

COVID vaccine offers hope on CSP campus

BY DEBORAH MOON

On Dec. 29, 114 people on the Cedar Sinai Park campus received their first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Those receiving vaccines included 65 CSP staff and 49 residents in the four households of the Harold Schnitzer Center for Living and post-acute care patients in Robison Jewish Health Center. They received their second dose Jan. 19.

"It was like crossing a threshold of having hope that things could get to a normal state," says Robison Administrator Krista Mattox.

"There is light," is how CSP CEO Kimberly Fuson describes the new atmosphere. She adds that even with the vaccine, indoor family visits won't resume immediately; those are dependent on metrics in the state and

county. But, she says, staff and residents are "Happy, glad and absolutely hopeful."

Mattox says that only those with autoimmune issues who are not recommended to receive the vaccine declined it. In addition, a few residents could not be vaccinated at the first clinic because of the short timeline. The pharmacy that contracts with Robison for services, Consonus Pharmacy, told CSP on Dec. 22 that a clinic could be scheduled Dec. 29. Doses must be administered within six hours of being removed from low temperature and mixed.

Mattox says that gave the facility one day to educate residents on their decision so they could provide consent in time to schedule the first dose.

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Tawny Souza (Director of Rehabilitation) was the first person at Cedar Sinai Park to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Community support arises in wake of vandalism

BY DEBORAH MOON

The convergence of the economic and health crises caused by COVID and the rise of extremism have pummeled local restaurants and small businesses this year. In response, a Shop Local movement seeks to keep those businesses viable (see box, page 3).

Recent vandalism at three Middle Eastern/Israeli-style restaurants in Portland and a Black-owned restaurant in Salem have exacerbated the hardship for the eateries.

"Generally, as the social justice movement has risen, the pushback from hate groups has been stronger," says Jonathon Jones, who owns Epilogue

Kitchen and Cocktails in Salem. He adds that President Trump's support of white supremacists makes "them feel it's OK."

Jones says stickers clearly identifiable as related to the Patriot Front were posted in the area around his restaurant Dec. 20. Earlier in the fall,

the No Place for Hate sign in his restaurant window was spray-painted over. On New Year's Day, a crowd that included Proud Boys gathered at the state Capitol to protest COVID restrictions. Far-right marchers from that gathering clashed with a group protecting his restaurant entrance. Jones said he recognized a man in the crowd who had threatened him over the past few months.

For businesses perceived as being connected to the Jewish community, threats come from both far-right Neo-Nazi groups and the far-left Boycott, Divest, Sanction movement that targets Israel.



Graffiti at Portland restaurants included these messages plus "Free Palestine," "Falafelis from Palestine," "Eat anywhere else" and others.

See **VANDALISM**, page 3

OJMCHE fortifies Teach & Learn resources

BY DEBORAH MOON

The pandemic has made many aspects of education more difficult this past year. But it gave Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education staff precious time to develop online resources to support Holocaust and genocide education, which Senate Bill 664 mandated to begin with the 2020-21 school year.

Though the mandated education was set to launch last fall, “There is not the expectation to fulfill all learning standards during remote teaching,” says OJMCHE Director of Education Amanda Coven. “There is a realization that emotional support and well-being is a priority and with the combination of reduced class time and lessons just taking longer to do virtually, it’s impossible to meet all learning standards.”

That delay in implementation combined with the museum being closed during the pandemic has given OJMCHE time to develop a robust [Teach & Learn section](#) on the museum’s website ([ojmche.org](#)). The website includes [resources](#) and [curriculum](#).

“I’d definitely say there is a silver lining to all of this,” says Amanda. “If we had been open and facilitating tours, the education department would not have had the time to create the resources we just released and will continue to. The pandemic has provided us the opportunity to develop some really great materials and experiences ac-



OJMCHE has made one of its core permanent exhibits, “Discrimination and Resistance, An Oregon Primer,” available as a digital experience for schools around the state.

cessible to any educator, but especially those who never would have had the opportunity to visit the museum or memorial with their students.”

The site features a virtual tour of the Oregon Holocaust Memorial in Washington Park, so teachers can now visit the memorial with their students from anywhere. The virtual tour can be engaged with as a class or explored independently. A free teacher’s guide includes anticipatory questions, a graphic organizer for students, a classroom discussion guide, and extension resources and lessons.

In addition, the museum’s core permanent exhibit, “Discrimination and Resistance, An Oregon Primer,” is now available as a digital experience. Designed to mirror the physical exhibi-

tion, the digital experience provides students the opportunity to interact with the exhibition’s content in an engaging format. The museum is also creating a digital experience of “The Holocaust, An Oregon Perspective,” which should be available later this year.

In the past week, four schools have requested the Discrimination and Resistance Digital Experience, virtual tours of the Oregon Holocaust Memorial, or virtual classroom visits in which Amanda facilitates a lesson with students.

Amanda says the pandemic’s closure of the museum’s indoor physical space “has given us the ability to expand our outreach in meaningful ways. I’m always delightfully surprised when I see educators registering for our professional developments that work outside of the Portland Metro area. Fortunately, this seems to be happening more and more!”

“We’ve done really well with relevant professional development, so we’re going to continue to offer those on a more frequent and continuous basis,” says Amanda. “Many of the professional developments in February-May are not posted yet.”

One upcoming professional development workshop, Law and (Dis)Order: Legalizing Discrimination and Civic Responsibility, will give teachers

lessons they can share with students who want to enter the 2021 Jakob and Sala Kryszek Art and Writing Competition.

On Jan. 27, educators can learn about and examine 40 of the more than 400 anti-Jewish decrees and regulations during the Holocaust and discuss how the legal system can perpetuate or prevent discrimination, persecution and genocide.

This year’s prompt for the Writing and Art Contest asks students to reflect on Holocaust history and create a piece of writing or work of visual art that considers the role that laws played in the discrimination against and persecution and genocide of Jewish people, and the importance of civic responsibility and engagement. The competition is open to middle and high school students. The submission deadline is March 19.

“We adapted the contest last year due to COVID-19 and have done the same this year,” says Amanda. “We’re requesting entries be submitted digitally, but in the event that technology is not available, students can mail their work to the museum.”

For details, visit [ojmche.org/teach-learn/sala-kryszek-art-writing-competition/](#).

OJMCHE will also host its first summer educator workshop and a series on human rights and justice in the classroom.

What OJMCHE means to educators:

Nathalia Parra, Portland Adventist Academy: *OJMCHE means hope to me. Hope that our students will begin to be taught in a more inclusive and honest way, that our bias and comfortable views on the world can begin to shift in ourselves to then empower our students correctly.*

John Cornet, Phoenix High School: *We today see preconditions that could lead to genocidal thinking emerging around the world ... the museum shines a spotlight on that spread of intolerance, allowing people to see where dangers may lurk rather than remaining blind to or subconsciously conforming to them.*

Kassie Evans Halpin, Edison High School: *The center is able to address all aspects of prejudice, discrimination and fear due to age, disability, ethnicity, origin, political belief, race, religion, sex or gender, sexual orientation, language, culture, abilities, neurodiversity and other individual factors. This education is vital to acceptance of diversity.*

VANDALISM (from page 1)

Aviv and two locations of Shalom Y'all were vandalized with "Free Palestine" graffiti Jan. 10-11. Both restaurants serve hummus, falafel and other Middle Eastern foods often associated with Israel but have removed "Israeli" from their signs in recent months.

Two days after Aviv's recent move to its new location in the Pearl (100 NW 10th Ave.), the graffiti was spray-painted on the restaurant. Aviv offers vegan Middle Eastern fare including its vegan shawarma fries, which have been popular since they were introduced at the food cart that grew into Aviv.

In 2020, chef Kasey Mills, Jamal Hassan and Laura Amans set out to create the Sesame Collective restaurant group. Sesame Collective restaurants include [Mediterranean Exploration Company](#), [Shalom Y'all](#), [Yalla](#) and [Bless Your Heart Burgers](#).

"On Sunday, Jan. 10, Sesame Collective restaurants Shalom Y'all Eastside (117 SE Taylor) and Westside (1128 SW Alder) were vandalized with graffiti," reads a statement released by the company. "We are incredibly disheartened by these actions. We are committed to operating inclusive spaces, and do

not tolerate messages of hate or racism in any form."

The Portland Police Bureau is investigating the incidents as hate crimes and has also been in contact with the Portland FBI office, reports Regional Security Director Gene Moss. Two of the locations had video of the two suspects, who appear to be female and are dressed in all dark clothing with their faces covered.

Moss urges people to report anti-Semitic incidents on the new security page he has developed on the JFGP website: jewishportland.org/security.

In Portland and Salem, restaurant owners expressed hope.

"We are so thankful for the outpouring of support we have received from the community over the last 24 hours," continues the Shalom Y'all statement. "We encourage you to help us in supporting the [Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crime](#)."

Jones says the Salem community is likewise rallying to support minority-owned businesses.

"A lot of the community is saying 'enough is enough,'" says Jones. "I feel hopeful of where it is going – people are becoming aware it is a problem."

Jews of Color survey announced

The Jews of Color Initiative, a nonprofit founded in response to U.S.-based racism in and outside of the Jewish community, has commissioned a major research study to understand the lived experiences and perspectives of Jews of Color nationwide.

This survey is an opportunity for JoC to share how we think about Jewish identity, how systemic racism has shaped our experiences, how we want the Jewish community to better reflect the diversity of U.S. Jews and more. The study, which is housed at Stanford University, is designed to draw on the lived

experiences of JoC to raise awareness, shape pedagogy, inform policy and contribute to strategic action.

"Jews of Color" might refer to Jews who identify as Black and/or African American, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander American, Latin(x) and/or Multiracial American. Some Sephardim (Jews of Spanish or Portuguese descent) and Mizrahim (Jews of Middle Eastern or African descent) self-identify as Jews of Color, as well.

For more information and to participate in the survey, visit JoCSurvey.org.

Shop Local/Eat Local

The Jewish Community Relations Council, as part of the United in Spirit coalition, recently met with Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler to discuss ways the coalition's faith-based and civic groups can support the city. His message was quite simple and clear – shop locally! The following organizations and websites provide information about small, local businesses that offer online options and in-store pickup, or local-owned restaurants offering takeout.

Portland Business Alliance/Downtown Portland

Clean & Safe: downtownportland.org/were%20open

Travel Portland: travelportland.com/attractions/shop-local/

PDX SOS: pdxsos.com

Mercatus/Buy Native:

builtoregon.shop/collections/my-peoples-market

Shop Small PDX (Prosper's campaign): shopsmallpdx.com

History of LGBTQ+ hate Jan. 21

In this time of national and local reckoning with our country and city's grim legacy of discrimination and hate, a broad coalition of friends and allies have created a series of public programs to confront hate.

On Jan. 21 at 7 pm, join the local Jewish and LGBTQ+ communities on Zoom for "Uncovering the Hidden History of Anti-LGBTQ+ Discrimination in Oregon" presented by PrideNW and GLAPN.

Launched by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Confronting Hate is an effort by a coalition of minority and faith groups. We are hosting "monthly" webinars representing people who have historically – and continually – been the targets of discrimination and hatred in Oregon. These webinars are presented by a broad group of organizations and speakers in our greater Portland community. This will culminate in a half-day virtual summit on May 26 on Confronting Hate, which will explore current issues around systemic racism, the mainstreaming of anti-Semitism and related topics.

We have been reminded almost daily that our communities of color, immigrants and LGBTQ persons, as well as many of our neighbors of various religious faiths, are frequent targets of vicious hatred. Nevertheless, we have also seen seeds of hope. We have witnessed an upsurge of people ready to stand in solidarity with those who are targets of discrimination and hate – people who are eager to listen, to learn and to take action to make Portland a place that truly protects the lives, well-being and dignity of all who live here.

Register at: jewishportland.org/uncovering-the-hidden-history-of-anti-lgbtq-discrimination-in-oregon

JCRC supports Muslim community in letter

This letter was written after consultation with the JCRC leadership and partners in the Muslim community.

Dear Board of Clackamas County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the central philanthropic and advocacy body of the local organized Jewish community, I am writing to express our profound dismay and alarm over the Islamophobic, xenophobic and racist remarks newly elected Commissioner Mark Shull has posted on Facebook over the last year and a half ([see story](#) on Oregon Live). His statements denigrating Muslims, immigrants and others are appalling; any individual who holds such racist beliefs is simply not fit to serve in any public office. We therefore call on Mr. Shull to issue a public apology and make an earnest effort to engage with the Muslim community (through organizations such as the Muslim Educational Trust) or otherwise submit his immediate resignation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely, *Bob Horenstein*

Director of Community Relations and Public Affairs

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

February is Jewish Disability Advocacy Month

BY DEBORAH MOON

Jewish Disability Advocacy Month 2021 kicks off at 7 pm, Feb. 3, with “Our Time, Our Fight,” featuring world-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman. The monthlong series of virtual programs will feature a wide variety of opportunities for empowerment, education and advocacy.

Jewish Federations of North America is bringing together partners from across the continent “to harness our collective power to break down barriers to opportunity and inclusion. Join us in helping advance policy that empowers individuals with disabilities to achieve maximum independence.”

Following three weeks of virtual educational and community-building experience, the month culminates in a week of action and advocacy. The official hashtag for the month is #JDAM.

Each week in February will feature programs centered around a theme: Week 1: Empowerment; Week 2: Breaking Barriers; Week 3: Creating Opportunity; and Week 4: Disability Rights are Civil Rights: Advocacy Week. To learn about the programs and to register, go to jewishtogether.org/jdam.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Jewish Family & Child Service are promoting the month on their social media feeds.

Portland has a long history of promoting inclusion of people with disabilities. In 1997, a group of parents and community members gathered to discuss the lack of support and Jewish opportunities for children with learning, developmental or physical differences. The next year, JFGP provided a grant to create TASK, the disabilities awareness program of JFCS. Treasuring, Accepting, Supporting Kehilla (community) has shifted from aiding families of children with special needs to supporting individuals of all ages and families coping with disabilities, and raising awareness of and inclusion of people with disabilities. TASK was instrumental in the 2013 creation of Kehillah Housing, apartments for adults with special needs.

Janet Menashe became TASK inclusion specialist in 2016 after the retirement of



Former Jewish Review Photographer Bonnie/Basha Rothstein Brewer took this photograph of violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman performing with the Oregon Symphony circa 1993. This year, Jewish Disability Advocacy Month 2021 kicks off a month of virtual programs with a program featuring a conversation with the famed violinist, who overcame struggles as a polio survivor and Jewish émigré.

Corrine Spiegel, who led TASK for its first 18 years.

“JFCS is dedicated to supporting the disabled community, and we will soon be expanding our services to better include children and families,” says JFCS Executive Director Ruth Scott.

This month, TASK launched a support group for parents who have children and adults with disabilities. The second virtual meeting will be 7:30 pm, Jan. 27. To receive a link for the group, email Janet to register at janetmenashe@jfcs-portland.org.

“Often friends and family feel uncomfortable dealing with people who have special needs,” says Janet. “There are lots of people in the community with disabilities, and they want to be treated as anybody else is treated.”

Despite TASK’s long history in Portland, Janet says people with disabilities often feel “swept under the rug.” She notes adults with disabilities can have a hard time finding jobs. During the pandemic, the feeling of isolation has increased. And children with special needs are struggling with online school.

LOCAL RESOURCE

TASK helps individuals with disabilities and their families by:

- Providing family and individual consultations on disabilities and available resources
- Hosting trainings on critical topics – child development, communication, guardianship, conservatorship, job support, government benefits and teaching children with special needs
- Assisting youth, adults and their families in planning for transitions
- Engaging adults in our popular social-recreational group (Tikvah)
- Teaching people with disabilities how to advocate for themselves
- Offering an array of community information and referrals as the co-founder of the Interfaith Disabilities Network of Oregon.

jfcs-portland.org/services/disability-support-services

Series helps parents find balance

Last summer and fall, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Jewish Family & Child Services and PJ Library Portland offered a series of virtual conversations to help parents make informed decisions about education during the COVID pandemic.

As things continue to evolve, JFGP has reconstructed the series to help parents find balance in changing times. At 8 pm, Jan. 25, Zoom into the series to learn what elementary schools in our community are doing to prepare for the potential of school buildings reopening in February and how they have been running school this

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year. The program will also explore the mental health impacts for our students and families.

The program will feature Jessica Swindle, principal, Metzger Elementary School; Merrill Hendin, principal, Portland Jewish Academy; Aviel Brodtkin, principal, Maayan Torah Day School; and Dinah Gilburd, LCSW, JFCS.

Sign up at jewishportland.org/elementaryschool.

For more information, contact JFGP Director of Educational Initiatives Rachel Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org.

VIRTUALLY *limitless*

JANUARY 24 - 25, 2021
1-3 PM ET

All women in our community are invited to participate in the International Lion of Judah Conference on January 24 and 25. Together, women from around the world will hear from leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs. Be inspired.

Register Now:

www.lionconference.org/program

Virtual Mission to Washington

UNITING TO SECURE
A BRIGHT JEWISH FUTURE
FEBRUARY 1-2, 2021

Join the Jewish Federations of North America February 1 and February 2 for its first ever national Jewish Virtual Mission to Washington, DC. Meet with the leadership (both parties) of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Appropriations Committee, and those involved with funding for nonprofit security

Register Now:

<https://form.jotform.com/203346596231051>

Finding Quality Humans

BY DEBORAH MOON

Jewish educator and award-winning, singer-songwriter Justin Jude Carroll created the Quality Human podcast to explore “What does it mean to be a good person?”

The recent challenges of life in a pandemic coming after five years recovering from a traumatic brain injury prompted Justin to ponder “What makes

On Episode Zero, Justin explained his vision: “Here on the podcast we’ll talk to artists, musicians, novelists, clergy, journalists, innovators and teachers. We’ll explore the work they do, their personal values and their efforts to live those values each day. My hope is that you’ll gain something valuable, something you can use in your daily life, from each episode.”

Initially, he reached out to people he knew professionally or personally (so his first guests were Jewish or in the arts world). But since the initial episodes, people he doesn’t know have been very receptive to coming on as guests.

“Guests have had their interests piqued by what we are trying to do,” he says. “In times like these, people are really open to it.”



Justin Jude Carroll presents Quality Human Podcast, available on Apple Podcasts & Spotify. quality-human.com

a good life?” In 2015, Justin was in New Orleans visiting old friends when a staircase to an outdoor balcony they were on collapsed. Justin suffered a broken leg and closed head injury, which limited the amount of time he could read or look at a screen. While he focused on recovering, he had to scale back his performance schedule.

Justin launched the podcast in September after he left his position as preschool music educator at Portland Jewish Academy to provide stability for his children. Ariel, 13, and Matan, 9, are doing distance learning at home during COVID restrictions; Nava, 4, attends preschool. His wife, Dr. Keren Rosenblum, an OB-GYN, has a busy schedule during COVID.

Justin has recorded eight interviews that investigate “How do we maintain balance amidst COVID and all of life’s demands.” He has interviewed civil rights attorney Jon Feinberg, author Anna Solomon, Rabbi Eve Posen and Broadway actor Rodney Hicks. He is committed to hosting guests from all backgrounds (racial, ethnic, sexual orientation) and all walks of life.

The podcasts are wide ranging but almost always touch on parenting and creativity.

In Episode 1, Justin and Neveh Shalom Associate Rabbi Posen discuss the ongoing project of reinterpretation – how we look back at our holy texts, traditions and assumptions, and by doing so, how we look forward. Rabbi Posen is the co-author, with Lois Shenker, of *Pirkei Imahot: The Wisdom of Mothers, the Voices of Women*.

His conversation with Anna Solomon, author of the Purim-based novel *The Book of V*, likewise explores the voices of women. He says they explore questions such as “How do we tell stories?” And “Who gets to decide what the story is?”

“I’ve learned so much from these guests, from wellness practices to creative techniques to deep lessons in how Jewish values sustain us in difficult times,” he says.

Justin and Keren moved from St. Louis to Portland 17 years ago when Keren began her residency at OHSU. The family are members of Havurah Shalom. He has performed or taught as a song leader at many of Portland’s synagogues.



Cedar Sinai Park staff waiting for their turn to be vaccinated flash V for Victory over COVID-19, V for the Vaccine for COVID-19.

VACCINE (from page 1)

Those who missed that deadline received their first vaccine Jan. 19 and will get the second on Feb. 9.

Rose Schnitzer Manor assisted-living residents are due to get vaccinated in February. RSM contracts with Omnicare’s CVS pharmacy, which has not yet set a date for when vaccines will be available there.

“It’s a different set of logistics for assisted living,” says Fuson, noting CVS staff will administer the vaccines in a central location at RSM.

At Robison and the households, CSP nursing staff vaccinated residents in their rooms, and staff queued up socially distanced in the hall to receive their vaccine.

“We were enjoying the day,” says Fuson. “They had a boom box in the vaccination room and there was some dancing between vaccines – the spray bottles (cleaning the surfaces) were doing the hustle.”

“I am really proud of the Robison team,” says Fuson. “The team has been extremely resil-

ient ... every nuance of the pandemic is new. The CSP team’s response has been a testament to who they are as people and their commitment to the Jewish people.”

Robison Director of Nursing Shannon Freeman, RN, likewise praised the nursing staff, calling them “amazing and supportive.”

Only two people had mild negative reactions to the first dose of vaccine. One had a mild headache and one a mild fever.

“It feels like getting a tetanus shot,” says Freeman.

She encourages everyone eligible to get the vaccine as soon as they are able and if concerned to do your research to feel comfortable. Though masking and social distancing will be required for some time, vaccines will eventually allow the country to return to a more normal existence.

When you get vaccinated, you will receive a vaccination card.

“Do not lose it,” says Freeman. “It is your ticket to freedom.”

Women's Giving Circle connects with beneficiaries

BY DEBORAH MOON

At a Jan. 12 Zoom meeting, the Women's Giving Circle of Portland experienced a condensed version of a Hillel program they have helped fund as they prepare to consider a new round of grants for the coming year.

The giving circle awarded 18 grants totaling \$60,465 in its first three years, including just one grant of \$18,000 last year to the Jewish Greater Portland Together COVID-19 Relief Fund after the pandemic struck. For 2021-22, the circle will grant \$28,000 (see box for application information).

"Times are weird, but we can support programming, and we want to put it (our funds) to work," said Jessica Zutz Hilbert, who co-chairs the Women's Giving Circle with Felicia Rosenthal. The grant application notes: We hope that one of these grants might allow your organization to fill an unmet need as you face unprecedented challenges this year.

An Oregon Hillel staffer and three students shared the impact that past grants and the resulting programs have had on them and Oregon Hillel at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. The four then led the women in an exercise they had intended to use at the third annual Hillel Women's Retreat, which was canceled by statewide "stay home" orders last spring. The Women's Giving Circle funded Hillel's first two retreats in 2018 and 2019, as well as Rosh Chodesh gatherings for two years. Rosh Chodesh, the day that marks the arrival of each new Jewish month, is often celebrated as a women's holiday.

"Helping plan the first women's retreat was the most impactful of my college experiences – socially, spiritually and mental-health wise," said Alexa Singer, an OSU senior. "It helped guide me to a leadership role and helped me connect with a lot of strong women."

UO Senior Sarah Birch, who says Hillel has been a big part of her college experience, agrees that the women's retreat, which brings together Hillel women from both campuses, has been her most impactful experience.

OSU senior Rachel Polasky says she has experienced true heart-to-heart connections at the retreats and Rosh Chodesh gatherings. "The experience of leading women's retreat gave me the confidence to pursue leadership – even beyond Hillel," says Rachel, who this year is president of the 200+ member Society of Women Engineers on the OSU campus.

The third retreat was expected to focus on identity. The Hillel guests led the women's circle through two of the planned exercises from that canceled event. Alexa, Sarah, Rachel and OSU Director of Jewish Educa-



The Women's Giving Circle of Portland members meet staff and students from Oregon Hillel to learn about the Women's Retreats and Rosh Chodesh gatherings they have funded.

GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE FEB. 15, 2021

The Jewish Federation's Women's Giving Circle is now accepting applications for its 2021-2022 grant-making cycle. The circle funds programs and initiatives with a focus on women and girls (including transgender), justice and Jewish continuity.

VIRTUAL ZOOM SITE VISITS: April 12 and April 19

AWARD DATE: June 7, 2021

TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE: \$28,000

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS: \$1,000-\$5,000

APPLY: jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/womens-philanthropy/womens-giving-circle

tion & Spirituality Rachel Chodorow-Reich each met in a breakout room with about four women's circle participants. In honor of Tu B'Shevat, the new year for trees, the women were invited to share what parts of their life as a seed, sapling and sequoia they wanted to nourish.

When the breakout rooms reconvened, each woman completed the sentence, "One way I want to nourish part of my identity during Shabbat (or this month) is to ..."

Replies included cook, work out, find work-life balance, phone friends more often, explore or connect with nature, play more and stretch my mind.

Women's circle member Sharon Pollin shared an idea that Rachel C-R called "brilliant."

Sharon says she created a Bingo card/chart for herself that reflects what activities are important to her and how many times each week she wants to touch each activity.

This year, Oregon Hillel hopes to host a virtual women's retreat, drawing on the

model of ReJewvenation, an annual women's retreat held at B'nai B'rith Camp that went virtual last fall. Oregon Hillel will also draw on its experiences hosting monthly Zoom gatherings for Rosh Chodesh.

Rachel C-R said Zoom life has been a silver lining of the pandemic. "We can integrate more people. We can do Rosh Chodesh with UO and OSU and alumni on Zoom." She said next month, they also plan to invite students from Portland State University and Lewis & Clark College to join the Zoom gathering.

Felicia thanked the Hillel women for "making this a rich experience for all of us." She thanked the women for all they do and added, "We await with bated breath your contribution to this community."

"They need to join the Women's Giving Circle," added Mia Birk, who had joined Felicia two years ago for the site visit to Oregon Hillel to assess their grant application. Mia is the immediate past cochair of the giving circle.

Portlanders tapped for ADL leadership institute

Four Portlanders have been invited to join the 2021 Cohort of the Glass Leadership Institute of the Anti-Defamation League. The ADL Pacific Northwest region has expanded its Glass Leadership Institute to include Portland with its traditional Seattle class.

Portlanders Sarah E. Rohr, Lauren Gold Miller, Emily Fullerton and Jules Prow will join participants from western Washington to form this year's 18-member virtual cohort.

GLI empowers the next generation of leaders committed to ADL's mission with the tools to fight anti-Semitism and hate and build a just and inclusive society. The first virtual session of the nine-month program will be later this month. Due to the ongoing pandemic, sessions will be virtual until further notice.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to be equipped with a broader advocacy tool kit from the Anti-Defamation League," says Sarah, a local writer and artist who sits on the Jewish Community Relations Council. JCRC Director Bob Horenstein recommended Sarah apply for the Glass Institute. Glass graduate Matthew Kahl, who serves as a representative for the ADL on the Intergroup Outreach Committee of the JCRC, provided a recommendation for Sarah.

Emily Fullerton is an attorney in Portland focusing on general and commercial civil litigation at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt. "I've been actively trying to expand my pro bono and com-



Local Glass Leadership Institute cohort, from left, Sarah Rohr, Jules Prow, Emily Fullerton and (not pictured) Lauren Gold Miller.

munity activism efforts, and the mission of the GLI struck me as an opportunity to grow my knowledge and skill set to do my part to identify hate in my community and fight back."

Jules Prow is a global program manager at Columbia Sportswear Company and is a board member for Jews Next Dor, Congregation Beth Israel's young adult group. CBI Executive Director Josh Kashinsky encouraged her to apply.

"I want to expand my horizons and involvement in supporting a more fair and equitable community," says Jules. "I am looking forward to joining a peer-led group that is committed to combating hatred and building tolerance."

Lauren Gold Miller is an associate principal at Korn Ferry, a global organizational consulting firm, helping clients synchronize strategy and talent. Lauren earned a bachelor's in psychology from Portland State University and a Master of Arts in community leadership and philanthropy studies from Hebrew University.

Young leaders of all back-

grounds in their mid-20s through their early 40s participate in this nine-month interactive program that gives young professionals an inside look into ADL's work on a broad range of topics, including civil rights advocacy, domestic extremism and building bridges with diverse communities to fight bias and discrimination. Glass participants are chosen based on their demonstrated leadership qualities, as well as their interest in and commitment to social justice.

"Given the horrific displays of anti-Semitism currently on full display both locally and nationally, the work of the Anti-Defamation League is a critical part of the effort to stop the spread of disinformation and hate," says Emily. "I hope to learn more about the strategies and resources available for all individuals who want to protect the rights of others to be free from discrimination and violence, and in particular how I can use my legal background to participate in that effort."

Sarah says the timing of adding Portland to the co-

hort is very appropriate given Portland's nightly protests in the wake of George Floyd's murder. The Portland protests against racism and police brutality drew white nationalists to the community, requiring trained responses. She sees the ADL and the local JCRC heeding this rising tide of hate to advocate on behalf of the safety of our Jewish community and the BIPOC communities that we stand with as allies and friends.

"I'm looking forward to working with a local cohort, as we will get to take our learnings and directly apply them here in Portland and around the state," says Sarah. "Nationalism and the manifestation of bigoted behaviors have received far too much attention; it's time for a moral accounting on a local, national and global level. As a local activist, I am grateful for the hard work being put in on all those levels, by public officials, by educators, by clergy, by concerned citizens, and those whose aim is to eradicate the practice of 'othering' by opening minds to what connects us, our common and enduring humanity, our ability to make beauty, our capacity to empathize and self-express, and the noble desire to empower one another."

Jules adds, "I am very interested in getting involved in ADL's educational programs and helping corporations expand their diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives."

For more information visit <https://seattle.adl.org/gli/>.

COVID-19 outreach team receives funding through June

The Congregation Neveh Shalom COVID-19 Outreach and Services team has received funding from Oregon Health Authority to continue social services through June 2021.

CNSCOS is hosting drive-through COVID-19 testing events at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. We'll be offering both RAPID and PCR tests for free. Tests are limited, so you MUST register. Sign up for a testing slot between 12:30 and 2:30 pm on [February 14](#) or 8 Jewish Review Jan. 20, 2021

[March 14](#). You MUST be registered to receive a test. For help, call 971-990-5652 or email covid19@nevehshalom.org.

Since August 2020, CNSCOS has been providing aid to individuals in the Portland metropolitan area. CNSCOS provides aid to anyone affected by COVID-19, but the type of aid depends on whether an individual has tested positive or not. If you've tested positive and need to quarantine, we can provide financial assistance for

expenses such as lodging and groceries during the quarantine period. If you've been affected indirectly, such as through a job loss, we can help you find and navigate the wide variety of existing financial resources.

CNSCOS also has hosted community outreach clinics to provide drive-through flu shot and COVID-19 testing at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and virtual Q&A live sessions with local experts. The team also sends out a weekly

newsletter with pandemic-related news, updates and tips for navigating a COVID-19 world (in 2021, the newsletter will be published twice per month). To stay updated, subscribe to the newsletter at tinyurl.com/CNSCOS-Subscribe.

[Nevehshalom.org/covid19/](https://nevehshalom.org/covid19/) has more information about our team and program, past editions of our newsletter, and helpful financial, medical and mental health resources. All communications are confidential.

PEARLS is antidote to loneliness in pandemic

BY JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

"Tired," "sick," "alone," even "erased." This is how counseling clients of Jewish Family & Child Service have described their pandemic-induced loneliness to Misy Fry, LCSW.

Being lonely and isolated is difficult any day. Now as we round the corner to the one-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic's onset, loneliness and isolation might be running more rampant than the virus itself.

This is particularly true with the majority of JFCS's clients, folks who skew older than 60 and live alone, or who face barriers to regular social interaction, says Fry, a licensed clinical social worker at JFCS.

"They describe being down and uninterested in things, without access to their normal activities," she says of many of the nonprofit's clients. For some of them, this is their first time seeking help.

They've told Fry throughout the pandemic, "I don't even know what to do with myself."

Fry says a client recently shared that he didn't even recognize himself from his own photographs.

JFCS's health-care professionals emphasize that help is available, positive experiences can abound, and that since they also are experiencing isolation, they can empathize more than ever before with their clients who are hurting. One special program that communicates all this and more is PEARLS.

The Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives offers eight counseling

sessions over about six months. PEARLS is not new to JFCS, but much of its format is. Visits used to take place in clients' homes; they now occur online or over the phone, says Caitlin DeBoer, JFCS mental health social worker and emergency aid program manager.

After the advent of COVID-19, JFCS and Multnomah County identified that primary challenges for individuals were isolation and disconnection from mental health services. The county was able to reinstate funding for the program through the end of the fiscal year. JFCS also gained access to the federal CARES Act to provide stopgap services.

"When I think about loneliness, at its core it's missing social connections," Fry says. PEARLS is a key antidote.

Fry explains the importance of focusing on the present (as opposed to, say, a difficult childhood) and problem-solving during counseling sessions.

DeBoer, who was PEARLS' main lead throughout 2020, says that breaking down issues into "small, bite-sized pieces" helps people believe they have agency over problems and can regain a sense of control within a larger experience that feels out of control.

For example, DeBoer will ask her clients, "What *can* you do even if you cannot control the pandemic?"

Cleaning house, calling friends and family, getting fresh air are some answers to this question. In fact, activity planning is part

of PEARLS' agenda, which also includes gently pushing oneself toward setting obtainable goals, self-care, physical and social well-being and more.

Fry says she expected clients in 2020 to request more than PEARLS' eight sessions. While a few did, she says it's been so gratifying that most make important progress within the standard program. "Eight sessions make an impact," she says.

DeBoer emphasizes that it's paramount to acknowledge that we're all going through a period of collective trauma and to consistently check in with ourselves, such as asking oneself, "How am I feeling in my body, emotionally and physically? Am I sad, stressed?"

Just as PEARLS' core is about forging human connections, DeBoer urges people generally to reach out to one another frequently. "The act of doing that alone make us feel good and feel good about ourselves. It's a way to support ourselves," she says.

Feeling gratitude for things we never used to acknowledge is a way forward, too, "Even if it's the smallest things, like noticing it's now lighter out for more minutes of the day," Fry says.

DeBoer adds, "We want to be empowering and not invalidating."

For more information about JFCS' PEARLS program, contact Stephanie Lee at slee@jfcs-portland.org.

With a master's in journalism from UC Berkeley, Jenn Director Knudsen has been a reporter and editor since 1997.

ART presents *The Berlin Diaries* as audio drama

Artists Repertory Theater presents *The Berlin Diaries* by Andrea Stolowitz as an audio drama on Zoom. Andrea's great-grandfather kept a journal for his descendants after escaping to New York City in 1939 as a German Jew. Andrea goes back to Berlin to bring the story of her unknown ancestors out of the archives and into the light.

Join ART for the Virtual Release Party from the comfort of your home on Jan. 24. The virtual doors open at 2:30 for guests to mingle with other guests and artists in Zoom breakout rooms. The audio drama begins at 3 pm. After the show, hear from Director Dámaso Rodríguez and Playwright Andrea Stolowitz. Tickets for the virtual opening party



are \$20 per household.

Attendees will be the first to hear the new audio drama recorded during ART: Mercury Company.

ART created the Mercury Company in June 2020 to respond to COVID restrictions. In October and November 2020, ART built on that collab-

orative process and hired nearly 90 writers, directors, educators, actors, technicians, designers and producers to create theater-inspired work that moves beyond the traditional form in response to public assembly restrictions. Individual donors and COVID relief grants distributed by the State of Oregon

funded the six-week intensive effort. A series of audio dramas and experimental short films will be released to audiences in the winter, spring and summer of 2021.

ART is planning its next Mercury Company development process in the spring of 2021.

ART received support from the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education for supplemental material and podcast. Jan. 27, 2021, is International Holocaust Remembrance Day; for more information and resources, visit ojmche.org.

To purchase tickets to the Jan. 24 opening party or access just the audio drama beginning Jan. 25, visit artistsrep.org/performance/berlin-diaries-audio-drama.

Tuesdays for Trash plans Tu B'Shevat cleanup

BY DEBORAH MOON

Sharona Shnayder, a former PDX Hillel board member, and Wanda McNealy founded Tuesdays for Trash during their final semester at Portland State University last year.

Now the duo has teamed up with @ourstreets to plan a worldwide virtual cleanup to celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish New Year for Trees, which is often called Jewish Earth Day. The cleanup is designed to “tackle the waste management aspect of the climate crisis by cleaning up our streets, trails and local community spaces in a safe and responsible manner.”

In addition, a \$5 donation per bag collected will be donated to Flash Forest, an environmental nonprofit that uses UAV technology and ecological science to mass plant trees based on an area's biological needs. T4T (tuesdaysfortrash.com) and Our StreetsPDX (ourstreetspdx.org/) are providing the donations. People can verify their collec-



Tuesdays for Trash co-founder Sharona Shnayder collects trash at Sandy Beach in Oahu, Hawaii.

tion by sharing a picture of their bag on social media through tagging @tuesdaysfortrash or @ourstreetspdx.

Planting trees is currently the fastest and cheapest way to sequester carbon, so by helping increase this regeneration, we can begin to tip the scales on the climate crisis, notes Sharona.

This year, Tu B'Shevat falls on Jan. 27. Sharona encourages people to pick up a bag of trash

Jan 23-24. “We will announce our total contribution on Jan. 27.” Sharona notes since T4T's funds are limited, it may take a few months to make the total donation.

The women encourage participants to wear a mask, gloves and social distance while out on your pickup. They also suggest visiting best practices for safe trash gathering on the bottom of their events page:

tuesdaysfortrash.com/events.

The two women started Tuesdays for Trash to create “an immediate reminder and call to action for individuals to consistently pick up trash on that day of the week, aiding them in making it a routine part of their week as opposed to a one-time endeavor,” says Sharona.

You can read more about the group in a Jewish Review story at jewishportland.org/jewish-review/jr-stories/psu-grads-create-tuesdays-for-trash.

Sharona plans to move to Israel in May. “I’m hopeful with the immunizations happening right now,” says Sharona of her May move. “I’ve secured an internship with a sustainable B-Corporation in Tel Aviv. I’ll definitely keep the movement (going) despite being in Israel!”

Wanda, who plans to remain in Oregon for now, also plans to keep working on T4T.

“We’re keeping this movement going for the rest of our lives,” says Sharona.

Taste of Temple goes virtual (but food is real)

BY KERRY POLITZER

For almost 10 years, Congregation Beth Israel has held its annual Taste of Temple – a popular event that celebrates Portland chefs and helps support the synagogue.

“Normally, we have an in-person event with 250+ attendees and 25-30 food and beverage vendors,” says Executive Director Josh Kashinsky.

But due to the COVID-19 crisis, CBI had to drastically reimagine this year's event, which will be going virtual on Sunday, Jan. 31. Instead of mingling over wine glasses and small plates, participants will pick up curated food boxes to enjoy at home, and they'll meet with chefs and friends over Zoom.

Event co-chairs Amy and Josh Remick explain why. “The most important point for us was remembering the original purpose of Taste of Temple. The event started as a community-building opportunity and a chance to engage food and beverage vendors within the Portland metropolitan area. Being sensitive to the current environment with economic challenges and restaurant closures, we knew we had to manage this piece differently.”

So far, response from the congregation has been very positive. Kashinsky says, “Almost all of our sponsors from previous years have agreed to sponsor again this year, and congregants are eager to have positive ways to connect.” The congregation has also been happy to help support local food and beverage businesses during these difficult times.

Kashinsky is excited about a brand-new component of the event: Tiny Taste of Temple. “(It’s) a free family cooking class we’re offering the week before B’Teyavon (our main event). Chef and restaurateur Sonya Sanford is going to be leading a family rugelach-making class. We’d been talking in past years about how we could involve kids and the whole family, and this year allowed us to make that happen.”

Sanford, formerly of Beetroot Market & Deli, has a long history with CBI. In addition to participating in Taste of Temple last year, she has made latkes for the congregation. She will be demonstrating both sweet and savory rugelach during her virtual class. When asked how she makes them delicious, she says, “The secret to great, flaky rugelach dough is cream cheese. I also like to make the dough without sugar, so the

sweet filling doesn’t overpower the cookie. The other important part of rugelach is to not put too much filling in them; otherwise, you end up with a leaky pastry.”

One of this year's food box contributors is chef Noah Jacob. Together with his new catering company, [Jacob & Sons](https://jacobandsons.com), he is excited to be participating in Taste of Temple for the first time.



“The theme is Mediterranean,” says the chef. “We’ll be doing some chickpea bruschetta, mushroom conserve, pickled fennel and pineapple, and everything spice focaccia. We’ll also have salted and sweet lemon curd mascarpone and a cocktail kit for a strawberry Hugo.”

Other vendors include local favorites Kachka, Roons, Fire on the Mountain and Yarden Wines.

Those who would like to experience the virtual event must register by Jan. 25 at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/jx8/>.

Virtual events in brief

PSU's Solomon Lecture explores "Historic Time in America"

The Gus and Libby Solomon Memorial Lecture goes virtual for its 16th year. It features Ken Mehlman, who was the 62nd chair of the Republican National Committee and campaign manager of President Bush's 2004 re-election campaign.

"A Historic Time in America: How citizens, politicians and investors can together build a better world" is a free Zoom webinar 5-6:30 pm. Feb. 4.

Mehlman will discuss how impact investing is helping to lay the groundwork for a more sustainable future. He will also touch on the future of the Republican Party and his work with the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative's Policy Advisory Board, where he serves as chairman.

Mehlman is co-head of *KKR Global Impact*, a private market investing platform focused on businesses that promote commercial solutions to global challenges associated with economic development, environmental management, and education and learning. He is a trustee of Mt. Sinai Hospital of New York, Franklin & Marshall College, Teach for America and Sponsors of Educational Opportunity. He lives in New York City.

The lecture is presented annually by The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies and underwritten by Richard Solomon and Alyce Flitcraft. Cosponsors of the event include Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. Register online at pdx.edu/judaic-studies



The Q: Virtual Escape Room Jan. 23

If there's one virtual event you don't want to miss this year, it's NCSY's annual Q trivia night fundraiser. Taking the form of a virtual escape room at 7:30 Saturday night, Jan. 23, teams of up to eight will compete to win the coveted Q sweatshirts (as well as gift cards to Nordstrom and their names on the Q trophy).

The event, though virtual, includes a delicious food experience (featuring a meal, snacks, wine and beer).

"I truly love providing incredible experiences for people," says Oregon NCSY Director Meira Spivak. The Q gives adults a taste of what an NCSY event is like for teens; the fun had at the Q is similar to the fun teens have on a Shabbaton weekend retreat (sans the alcohol).

"This year of COVID has been extremely challenging financially, and we are looking forward towards regaining community support. I just love watching the community rally around such an important cause," says Spivak.

Register at Oregon.ncsy.org. For more information on NCSY or the event, contact meira@ncsy.org.

OJMCHE presents *The Lost Jews of Kastoria*

From Jan. 24 to 26, the community is invited to watch *Trezoros: The Lost Jews of Kastoria* in preparation for a 6 pm, Jan. 27, Zoom panel discussion with the film's director, producer and film consultants.

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education and the Never Again Coalition are presenting the film and

Zoom panel to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Using never-before-seen, pre-war archival footage and first-person testimonies, *Trezoros: The Lost Jews of Kastoria* chronicles the Jewish life and culture of Kastoria, a picturesque lakeside village in the mountains of Northwestern Greece near the Albania border. Here, Jews and Greek Orthodox Christians lived together in harmony for more than two millennia until World War II, when this long and rich history was wiped out in the blink of an eye.

The follow-up Zoom conversation is with Larry Confino, Director/Producer; Lawrence Russo, Director; Dr. Joe Halio, who served on the film as a consultant on Sephardic history; and Andrea Grass, who provided important archival photos and film to the project through her family.

Register online at ojmche.org/events

21st Annual Community Havdalah Service

For two decades, the Jewish Women's Round Table has held a community Havdalah service at Cedar Sinai Park. This year, the 21st Annual Community Havdalah Service will be held virtually at 6:30 pm, Jan. 23.

Cantor Rayna Green of Congregation Beth Israel will lead the service.

Cedar Sinai Park CEO Kimberly Fuson, CSP Spiritual Life Coordinator Cathy Zheutlin and JWRT President Marki Maizels will share welcoming remarks.

The event is sponsored by the Jewish Women's Round Table and Rose Schnitzer Manor.

To join the event, go to bethisrael-pdx.org/joinus. Programs are listed in chronological order; scroll to **Sisterhood 21st Annual Community Havdalah** and click on link to join the event.

Israeli writers host Portland poet on Zoom

Willa Schneberg has been invited by the Israel Association of Writers in English to present her poetry and visual art via Zoom.

There is the Kabbalistic metaphor of "filling empty vessels." The IAWWE invites you to join Willa to fill these vessels with poetry and art. She will sing the Song of the Shekhinah, the divine feminine/feminist together with IAWWE poets.

The program will be Jan. 24, 2021, at 9:30 am (PST); 7:30 pm (IST).

Please register at forms.gle/TAnuasxnhjyx4VxS6 to receive a Zoom link to the event.

Virtual Lions conference open to all women

With the shift to a virtual program, this year's International Lion of Judah Conference is open to all women in the community. The conference is normally limited to Lions of Judah, women who have committed to an individual annual gift of \$5,000 or more to their local Jewish Federation.

Women from around the world will hear from leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs on Jan. 24 and 25.

Register at lionconference.org.

Find more virtual events

For local virtual events, visit the community calendar at jewishportland.org/community-calendar/online-events.

National resources:

OneTable (young adults): onetable.org

Jewish Federations of North America: jewishtogether.org

Hillel International: welcome.hillel.org/hillelathome/

PJ Library: pjlibrary.org/familyactivities

Chaplain's Corner

I am My Brother's Keeper

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

I am writing my words in between an insurrection on our nation's Capitol on Jan. 6 and the inauguration of President Joe Biden on Jan. 20. I am holding my breath. I fear for potential violence in Washington, D.C., and in state capitals all across the nation.

A number of prayers for the sake of our nation and political leaders have been flying around cyberspace. No, I am not about to offer my own prayer for peace, our president, unity or healing. For me, now is not a time for prayer. Now is a time for reflection, reflection that leads to action.

I continue to be haunted by the images of my fellow citizens storming the Capitol: Confederate flags, neo-Nazi insignia, "Camp Auschwitz," Crusader symbols, insurrectionists wearing battle fatigues and even a gallows.

Many people argue that this is not America. The cold hard reality is that this is America. Too many of our fellow citizens are angry, afraid and bigoted. And they feel American to their core. In addition, these past four years are a study of how easy it is to manipulate others and motivate them to do collectively what they would never consider doing individually.

This is who we are. We have to accept it. We have to confront it.

These past weeks, I have been reflecting on the first murder ever recorded: After Cain killed his brother Abel, God said to

These past four years are a study of how easy it is to manipulate others and motivate them to do collectively what they would never consider doing individually.



Rabbi Barry Cohen is the Jewish community chaplain of the Greater Portland area.

Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I know not; Am I my brother's keeper?" And God said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries to me from the ground." (Genesis 4:9-10)

I fear that many more Cains will murder many more Abels. Of note, a literal translation of Genesis 4:10 is this: "The voice of your brother's bloods cries out to me..." The Rabbis comment that Cain shed not only Abel's blood, but the blood of all those who could have descended from Abel. If insurrectionists strike again, they will shed the bloods of innocent Americans.

This is who we are. What are we going to do about it?

The first part of addressing any problem is admitting we have a problem. Now is the time to break our collective spell of misinformation, alternative facts and propaganda. Now is the time to block permanently those who express lies and plan insurrection from

their previous means of communication. Now is the time to empower those who protect us and remove from power those who threaten us.

But then, let's circle back to our fellow citizens. The time will soon come when we have to meet each other where we are, address our fears and discover what we have in common. I must believe that we have the ability to strengthen that which unites us and weaken that which divides us.

I close with the well-known lesson of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as I type these words on MLK Day: "We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Let us continue to act, even though we know not how long this arc toward justice will be. Through our dedicated, disciplined efforts, we will reach our sacred goal.

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Upcoming issues

Issue date Deadline

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Feb. 3 | Jan. 28 |
| Feb. 17 | Feb. 11 |
| March 3 | Feb. 25 |
| March 17 | March 11 |
| March 31 | March 25 |

Submit news, photos and obituaries by the issue deadline to:
editor@jewishportland.org.

Rabbi's Corner

In addition to the Chaplain's Corner, the Jewish Review reserves space for a Rabbi's Corner each issue. Our community's rabbis are invited to share their thoughts on the week's parsha or current events. The Oregon Board of Rabbis organized the project.

Rabbis are invited to schedule a date to submit a 500-word piece. For more information, email editor@jewishportland.org.

Guest Column

What is JPRO PDX?

BY SAUL KORIN

Jewish Professionals Network (jpro.org) is a community-building arm for professionals working within the Jewish community. JPRO members learn about each other, care about each other and find ways to work together. Events are open to people who work at our communal organizations.

JPRO activity in Portland has been on again, off again for many years. Its listserv offers a way to convene or communicate with professionals who work for Jewish organizations.

In 2018, JPRO rebranded as JPRO PDX under the national movement of JPRO. JPRO events focus on networking, professional development, skill-building and celebrating Jewish communal professionals' work. JPRO PDX is grateful for funding from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the Community Endowment Fund of Oregon Jewish Community Foundation.

A volunteer team of professionals from local Jewish organizations lead JPRO PDX to create and implement programming that is meaningful for Jewish professionals in their work and lives. I am joined on the committee by Michelle Caplan (Neveh Shalom), Gail Mandel (Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education), Rachel Nelson (Jewish Federation of Greater Portland), Nava Sherwood (Eden Village West) and others.

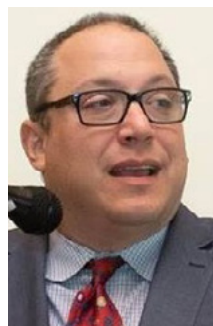
Meeting in person after long days supporting the Jewish community was not always easy, but JPRO has thrived in the Zoom environment and has met more often during the lockdown. In April, JPRO partnered with Jewish Family & Child Service for a counseling session for professionals dealing with the COVID-19 shutdown and ongoing protests. In July, Comedian Joel Chasnoff joined us to raise some laughter during these challenging times. In August, Dr. Ron Wolfson from American Jewish University discussed ways of

building community virtually. In October, Rabbi Isaiah Rothstein, rabbinic scholar and public affairs advisor at Jewish Federations of North America, spoke about the concept of "a Sukkah wide enough" to reimagine the Jewish community in a more inclusive way in terms of race. November brought Barry Firestone from the Jim Joseph Foundation to speak on a vision for philanthropy post-COVID-19. In December, JPRO held a short but sweet Hanukkah Zoom and heard stories from Portland's own Judy Margles (OJMCH) and Rabbi Motti Wilhelm from Chabad of Oregon.

Most recently, on Jan. 13, JPRO partnered with the Blue Dove Foundation for a mental health workshop. The program centered around the misheberach (prayer for healing) and allowed professionals to co-create personal prayers of healing for mental health. During these challenging times, it was meaningful to focus on personal needs within a professional setting.

JPRO offers Jewish professionals a space to focus on their critical work in the community. Whether the synagogue space, the nonprofit space, educational space or tikkun olam space, Jewish professionals make a difference in Portland and around the country.

If you work for a Jewish organization and want to be added to the listserv, email Caron at caron@jewishportland.org.



Saul Korin is the lead volunteer for JPRO PDX. He is the director of donor engagement and philanthropy at PJA and MJCC. He is a father of three and a DJ in his spare time. You can find him on twitter @saulomite.

Upstart cohort taps Beth Israel director

Congregation Beth Israel Executive Director Josh Kashinsky is one of 52 professionals accepted into the four national cohorts of UpStart's Change Accelerator program.

UpStart's Change Accelerator equips intrapreneurs – the bold leaders making meaningful change within our community's Jewish institutions – to employ an entrepreneur's mindset, change course quickly and develop creative solutions to meet the current moment. Over the next six months, these leaders will learn the skills and tools they need to meet their communities' rapidly evolving needs, and gain a community of practice with which to brainstorm, take their initiatives to the next level and create the Jewish community of the future.

"This is a great opportunity to learn with some incredible leaders from across the country and to learn from a Jewish organization that is committed to helping institutions manage change well," says Josh. "Especially, in the times we currently find ourselves, the pace of change is accelerating, and legacy institutions (like a 160+ year-old synagogue) are not historically known for our ability to change quickly."

Josh believes his participation could benefit Portland's entire Jewish community. Being nimble and adjusting skills will be essential in our changing world.

"I certainly hope to be able to share insights with my professional colleagues throughout the community and within CBI," says Josh. "Many of the factors that impact CBI specifically impact other parts of the Jewish Portland as well. And the stronger the overall Jewish ecosystem, the better able we are to serve the community and support each other."

This year, UpStart leveraged the application data to design cohorts focused on emerging challenges and trends in Jewish life.



Josh Kashinsky

The Deepening Connections and Thriving Communities cohorts will focus on exploring new ways to meet constituents' needs, deepen relationships across their communities and create more inclusive institutions. The Power in Partners cohort will focus on fostering meaningful partnerships among stakeholders and creating a coalition of leaders who share a commitment to community success.

Josh is part of the Reimagining Institutions cohort, which will focus on redefining the purpose of Jewish institutions in a post-COVID world and weaving innovation into the framework of institutional operations.

"The pace of change across all sectors is increasing, and it is naïve to think we, CBI, are immune," says Josh. He adds that CBI Board President Tony Urdes and Senior Rabbi Michael Cahana are also "thinking about these issues."

Josh moved to Portland to lead CBI in May 2016 with his wife, Michelle, and two children. Rose is now in second grade and Fiona in kindergarten at Portland Jewish Academy. Previously, he was the assistant executive director at the Siegel JCC in Wilmington, Del. Prior to that, he worked as a professional in the theater world. A graduate of UCSB and Sarah Lawrence College, Josh grew up in the Silicon Valley.

Life-cycle events

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Donna and Charles Kuttner

On Donna and Charles Kuttner's first date, she wasn't impressed.

That may have had something to do with her migraine, but a second date two weeks later made all the difference. "We talked and talked," Donna recalls, and the two Texas natives discovered similar tastes in movies and books – both even had a copy of Winnie the Pooh, the Latin translation of A.A. Milne's children's classic.

A little over a year later, on Jan. 22, 1971, they married near Galveston, Texas, during a short break in Charles' medical school schedule. In the five decades since, they've had three additional weddings (Reform, Conservative and Orthodox) as Donna completed her conversion to Judaism, and as the couple grew increasingly more observant.

Their religious journeys paralleled their geographic wanderings. They lived in San Francisco while Charles completed his residency in psychiatry, and there joined



Donna and Charles Kuttner just outside Jerusalem's Jaffa Gate during a 2018 visit to Israel. Photo courtesy of the Kuttner Family.

a Conservative synagogue. In 1976, when they moved to rural Linn County in Oregon, they joined Beit Am, the Mid-Willamette Jewish Community in Corvallis. And then in 1985, they joined Congregation Kesser Israel, though they didn't move to Portland until 2001.

Charles, a psychiatrist for some 45 years, now works at Fanno Creek Clinic. Donna, who was a music teacher when they met, earned two additional master's

degrees and a Ph.D. in public health from Oregon State University.

For both of them, their journey together has deepened their appreciation of the concept of bashert, or "soulmate." They appreciate each other for their commonalities and their differences, for the journeys they've shared together, and the paths they have yet to explore.

"Fifty years is a long time," Donna reflects. "The only way you can make that work is to accept and respect the person for who they are, and who they will be as they change over time."

Both Donna and Charles were married, briefly, to others before they met. "You don't always pick the right answer the first time," Donna says with a smile.

Their family includes daughter, Arwen, a Jewish day school teacher; her husband, Uri Ruttenberg; and granddaughter, Naomi, 14, in Englewood, N.J. Charles' son, Jason, a clinical supervisor for a firm providing mental health services to adolescent dependents of military families, and his wife, Carrie, live in Honolulu, and Jason's daughter, Io, 27, is working at a winery in Charlottesville, Va.

Story by Sura Rubenstein

Obituaries

Obituaries are posted online as they are received at jewishportland.org/obituaries.

HELEN BLACK

Helen Black, z"l, passed away Jan. 12, 2021, at the age of 93. Helen was predeceased by her husband, Morris Black, z"l. She is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Ella Hess; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

In keeping with the congregation and family's commitment to keep our community safe and healthy, and in compliance with our governor's directive, a private interment was held.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends condolences to the extended Black/Hess family.

JERRY NEWMARK

Jerry Newmark, z"l, passed away on Jan. 8, 2021, after battling the effects of a cancer diagnosis 41 years ago. He was the beloved husband of Barbara Newmark; father of Chelsea Newmark (Gilbert Coronado) and Adam Newmark; grandfather of Silas, Mateo and Anna Coronado, and Erin and Brennan Newmark; son of Jeanne Newmark; and brother of Richard Newmark (Lizz), Miles (Barbara Gilbert), Phyllis Newmark, and Janice Newmark.

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A Jerry was born Sept. 25, 1956, to Jeanne and Herbert Newmark. Jerry attended Bridlemile Elementary School and Wilson High School. He graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in business and real estate in 1978. After college Jerry worked as a manager for Benjamin Franklin Savings and Loan and then at 3M. Jerry was a lifelong member of Congregation Beth Israel.

Jerry met the love of his life Barbara (Goffe) their sophomore year at U of O, and they married in 1981. They were together for 46 years.

A private family service was held Jan. 11 at the Beth Israel Cemetery.

Congregation Bet Israel offers condolences to the extended Newmark family.

Donations in Jerry's memory can be made to the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, Jewish Child & Family Service or the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol.

MASON DRUKMAN

Mason Drukman, z"l, died Jan. 6, 2021, in Oakland, Calif. Mason is survived by his beloved wife, Anne Barrows; his

son, Max Drukman; daughter, Sasha Crehan; daughters-in-law, Lisa Feldstein and Susie Drukman; grandchildren, Melissa Crehan, Olivia Feinstein, Sophie Drukman-Feldstein, Emily Drukman; brothers, Melvin and Robert. Mason was predeceased by his son, Sam Drukman.

A longtime resident of the Bay Area, Mason lived in Portland for many years. He was a professor at Reed College, editor at Oregon Times magazine (now defunct) and author of Wayne Morse, A Political Biography.

He was born in Boston on Feb. 23, 1932.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances to Survivors International in San Francisco in his memory will be appreciated.

MICHAEL J. HASSON

Michael J. Hasson, z"l, died Dec. 31, 2020, at the age of 66 from mesothelioma. He is survived by daughters Lauren, Jenna and Michelle; brother, Barry; two grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Janise (Jani), who died from breast cancer in 1995.

Michael was a self-taught salesman who founded one of Oregon's most successful independent real estate companies. He was a Lake Oswego resident, civic leader and former CEO and founder of Hasson Company Realtors. He was diagnosed 10 years ago with a malignant tumor caused by inhaled asbestos fibers, according to his family.

Michael was born Oct. 16, 1954, at Wilcox Women's Hospital (now Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center) in Portland to Bob Hasson, a World War II vet and vegetable seller, and Marilyn Hasson, who would later help manage her son's real estate offices.

Bob Hasson's father immigrated from Rhodes, Greece, and opened a produce stand in the 1920s in Portland.

In 1991, Michael started Hasson Company Realtors.

The family encourages people to donate to the OHSU Foundation-Michael J. Hasson Lectureship for Mesothelioma (onwardohsu.org/donation).

Read his full obituary in the Oregonian.