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Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Campaign for Community Needs Co-Chairs Leslie Beard, left, and Jack Birnbach, pictured at the Federation's offices in Tigard Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023. "The community raised me, and I want to return the favor to the next generations," Birnbach said. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

'The process of connecting'

JFGP's annual campaign about more than just donations

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland provides myriad services to Portland's Jewish community, from grants to partner agencies to programs abroad and right here in Portland – including this very publication. One thing makes all those other activities possible: The annual Campaign for Community Needs.

"As I've gotten more involved in Federation," explained Campaign Co-Chair Leslie Beard, "I've come to realize that the campaign is critical to the functioning of the Federation and all the support that is provided to the Community."

In the campaign year that closed on June 30, the annual campaign raised more than \$3.5 million from donors large and small. Every one of them is essential to the Federation's work, explained

Campaign Co-Chair Jack Birnbach.

"I know firsthand from my dad's work that the money doesn't come easy," he said. "To have a little and to share that with the community is incredibly appreciated."

Like Beard, Birnbach has gotten more involved with the Federation over time. He has previously led both the allocations committee, which manages the Federation's contributions to external agencies, and the finance committee, which funds the Federation's internal programs.

"Having this greater understanding through allocations and through finance really opened my eyes to this great impact that we have," he said.

The Federation couldn't function without the

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Butterworth joins PJA, MJCC staff

By ROCKNE ROLL

Bess Butterworth's new job title is long, but she's excited about every part of it.

Butterworth was recently hired as Development Events and Community Programs Manager at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and Portland Jewish Academy. It's a role with many facets, from fundraising to coordinating the art exhibition space in the MJCC's lobby and much more.

"It's very exciting and there are so many amazing opportunities," she said.

Butterworth grew up in Spokane, earning her Bachelor's from Western Washington University and a Master's in Arts Leadership from Seattle University. She's worked in events management in the arts throughout her career, which has included stops in North Carolina and Rhode Island before returning to the Pacific Northwest.

"I missed nature and I didn't like being so far away from my family," she said.

While Butterworth was connected to Jewish communities back east through her then-partner when she lived in North Carolina and a professional mentor in Rhode Island, this is her first foray into Jewish communal work.

"I've just always felt so connected to Jewish community and culture," she said. "I've had some of the best people in my life involved in the community."

As for her goals in the position, they're straightforward.

"I think the main goal is to bring more people to events," she said.

For the MJCC, she's hoping to make use of the gallery space in the lobby to host rotating shows of local Jewish artists, with public events that give those artists opportunities to present their work to the community. She's also looking forward to resuming some of the programming for children and parents that PJA created before the Covid-19 pandemic.

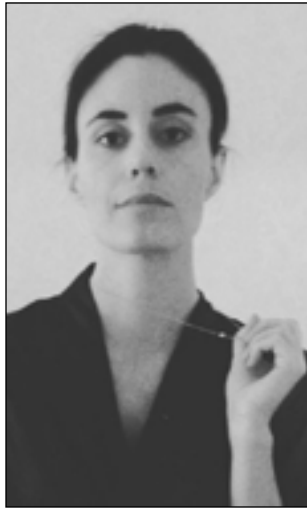
"We used to do little coffee meetings in the mornings, bringing that back or bringing a different version of that back," Butterworth explained. "And creating activities that parents and kids can do together on the weekends and center it around the Jewish experience."

Equally important to that is building the audience for those events.

"[It's about] connecting with other people who very much want to be a part of what we do here, but maybe don't know about it yet or haven't found the connection," she said.

It's work that Butterworth is excited to undertake within a team she's excited to be a part of.

"I've felt very welcomed," she said. "It's been fantastic so far."



Bess Butterworth (Courtesy photo)



The immersion pool of the soon-to-be opened mikvah at Chabad's facility in Salem. (Courtesy Chabad)

Chabad to open Salem mikvah this September

By ROCKNE ROLL

"The foundation of Jewish community is a mikvah," Rabbi Avrohom Perlstein said. So, as head of Chabad in Salem, it makes sense that he's excited about the construction of a mikvah at the Chabad house in Salem.

Construction began earlier this year and the mikvah is set to open in September. It will be the fourth mikvah in Oregon, along with Chabad-operated mikvahs in Ashland and Portland and Rachel's Well Community Mikvah in Portland, owned and operated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

The process of constructing the Salem mikvah started when Perlstein linked up with seven other Chabad houses in small communities around the United States that were looking to establish their own mikvahs. A donor from Toronto gave a sizable sum to their undertaking, and even more money was raised through crowdfunding. Finally, Mikvah USA, an organization that supports mikvah construction through financial aid, *halachic* (Jewish law) guidance and education programs, got involved with a significant donation. Perlstein said that Chabad of Salem is still in search of \$100,000 for final touches, but fundraising is

ongoing.

Getting the budget together is far from the last obstacle in building a kosher mikvah. The design process needed to consider *halachic* requirements as well as the constraints of the location. While Chabad mikvahs typically locate their water basins below the immersion pool, Mikvah USA prefers their funded projects to build basins adjacent to the pool. A contractor and a group of rabbis from Brooklyn flew out to assist, but Rabbi Perlstein also had to send himself back to school to take a course on the laws surrounding mikvah. Then there was the issue of finding local builders.

"You know, finding a contractor who's willing and able to take on the challenge of a unique build is not the easiest thing. People have nightmares of working with different contractors," Rabbi Perlstein said. "Thank G-d we were able to find the right individual so far and it's been quite amazing."

The design and decor of the adjoining spaces was also of the utmost importance to Rabbi Perlstein in order to make the experience of using the mikvah as comfortable as possible. High-end Italian tile and other

See **MIKVAH**, page 9

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OF GREATER PORTLAND

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Juju Chang is an Emmy Award-winning co-anchor of *ABC News Nightline* and a regular contributor to *Good Morning America* and *20/20*. "**50% Korean. 100% Jewish.**" is how Jew by Choice Chang describes her three sons with her husband Neal Shapiro. Their blended cultures share a reverence for education, a powerful immigrant experience, and sadly, a history of persecution, discrimination, and scapegoating in the United States. In her highly personal talk, Juju shares her journey to Judaism and Jewish identity and discusses the historical parallels between Asian hate and antisemitism.



"SPOTLIGHT" FEATURING FRAN DRESCHER

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PATRICIA RESER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Fran Drescher has a reputation for passion and commitment. She received two Emmy and two Golden Globe nominations for her portrayal as the lovable "Miss Fine" on CBS's hit series, ***The Nanny***, which she both created and executive produced. A 20-year uterine cancer survivor, Fran is the Founder, President, and visionary of the non-profit, Cancer Schmancer Movement. In October 2021, Fran Drescher became the president of the SAG-AFTRA labor union, which represents approximately 160,000 members.

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Hillel Perspectives returns to Israel

By ROCKNE ROLL

Conversations around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are often difficult, especially when those involved lack connection to the myriad perspectives on the situation. That difficulty can be exacerbated by the intense environment that college campuses can create – an issue that Oregon Hillel is looking to address through its upcoming Perspectives trip to the region.

The first Perspectives trips began in California in 2015 by the Maccabee Task Force, an organization founded to oppose anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses. Seeing that the usual speakers and presentations weren't making headway, the idea was to take non-Jewish students, particularly student leaders, to the region to hear the experiences of the people directly involved – Israeli and Palestinian.

"This isn't a sightseeing trip," explained Andy Gitelson, Executive Director of Oregon Hillel. "It's not even an academic trip."

This will be the third Perspectives trip for Oregon Hillel; the first was in 2019 and the annual trips resumed last year following a pandemic pause. Along with nearly three dozen non-Jewish student leaders from University of Oregon and Oregon State University, five Jewish students with personal connections to Israel from each campus will be joining the trip to provide their own perspective and to provide a point of connection once everyone returns to campus.

"The idea being that these student leaders can engage with those students throughout the year on campus, we can create a cohort," Gitelson said. "So when antisemitism arises or something involving conversation on Israel arises they have a network."

One of those Jewish students going on this year's trip is Romie Avivi, a journalism student at UO who lived in Israel as a child, just 25 miles from



Students from University of Oregon and Oregon State University stop to display school flags in Jerusalem's Old City during the 2022 Hillel Perspectives trip to the region. (Courtesy Oregon Hillel)

Gaza. She's eager to share her experiences, but also to see another side of what she grew up with.

"I think obviously as someone who was born in Israel, I have a specific experience within this conflict," Avivi said. "I will have the opportunity to maybe see it through another lens through maybe a more Palestinian lens, which I think is obviously valuable for me, but I think also for a lot of other people."

The group's itinerary, which is still being finalized, looks to include meetings with journalists from *The Jerusalem Post* and *The Times of Israel*, a visit to Jerusalem's Old City, a trip to Israeli settlements in the West Bank to talk to those living there, conversations in Ramallah with Palestinian Authority leaders and Palestinian youth activists, a meeting with a member of the Knesset (Israel's parliament) and with representatives from Roots, an organization working to bridge divides over issues in the area. They'll also visit Israel's borders, in the north and near Gaza.

"Our goal isn't to have them come back, 'Rah Rah, Israel' or 'Rah Rah, Palestine.' That's

up to them," Gitelson said. "We really want them to put their feet on the ground, to interact with the people and the voices to understand, like any other democracy, not everything is always pretty and yet there's people that are living out this experience on a day in, day out basis. How do they see pathways forward?"

"Students around me on social media try to portray it as this very black and white conflict," Avivi said, "so I'm hoping that by having students from a variety of places around campus have this experience, maybe they understand a little bit the complexity of the conflict when they enter conversations with their peers and their friends and classmates, or if it comes up on social media."

Gitelson and the team are careful to try and present as even of a perspective as possible – there's no preparatory reading assigned or even suggested to avoid coloring the experience. And there's no required work afterward; processing the enormity of the experience is a big enough task.

"We tell them from the beginning, it's going to take time for all of this to settle in," Gitelson said.

But that experience forges an undeniable connection – 85 percent of previous participants have attended six or more Hillel events following their return. It's an added benefit that Gitelson sees as important in a time when antisemitism is on the rise everywhere, college campuses included.

"I think we tackle antisemitism less by educating Jews about antisemitism and more about connecting non-Jews to the Jewish community," he said.

The primary goal remains, however, to help provide nuance in conversations that are often entirely stripped of such by the intensity of emotion involved and hopefully connect some humanity to one of the world's most complex conflicts.

"I think obviously, as someone who was born in Israel, I have a specific experience within this conflict," Avivi said. "I will have the opportunity to see it through another lens, through maybe a more Palestinian lens, which I think is obviously valuable for me, but I think for a lot of other people."

"Every inch of soil in that region means something significant to somebody," Gitelson said. "Every grain of sand is political."

A modern 'Merchant of Venice'

Reimagined classic headlines theatre dybbuk's residency

By ROCKNE ROLL

A modern – and thoroughly Jewish – twist on one of Shakespeare's most controversial works is coming to Portland this fall.

Theatre dybbuk, the Los Angeles-based performance art group, is coming to Portland for an October residency centered on the company's latest work, "The Merchant of Venice (Annotated), or In Sooth, I Know Not Why I Am So Sad." The residency, which includes a number of other performances and participatory events, is sponsored by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, the Eastside Jewish Commons, Portland State University, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

The show, like all of theatre dybbuk's productions, was developed by Creative Director Aaron Henne and the play's cast, who were assembled before a word of the script was written. Henne also brings in



From left, Julie A. Lockhart, Joe Jordan and Inger Tundo of theatre dybbuk perform in "The Merchant of Venice (Annotated), or In Sooth I Know Not Why I Am So Sad" in Los Angeles. The play comes to Portland as part of theatre dybbuk's residency in October. (Taso Papadakis/theatre dybbuk)

a production designer, a script consultant and scholars on the areas the work will be centered around.

"We meet once a month and I'm bringing in research, but I'm also bringing in script pages and they're serving as a kind of dramaturgical brain trust, a

script consultancy," Henne said of the development process. "So people are responding to the pages I'm bringing in and asking questions of it or providing their own research and I'm writing the script in dialogue with those discussions."

"The Merchant of Venice (An-

notated), or In Sooth, I Know Not Why I Am So Sad," theatre dybbuk's latest work, premiered in May of this year and will be performed in San Diego and San Francisco before coming to Portland and then on to

See **MERCHANT**, page 8



From left, Jewish Family and Child Service Executive Director Susan Greenberg accepts the matching grant check for \$500,000 from Renée Holzman, joined by her son and JFCS Immediate Past President Larry Holzman. Renée Holzman announced her challenge grant for Holocaust Survivor Services last June. (Robyn Taylor/JFCS)

JFCS completes Holzman match for Holocaust Survivor Services

By JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

One year ago, Renée Holzman presented to Jewish Family and Child Service a huge challenge and opportunity: If the social-service agency raised \$500,000 by June 30, 2023, she would match that amount dollar-for-dollar for JFCS' Holocaust Survivor Services program. As the last days of June arrived, so did the final amount of the challenge grant, allowing JFCS to cross a historic finish line. Recently, Holzman presented her \$500,000 gift to JFCS executive director Susan Greenberg.

"Renée is a big believer in community and caring for one another," Greenberg said. "Her vision and incredible generosity provide so much for Holocaust Survivor clients' ongoing care," such as for mental-health services, small medical devices, case management and the opportunity to continue aging at home and with dignity, she said.

Holzman's vision inspired the community; nearly 200 unique donors and foundations shared in the philanthropist's passion to provide for Holocaust Survivors. "I am thankful that I could do what needed to be done," Holzman said.

Neshama: A new idea for Jewish community



Bert Spiegel z"l, co-founder of Neshama Salt Lake and the Neshama concept, shown here in an undated photograph. (Courtesy Jathan Janove)

By JATHAN JANOVE

At a Hanukkah party in Salt Lake City in December 2000, Bert Spiegel z"l approached me and said he wanted to work with me to form a Jewish group for men in our community.

"Jewish women do a much better job at connecting with each other," he said, "Jewish men have to work at it."

With Bert's inspiration, we cobbled together a plan using in part the Junto model described by Benjamin Franklin in his autobiography. We named the group Neshama ("Soul") and began in early 2001.

Twenty-two years later, as our initial group has flourished and been replicated in several locales, Neshama can serve as a template for those seeking more connection with the Jewish community in a way that avoids the expense, traffic and other concerns that were identified in the recent community study as obstacles to participation in Jewish life.

The initial Neshama consisted of adult males of any age who were Jews or married to Jews. We set membership at 12, thinking this would give us a "minyan" at our meetings, and convened the second Monday evening of each month. Members took turns hosting and presenting the month's discussion topic.

After dinner was served, each member provided a brief personal check-in before the evening's presentation began. We gave presenters broad discretion in selection of topics; our request was only that there be some Jewish connection. We also requested that the presentation be interactive, not a static lecture. We allowed and even encouraged disagreement provided civility and active listening were maintained. We insisted on confidentiality; what members shared in our meetings stayed within our group (this included not sharing confidential information with members' spouses).

To keep our group small, intimate, and confidential, new members were admitted only after another member left and was based on unanimous selection. Borrowing from Franklin's Junto rules, if others in the community were interested in forming a Neshama, our members agreed to assist.

The original Salt Lake Neshama is still going strong, 22 years after its founding. Over the years, numerous topics have been covered, ranging from explicitly Jewish subjects like the rise in US antisemitism and Jewish models of charitable giving to topics not explicitly Jewish but where the discussion has a Jewish connection or angle, e.g., the breakdown in civil discourse in US politics and lashon hara. ("evil tongue")

From time to time, Neshama Salt Lake has taken on community

projects, including helping fund a garden at a local synagogue, helping with tuition for a Neshama member who decided to become a rabbi, book donations and other charitable works. Participation in such projects is not a condition of Neshama membership, however.

The idea has proven popular: three additional Neshama groups were formed in Utah and one in Israel.

In 2006, my wife Marjorie and I moved from Salt Lake City to Portland. In 2008, I started a Neshama group here, using the SLC model. Over 15 years later, it is still going strong.

"I've gotten to know a group of guys over many years through regular meetings," states member Michael Volk. "I look forward to our meetings every month to see and hear from my fellow Neshama men."

Neshama PDX has a diverse membership, ranging from people who belong to multiple shuls to those who don't belong to any. What we share is the desire for connection as fellow men in the Jewish community.

Dr. Charles Elder, currently president of Congregation Kesser Israel, observes that "Neshama provides a great mechanism for engaging with the community and building lasting friendships with other Jewish men."

"It is often rare that men have an opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings with other men in a trusting and respectful way, yet Neshama has provided such an opportunity for me," Neshama PDX member Gary Martel notes.

Member Bob Liebman, who helped found the Jewish Studies program at Portland State University (and assisted with this article) notes that "Neshama has been a way to connect newcomers and outsiders with engaged members of Portland's diverse Jewish community."

Our newest member, longtime Portland criminal defense attorney Michael Levine, puts it simply: "How good it is to sit together with Jewish brothers!"

Given the longevity of these groups, inevitably members pass on, including Spiegel, and more recently here in Portland, longtime beloved member Dan Hurwitz z"l.

"Without the Neshama men, I could not have gotten through caregiving for Dan during his illness, and the grief my family and I felt after his death," Debra Brook, Hurwitz's wife, said. "While Dan was in the hospital, each Neshama family brought us meals for a month. After Dan died, they surrounded me with care, food, and all the emotional support that anyone could ask for. I will forever be grateful to this group of brothers that my late husband has left as part of his legacy."

For readers who would like to learn more and perhaps create something similar, Bob, Charles, Garyb, the two Michaels, and I are happy to help. Email me at jjatpdx@gmail.com.



Neshama PDX members at a recent gathering. (Courtesy Jathan Janove)

PJA expands afterschool care to Odyssey campus

Portland Public Schools-partnered grows to four locations

By ROCKNE ROLL

Portland Jewish Academy is expanding its lineup of Portland Public Schools-based after-school programs with the addition of a new on-site program at Odyssey School in Southwest Portland.

"We used to bus the Odyssey children to PJA, and now we're starting a program at Odyssey that is specific to that school's culture and climate," explained Sean Bartlett, who manages PJA's after-school programs.

Odyssey is a unique program offered by Portland Public Schools that centers history and experiential learning into a broad elementary and middle school curriculum. The new location will join the three existing PJA after school programs at Glencoe Elementary School in Southeast Portland, Forest Park Elementary School in Northwest Portland and at PJA's facility on the Schnitzer Family Campus in Southwest Portland.

Bartlett explained that hosting a program for Odyssey's students at the school will make those programs more accessible for families at the school. It will also be easier and more comfortable for those students participating; the program's space is a two-minute walk from the classrooms and students will be able to get a snack and have some physical activity as soon as they arrive instead of dealing with a 15–20-minute bus ride to PJA.

"It was often hot in the bus. The children would become dysregulated," Bartlett said. "It's just going to be a better overall experience for the children that we were already serving to be in their school building."

"Being able to stay somewhere that's familiar to you and just spending your day there and having it be more accessible for parents, not having to drive to a different school to pick up your children, is definitely like a relief for all of them," added Daylee Shaw, who will be managing the after-school program at Odyssey.

Bartlett said that PJA's after-school programs, while not featuring Jewish programming at its public-school locations, are still an expression of Jewish values and PJA's core mission.

"Our schools *middot* (values) are still present in our programs," he said, "we just view them as universal values and values that can be applied to all people, regardless of faith."

The programming is designed to be educational but less structured than during the standard school day, incorporating arts and STEM-based programs that Bartlett explained are typically the first victims of primary school budget cuts. From teaching color theory through self-driven exploration through painting to learning about other cultures through food and even "self-care days" with oatmeal face masks that students make themselves, the choices are vast and engaging but never mandatory.

"We really do want to honor the child as an individual and let them guide their after-school experience," Bartlett said. "After spending all day having to do things, they get to choose to do things in our program."

With the Odyssey site opening this year, PJA's after-school programs can serve 230 children from ages 5 through 12 across its four facilities, a number which has the potential to grow.

See ODYSSEY, page 9



New Rose Schnitzer Manor residents Geri, left, and Bob Sequeira, right, enjoy Cedar Sinai Park's welcome breakfast with Eve Rosenfeld, who heads the welcoming committee. (Courtesy Cedar Sinai Park)

Welcoming new residents at Cedar Sinai Park breakfasts

By SYDNEY CLEVINGER

"This is the best place ever!" So says Geraldine Sequeira, who goes by Geri, a new resident who moved to Rose Schnitzer Manor Assisted Living in early August.

Sequeira and her husband, Bob, are originally from San Francisco, but have lived in Portland for the past year. Their granddaughter had been urging them to move to Rose Schnitzer Manor for the past year, and they finally agreed.

"She said, 'Grandma, you will love this place. The people are great, and the building is beautiful,'" Sequeira recalled. "So we came to visit, and I said

"Okay, we'll move."

The bi-monthly new resident welcome breakfasts are a tradition at Rose Schnitzer Manor. Staff are introduced and residents from the welcome committee attend and help new residents acclimatize to active assisted living.

Sequeira said her new neighbor gave her a big welcoming hug on her first morning at the Manor.

"All I hear everywhere I go, is 'Good morning! Good morning!'" said Sequeira. "I love the people here, and the staff is so helpful. I'm sure we're going to be very happy here. Thank you so much!"

J Street to host Israel discussion

J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami will lead a discussion next week about the growing Israeli pro-democracy protest movement following the passage of a new law that will upset Israel's system of checks and balances, gravely eroding the nation's democratic underpinnings.

"Israel's Crisis Of Democracy: An Evening with J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami" will take place at Eastside Jewish Commons on Thursday, Sept. 7 at 7 pm.

J Street organizes pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-democracy Americans to promote US policies that embody our

deeply held Jewish and democratic values and that help secure the State of Israel as a democratic homeland for the Jewish people.

Ben-Ami will analyze how the pro-democracy protest movement is shaping Israeli politics and discuss what both American Jews and the US government can do to advance democracy, equality and justice in both Israel and Palestine. Ben-Ami will also take questions following the presentation.

RSVP online at act.jstreet.org/signup/jba-at-eastside/. For more information, email Casey Crouch at casey@jstreet.org.

MERCHANT (continued from page 5)

Baltimore. It combines Shakespeare's text with snippets of Elizabethan history and news events from the last three years into a modern look at how antisemitism and other forms of prejudice.

"[It] uses *Merchant*'s events to look at how during times of upheaval in society, we may seek to blame the, quote unquote, 'other,' whoever that other may be," Henne said.

The theatre dybbuk cast will perform the full play Monday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 pm at the Lincoln Studio Theater on the campus of Portland State University in Downtown Portland. Ticket details are still being finalized as of press time.

"Everyone Aaron engages with is impressed by his thoughtful and accessible approach," Federation Chief Development Officer Wendy Kahn said.

She met Henne at a conference in 2020 and participated in the process that secured the Covenant Foundation grant that's helping to finance the group's Portland residency.

"A full week with the entire team of theatre dybbuk showcasing their talents throughout the Greater Portland Jewish community is a true gift," Kahn continued.

The group will also stage a companion performance installation, "The Villainy You Teach," at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education Thursday, Oct. 26 from 12-2:30 pm. In this performance, cast members read Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" while another actor repeats Shylock's famous "Hath not a Jew eyes?" speech from Act III, Scene 1 for the entire performance.

"What we're doing is we're exploring what it is to take on language that isn't your own or what it is to take on language that's been given a lot of different meanings over many years," Henne said. "How do we receive that? How do we think about that?"

The performance is designed so audience members can come and go without staying for the entire performance. There's also an improvisational element, Henne said, particularly for the actor reading Shylock's speech.

"It's quite moving and provocative and funny," Henne said. "It's

a good opportunity for people to experience something that's truly happening in the moment."

Other residency events include a lecture from Portland State University Professor Daniel Pollack-Pelzner, who was one of the consulting scholars for "The Merchant of Venice (Annotated), or In Sooth, I Know Not Why I Am So Sad," on Shakespeare's original play at 7:30 pm Thursday, Oct. 26, at the PSU campus.

"Inside his lecture," Henne said, "we'll be doing performed readings from merchant and maybe other reference points that he talks about. So quite literally, it's like an illuminated lecture."

Theatre dybbuk will also put on writing workshops designed to help community members explore their own stories. Two will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at the Eastside Jewish Commons; a workshop geared to seniors from 11 am – 1 pm and a program titled "One Community, Many Stories" focused on the LGBTQ+ community from 6:30-9:30 pm. On Wednesday, Oct. 25, a more broadly focused version of the "One Community, Many Stories" workshop will be held from 6-8:30 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, with a selection of stories to be read by actors from theatre dybbuk. These workshops have been developed by the theatre dybbuk team and are tailored to the communities and institutions that host them.

"When we were talking about which event would be a good match for [the MJCC], we recognized that our "One Community, Many Stories" event would be a great match because it brings together storytelling and performance. It can serve multiple ages," Henne said.

The theatre dybbuk team will also be conducting arts-focused leadership trainings for the Federation. The performances and lecture at PSU and the OJMCHE are part of a broader Portland festival celebrating the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's First Folio, a collection of plays which includes *Merchant*.

More information is available online at theatredybbuk.org/residencies or by emailing info@theatredybbuk.org.

CAMPAIGN (continued from page 1)

campaign, which relies on the hundreds of donors who contribute every year. And part of what is so important about the annual cycle of contacting donors isn't just the donations but hearing what's important to them and shaping the Federation's priorities accordingly.

"To build the community, you have to have conversations," Federation Chief Development Officer Wendy Kahn said. "You have to know what is important to fund."

"Hearing people's stories is interesting, hearing what motivates them," Beard added. "I think that the process of connecting with people does make it so much more meaningful."

With campaign conversations being so important, it makes sense that Birnbach reaches out to the donors he calls a week

or more in advance to schedule a time to talk. He knows that donors want to feel like they are getting value for their contribution and that they want to feel like they are dealing with someone they can trust. Birnbach, like the overwhelming majority of campaign callers, is not a salesperson.

"I would dare say that our that the folks that make the campaign calls on behalf of Federation are about as caring and trustworthy and motivated as they come," he said.

While calls are often made by the Federation's professional staff, quite a few are made by volunteers.

"The volunteers keep us connected to the community," Kahn said. "We are a small team and so we rely on our volunteers to help us expand our

reach, and they are truly our ambassadors."

While it is meaningful work, it's not easy to call people and ask for their hard-earned money.

"I think that it was uncomfortable at first. There has been a learning curve," Beard said of making those phone calls. "I'm getting more comfortable, and I think as you understand how important it is, it gets easier to ask people to contribute because you understand where the money is going and how important the work is."

As fall approaches, the campaign season really kicks into high gear. Birnbach, Beard, Kahn, and the rest of the Federation's campaign team hope you'll respond to those calls and emails, take the time to share your thoughts on what's important to you, ask questions

if you're wondering where donations go and, of course, give generously as you are able.

"It's a mitzvah to help others. Tzedakah is so important," Beard said, using the Hebrew word that's commonly translated to charity; Kahn pointed out that the root word of tzedakah is *tze-dek*, which translates to "justice."

Birnbach emphasized how important the broader Jewish community has been to his life and how he wants that to continue for those who come after him.

"I am here because our current donors, our current donors' parents and our current donors' grandparents invested in the community, and I'm the beneficiary of that," he said. "The community raised me, and I want to return the favor to the next generations."

Positive Charge PDX Celebration of Diversity is Aug. 26 at Q Center

Positive Charge! PDX, a nonprofit organization dedicated to amplifying kindness and building community, is thrilled to announce a special event celebrating the transformative power of books to cultivate awareness, understanding, and inclusion. Celebration of Diversity, organized by PC! PDX's Compassion Through Literature initiative, will take place Saturday, Aug. 26, 1-5 pm at the Q Center at 4115 N. Mississippi, Portland, Ore. The event will feature guest speakers, captivating performances, book giveaways (while supplies last), engaging activities for children, and refreshments – all free to the public. RSVPs are kindly requested at positivechargepdx.org/ctl-celebration, so plans can be made for book giveaways and snacks.

MIKVAH (continued from page 2)

luxury touches are incorporated throughout, as well as outdoorsy touches to give the modern design aesthetic a feeling of warmth and a little Oregon flair.

"We want people to be able to walk in and go, 'wow,'" Rabbi Perlstein said, "and when they come into the mikvah room, be completely blown away."

The practical benefits of a Salem mikvah extend well beyond Salem's borders. Rabbi Perlstein said he's received messages from regular mikvah users in Corvallis and Eugene who need to drive up to two hours to use a mikvah in Portland – when Salem's

mikvah opens, that time will be cut in half or more. But there's also a deeper spiritual value to the mikvah's presents that affects the entire community, not just those who use the mikvah.

"The whole concept of making something pure spiritually, is really beyond human comprehension. However, that act connects us the most to our tradition," Rabbi Perlstein said. "I think having it, whether it's used or not, brings a certain pride to Jewish practice."

For more information or to donate, contact Rabbi Perlstein at rabbi@chabadsalem.com.

ODYSSEY (continued from page 7)

Shaw appreciated the relationships she's built with children and their families through PJA's after-school programs and looks forward to doing the same as the moves over to the East Sylvan facility that houses Odyssey.

"[I like] sense of community that you get to build with spending time with kids in a non-academic environment, being able to support them after what could have been a really good or a bad day and just being that person that they can lean on," she said.

Those relationships have

been fundamental to more than three decades of PJA's after school programs.

"We really believe in forming relationships with the community; deep relationships with building principals, teaching staff, parents and community members, so that we can all share resources in supporting children," Bartlett said. "As a team of people who are there for them, that's really, really important to my staff."

To learn more or enroll in PJA's afterschool programs, visit pjaproud.org/prospective-families/afterschool.

Jewish teen philanthropy program kickoff set for Sept. 10 at EJC

What would you do with \$60,000 to help improve our community? Teens and guardians are invited to attend this interactive information session on Sunday, Sept. 10 from 3-5 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons to learn about the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation (OJCYF) and engage in community service. This award-winning youth philanthropy program offers teens the opportunity to serve on a nonprofit board that meets monthly during the school year to engage in tikkun olam. ("repairing the world") Participants identify needs in the community, put out a request for proposals, and, through site visits, learn about nonprofit organizations doing amazing work to improve the community. Youth board members also organize an annual benefit dinner that raises funds for the teens to allocate, using a Jewish lens, to local nonprofit organizations.

Hear from guest speaker

Roma Peyser of Transition Projects to learn about homelessness in our community and how this organization addresses this urgent issue and participate in a service project with immediate impact—assembling sack lunches for Transition Projects to provide to their residents.

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation is accepting applications to serve on the 2023-2024 youth board. Incoming ninth through 12th graders with a connection to Judaism are welcome to apply. Early bird registration runs through Sept. 10. Make a strong philanthropic impact in the greater Oregon & Southwest Washington community while gaining skills to become empowered, confident, and effective leaders who influence and drive change. Applications will be reviewed in the order received. Limited slots are available but filling up fast. For details, visit ojcf.org/programs/ojcyf or call 503-248-9328.



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Statement from Susan G. Koman on MORE THAN PINK scheduling

By JENIFER WEISS

Susan G. Komen's MORE THAN PINK Walk hosted in Portland, OR is being held on Saturday, September 16, 2023. It has come to my attention that I selected an event date that lands on an important holy day for our friends in the Jewish community. For this, please allow me to express my sincerest apologies. I am so sorry.

I deeply value all members of the breast cancer community and never want anyone to feel excluded. Thank you to all who have reached out to me and educated me about what this holiday means. I am grateful to you for using your voice.

My new friend, Michelle Caplan, Assistant Executive Director of Congregation Neveh Shalom has shared that Yom Kippur is a day about many things, including asking for forgiveness. This mistake was timely, and I truly appreciate your grace. Through our conversations we have also explored the opportunity to work closely this fall and plan to create a special Worship in Pink event in early 2024. More details to come but our aim will be to hold fellowship, provide breast health education, celebrate breast cancer survivors, recognize metastatic breast cancer thrivers, and memorialize our loved ones.

Jenifer Weiss is Executive Director for Northern California, Oregon and Washington for Susan G. Komen. She can be reached at jweiss@komen.org. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of The Jewish Review, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, or its staff.

Marc's Remarks On Family and Remembrance

By MARC BLATTNER

Allow me to share a personal story with you.

On my sabbatical, my family visited Amsterdam. I had never been there before and was focused on seeing the bicycles, canals, and making a visit to the Anne Frank House. But our time there turned into so much more.

My maternal grandfather's family was from Holland, although my grandfather was the first generation born in America. They were Sephardic Jews who we have records of being in Holland since the early 1700s and were probably originally from Spain. They lived in Gelderland (the family name was van Gelder), which is in the center-east of The Netherlands and the largest province by land area.

Before leaving on our trip, I asked my sister if she had a copy of the van Gelder family tree so I could learn more. And did I ever.

I do not recall ever being told that I had family members who perished in the Holocaust. My father's family was all in America by the early 1900s. My maternal grandmother's family came to America in the 1830s. And my maternal great-grandfather, Moses van Gelder (from Holland), was here before 1900. What I did not know is he had brothers and sisters who perished in the Holocaust at Auschwitz, Sobibor, and Mauthausen.

While in Amsterdam, we took a tour of the Jewish sites, including their meaningful and impressive outdoor Dutch Holocaust Memorial of Names. There are 102,000 bricks, each inscribed with a name of someone from Holland who died in the Holocaust,

as well as leaving 1,000 blank bricks that memorialize the unknown victims of the Holocaust. I was able to find multiple members of my family, including Moses's brother, Abraham van Gelder. I must say I was moved by all of this.

Following the Holocaust Memorial we had a scheduled tour of the Anne Frank House. Hopefully, you have read the Diary of Anne Frank. The secret annex is just as described in the book and there for you to see. You wonder in amazement how eight people lived there for 761 days until being discovered on August 4, 1944.

At the very end of the tour in the house, there was a sheet of paper on the wall. I am unsure why it caught my attention, but it did. It was the train transport list to Auschwitz that included the Frank family -- Anne is number 309. As I looked more closely and scrolled down the list, I got to number 332 -- Abraham van Gelder. Could my relative have been on the same train as Anne Frank?

Due to the record keeping of both the Nazis and the Dutch government, we know this is a different Abraham van Gelder. Sadly, however, both were murdered at Auschwitz.

I share this for a few reasons. First, this trip was a moving "family learning" experience. I never knew about my family and the Holocaust. Second, I realize even more the importance of educating ourselves and future generations on where our families came from. History and stories are too easily forgotten as the generations pass.

Marc Blattner is President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

Aug. 24: Cafe Shalom Israeli Folk Dancing

Weekly open Israeli dance session Thursdays, 8-10 pm at CHCC, 8936 SW 17th Ave in Portland. All experience levels and ages welcome. Enjoy dancing in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere of dancers at all levels. Learn new dances and practice favorites and classics from long ago. \$7. For more information, contact Allison Victor at allisuev@gmail.com.

Aug. 25: Community Connection on Zoom

Drop-in group hosted by Jewish Family & Child Service's Counseling Services Fridays at 10 am on Zoom. It is a space for anyone in the community to connect with others and share. Find Zoom link at jfcs-portland.org/services/counseling/.

Aug. 26: CNS Young Adults at Riverfront Park

Bring your friends (furry and otherwise) to join other Congregation Neveh Shalom Young Adults for Shabbat at Sellwood Riverfront Park Saturday, Aug. 26 from noon-3 pm for this fun afternoon in the sun! We'll have games, Israeli snacks and of course our special kosher lemonade! For more information, email lrchmond@nevehshalom.org.

Aug. 27: EJC Presents Family Shofar Making Workshop

EJC is very excited to have Rabbi Chaim Wilhelm and Mushka Wilhelm from Chabad of Northeast Portland present a Shofar making Workshop Sunday, Aug. 27, from 11 am-1 pm. Participants will help saw, drill, polish, and shellac a ram's horn to create a genuine kosher Shofar, as well as gain new insight and significance of the Shofar and its role during the High Holiday season. For ages 4-12. Suggested Donation \$5-\$8 sliding Scale per child, includes materials. Space is limited. More information at ejcpdx.org/events.

Aug. 27: Dignity Grows Packing Party

Volunteer to pack with our Dignity Grows chapter Sunday, Aug. 27 from 1-3pm at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Each Dignity Tote provides comprehensive monthly personal and menstrual hygiene products to women, girls, and individuals who menstruate but who cannot afford them. Registration required at jewishportland.org/dignitygrows. For more information, email Bonnie Newman at bngatorfan1015@gmail.com.

Aug. 27: Israeli Folk Dancing at SWCC

Enjoy Israeli folk dancing at the Southwest Community Center with session leader Rhona Feldman Sundays, 2:30-4 pm. More information at sites.google.com/site/pifdnews.

Aug. 28: East Side Minyan at Shir Tikvah

Prayer group for LGBTQ+ and allied Jews, meets Mondays at 7 am at Eastside Jewish Commons. Coffee provided; bring your own breakfast and siddur. For more information, email Erez Rubin at jemrubin@gmail.com

Aug. 28: Online Security Training – Stop the Bleed

Through Secure Community Network's Stop the Bleed course, offered Monday, Aug. 28 from 7-8 pm via Zoom, you'll gain the ability to recognize life-threatening bleeding and intervene effectively. Stop the Bleed is a national program, like Red Cross First Aid and CPR, designed to train people how to stop potentially fatal bleeding. This training is relevant to all aspects of our lives, outdoor recreation, household accidents, etc. You'll learn the concepts of wound pressure and packing skills and learn how to use a tourniquet on yourself and others. Register online for free at jewishportland.org/events/security-training. For more information, email janderson@

securecommunitynetwork.org.

Aug. 28: Israeli Folk Dancing at Leedy Grange

Enjoy Israeli folk dancing Mondays, 7:30 - 10:30pm with this friendly group in Cedar Mill (now in our 10th year). The session, run by Sue and Donna, starts with easier, classic dances and moves on to newer forms, couples' dances, line dances, and teaching, too. Find us on Facebook at "Israeli Folk Dancing in Portland, OR."

Aug. 29: Helping Your Child Manage Anxiety

The third in this four-part series, held on Zoom Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 7pm, will feature Dan Rothenberg, LCSW, discussing "Finding the Appropriate Mental Health Professional for Your Child." Learn to recognize the differences between a variety of therapy and life-coaching techniques to help parents find the right fit for their teen or young adult. Register for free at tinyurl.com/5kdzm652.

Aug. 30: Disability Empowerment Hour

Join Kiel Moses, Disability Support Services (DSS) specialist, and Zoe Muller, MSW, for this one-hour Zoom session, "Your Voice Matters," Wednesday, Aug. 30 at 1 pm. Participants 18+ who identify as disabled and their allies are invited to talk openly and honestly about your needs and DSS program desires, such as social events and outings, educational opportunities and skills trainings and services to best serve you. More information at jfcs-portland.org/DEH.

Sept. 1: JFCS Grief Connection

Grief affects every part of our lives and can be a lonely road to travel. Join us for our monthly grief-processing group for adults the first Friday of each month at 10 am on Zoom. In our virtual sessions, we will have the opportunity to share our own experiences with grief, connect with others, and learn

strategies for moving through loss. Sponsored by Jewish Federations of North America's Center for Holocaust Survivor Care and Institute on Aging and Trauma. For more information, visit jfcs-portland.org/grief-connection.

Sept. 3: OJMCHE Free First Sunday

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education offers free admission on the first Sunday of every month. Visit ojmche.org for information on current exhibits.

Sept. 5: Wondering Jews Podcast

Portland-based co-hosts Josh and Roy drop a new podcast at 6 am Tuesdays every two weeks focusing on Jews and cannabis. wonderingjewspodcast.com

Sept. 5: Helping Your Child Manage Anxiety Panel Discussion

Join us in person Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 7 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons for a chance to ask specific questions, connect with our presenters and other families managing similar challenges in small breakout groups, facilitated by Mel Berwin, Laura Cohen, and Dan Rothenberg. For more information, email mberwin@nevehshalom.org.

Sept. 7: Pre-Rosh Hashana Mega Challah Bake

Join us for an empowering Women's Challah Bake Thursday, Sept. 7 at 6:45 pm at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Come together with other incredible women to mix, knead, and shape dough while sharing stories and laughter. Unleash your creativity as we explore various braiding techniques, and end the evening with a sense of pride, accomplishment, and delicious homemade challah to take home. \$25 before Sept. 1, \$36 after. Register online at OregonMegaChallahBake.eventbrite.com

Obituaries

SHELDON SPIELMAN

Sheldon Spielman, MD, z”l died Sunday, Aug. 6, in the company of his family at Kaiser Permanente Sunnyside Medical Center.

Spielman was born to Leo and Lillian (Rosenberg) Spielman in 1931. A graduate of Case Western Reserve University and the New York University College of Medicine, this native New Yorker first came to the Northwest to visit a classmate practicing in Seattle. He moved his family to Portland the following year. Sheldon joined Kaiser’s OB-GYN program in 1966 and practiced there until his retirement in 1993. Dr. Spielman touched many lives, having delivered thousands of Oregonians there.

Known for his dry humor and retelling familiar jokes at the dinner table, Sheldon also loved opera and built fine furniture. An avid outdoorsman, he took his family hiking, fishing and backpacking all over Oregon, most of Washington and significant parts of Idaho and Montana.

Dr. Spielman is survived by his wife, Ruth (Lurie) Spielman; his children, Abbie Spielman, Deborah Spielman Fleming and Daniel Mark Spielman; and five grandchildren.

AUDREY ZALUTSKY

When Audrey Sara (Englehardt) Zalutsky z”l, “Nunni” to her family, moved from Chicago to Salem in 1960 with her husband, Morton Zalutsky, her mother, Augusta, in Schenectady, N.Y., pulled out her atlas to find it. “Oh, that is far,” she said, Chicago being the farthest west anyone in her family had ever lived. And while Audrey struggled to adapt to the rain that first year, soon she never wanted to live anywhere else than her beloved Portland.

Audrey passed away Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, at Washington Gardens Memory Care in Tigard, after a near 15-year battle with Alzheimer’s, with her beloved husband of 66 years, and her family at her side. Born April 9, 1935, in Schenectady, N.Y., to Augusta, a homemaker, and Samuel Englehardt, a lawyer, Audrey was a loving daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She met Mort while they were still in high school at a cousin’s birthday party, where the girls had to put one shoe in a basket for the boys to choose from.

Audrey loved dance and school, and excelled at both. She grew up surrounded by a large extended family, including her two brothers, Marvin and Carl. At Knott Terrace High School, she was the captain of the cheerleading team and a dancer and also one of the top students. Audrey majored in sociology at Skidmore College, where she was a member of the Periclean Society (Phi Beta Kappa) and continued to pursue her love of dance. After college, Audrey and Mort married and moved to Chicago, where he studied law at the University of Chicago and she worked as a secretary in a doctor’s office, and where Jane was born.

After law school, they moved to Salem, Ore., in 1960, where Diane was born. From the beginning of her life in Portland, Audrey was active at Congregation Neveh Shalom and the Jewish Community Center, teaching in the Sunday School and pre-school. She continued to dance with a local company as well. When their son, Sam, born in Portland, started grade school, Audrey returned to school at Portland State University to get her Master of Social Work in the early 70s.

Audrey was active in the Jewish community and a loyal supporter of the arts, especially Chamber Music Northwest and Portland Center Stage. She spent over 25 years as a medical social worker at Good Samaritan Hospital, counseling patients and families during and after their hospital stays. Whether in her professional or personal life, people always recognized Audrey’s warm personality and generous spirit.

For all of her obvious kindness Nunni was also fierce. Fiercely intelligent, fiercely moral, fiercely loyal. And she believed in her family and friends fiercely. She immersed her children in the arts because it brought her so much joy. She studied classical piano for many years and also studied painting. She was obsessed with the New York Times crossword puzzle, enjoyed trying new Portland restaurants, and had a strong sweet tooth, especially loving chocolate and ice cream. Her favorite activity was weekends on the Oregon Coast with Mort, where she could walk for hours.

She is survived by Mort, Jane Zalutsky and Mark Kantor of Cle Elum, Wash.; Diane Zalutsky Alexander and Kent Alexander of Atlanta; Sam Zalutsky and Ed Boland of New York City; grandchildren, Nicki and Kayla Alexander, and Josh and Lane Kantor, as well as her brother and sister-in-law, Carl and Kathy Englehardt of Niskiyuna, N.Y.; sister-in-law Sabra Englehardt of Boulder, Colo. Her beloved brother, Marvin Englehardt, predeceased her.

The funeral was held Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, at Congregation Neveh Shalom, led by Rabbi Eve Posen, with the burial at Ahavai Shalom cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Daughters Against Alzheimer’s (<https://www.daughtersagainstalz.org/>).

NEIL JABLON

Congregation Neveh Shalom regrets to inform you of the passing of Neal Jablon, z”l on Aug. 12, 2023. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Sheryl Jablon; his brother, Robert (Cara) Jablon; his children, Michelle (Randall Goldenberg) Iimori-Goldenberg, Marc (Tanya) Jablon, Keith (Holly) Jablon, Eric (Lissa) Bader, and Chelsea Jablon; and his grandchildren, Andrew, Brandon, Caitlin (Michael), Alyssa, Evan, Kada, Adam, Youki, Ava, and Dylan. His funeral was on Tuesday, August 15th in New York.

GLENN GRISWOLD

It is with sorrow that Congregation Kol Ami announces the death of Glenn Griswold, the brother-in-law of Anna and Steven Heffron. Glenn died Aug. 15 in New Hampshire. He was 72 years old. Our condolences to Anna and Steven as well as to their extended family.

Burial Societies

Portland has two holy societies of volunteers who prepare the deceased for burial according to Jewish tradition: Chevra Kavod haMet and the Portland Hevra Kaddisha.

For questions about end of life, death and mourning, email chevrakavodhamet@gmail.com, visit ChevraKavodHaMet.org, or contact Michael Rosenberg at the Portland Hevra Kaddisha at michael@cashcolan.com or 503-519-2454.

Submit obituaries to editor@jewishportland.org

Submit births, b’nai mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and landmark birthdays to editor@jewishportland.org.

Clergy Corner

In addition to the Chaplain’s Corner, *The Jewish Review* offers space for the community’s professional clergy to share their thoughts on the week’s parsha or current events. Rabbis are invited to schedule a date to submit a 500- to 600-word piece. For more information or to request a date, email editor@jewishportland.org.