan was held Nov. 29.

Congregations Shaarie Torah and Neveh Shalom extend condolences to the Gordin family.

## RIESHA LEVY

Riesha Levy, z"l, passed away peacefully on Nov. 23, 2020 (7th Kislev), in Boca Raton, Fla. Riesha is survived by sons, Andrew (Rosy) Levy and David (Clara) Levy; grandchildren, Avi Levy, Sabrina (Nir) Maoz, Avrohom (Samantha) Levy and Esther (Adam) Edelson; two great-grandchildren; and brothers, Bernard (Judy) Kaufman and Hershel (Elizabeth) Kaufman.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends our deepest condolences to the Levy family

## DARLENE DOROTHY LEVY

Darlene Dorothy Levy, z"l, of Portland passed away on Nov. 11, 2020, at the age of 78. Darlene is survived by husband, Robert Levy; children, Anthony Maurice Levy, Dina Michelle Levy, Lindsey Alan Levy, Brian Andrew Levy, and Joey Jacob Levy; siblings, Frances Policar, Rose Bloom and Sandra Oster; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was born Sept. 9, 1942.

A private funeral for Darlene was held at Shaarie Torah Cemetery on Nov. 13, 2020.