

# The JEWISH REVIEW

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## What does reopen mean?

BY JOANNA WENDEL

By the time you read this column, Oregon has likely fully “reopened” and stopped requiring masks for anyone, vaccinated or not.

Barring some unexpected turn of events, all state-mandated COVID-19 restrictions should have lifted on June 30. That means that both vaccinated and unvaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks except where federally required in airports, on public transportation and in health-care settings. Physical distancing requirements or capacity limits for businesses also will no longer exist.

That might feel really weird.

“I think our population at the school mirrors the larger population,” says Cory Wilson, assistant director at Congregation Neveh Shalom’s Foundation School. “We have families that are ready to go: No masks at the school? They’re ready to charge into it.” But other families are not yet ready to forgo the masks.

Even if you are fully vaccinated, it’s OK to feel weird or uncomfortable about going maskless, says Douglass Ruth, clinical director and head of the counseling program at Jewish Family and Child Service.

“We’ve gotten used to following the ‘rules’ when it comes to protecting one against COVID-19,” Ruth says.

It used to be simple: keep your distance from people outside your household, wear a mask. Now, it’s not so simple. Data

See REOPENING, page 9



## Overnight Camp is Back!

B'nai B'rith staff were eager to welcome back campers for the 100th summer of BB Camp. Oregon overnight camps were cancelled in 2020 due to the global pandemic. The summer's first BB Campers arrived June 29 thrilled to see their friends and check out the new cabins and amphitheater built over the last two years. Read about the Men's Camp Golf Tournament (page 12) that helps ensure all youth can afford to experience the magic of camp.

## Surprise! Gap year rewards

BY DEBORAH MOON

Catlin Gabel 2020 graduate Josh Foster didn't plan to take a gap year before entering Occidental College. But when COVID kiboshed a normal college freshman year, he decided to spend the year in Israel on the Young Judaea Year Course.

“It’s been the best year of my life,” says Josh, who returned to Portland May 19.

He spent five months in Tel Aviv doing community service and four months near Jerusalem studying at Kiryat Moriah. He also had lots of time to experience Israel both on Year Course adventures and informally.

“One of the things that separates Year Course from other gap year programs in Israel is the

See GAP YEAR, page 5



Josh Foster rappelled for the first time in the Golan Heights.

## INSIDE this ISSUE



**Farewell to Portland Kollel founders Rabbi Tzvi and Esther Fischer** – page 2

**Song of Miriam honors volunteers** – page 4

**Dignity Grows pack party**– page 5

**New Faces at TiME, RSM and JFCS** – pages 6-7

**Jobs Board: JFCS** – page 7

**Community Chaplain Cohen explores “I-Thou”** – page 8

**Portlanders to present sessions at international Jewish genealogy conference** – page 9

**Obituaries** – pages 10-11

**Ashland Havurah turns 36** – page 12

**Exhibit tours, rooftop receptions set for newcomers** – page 12



# A Legacy of Jewish Connection and Learning Under the Kollel's Rabbi Fischer

By Jenn Director Knudsen

Rabbi Tzvi and Esther Fischer and their children depart July 7 for Detroit, where they will resettle after 16 extremely productive years here in Portland. Their six children range from 7 to 20 years of age with the youngest three born here.

Rabbi Fischer and colleague Rabbi Chanan Spivak founded the Portland Kollel 16 years ago. Rabbi Fischer's departure is a great loss, but it's also an opportunity to reflect on the

ed – indeed came up.

In a recent Zoom interview from his nearly empty home, Rabbi Fischer reflected on the Kollel's story to date.

The Kollel is meticulous in the numbers it keeps on individuals availing themselves of the organization, he says. Its goal remains to reach people seeking programming and meaningful and inspirational ways to connect to Judaism. The Kollel strives "to let them know they have a way to be Jewish in their own lives and in their experi-



Oregon Board of Rabbis (now former) Chair Eve Posen, left, bids a fond farewell to Portland Kollel founders Esther and Rabbi Tzvi Fischer at a June 13 going away event that drew about 225 people. The Fischers move to Detroit this month.



Rabbis Tzvi Fischer (left) and Chanan Spivak (right) of the Portland Kollel, with Rabbi Ken Brodtkin of Kesser Israel at the Farewell BBQ for the Fischer Family. The three rabbis have worked closely with each other and others to strengthen Jewish life in Portland and Oregon since they all arrived 16 years ago.

Kollel's many accomplishments (and maybe a few lessons learned along the way). Rosh Kollel and CEO Rabbi Spivak assures the community that he and staff will carry the Kollel's mantle into the future.

"There is most definitely a challenge in taking over Rabbi Fischer's responsibilities, since he undoubtedly has big shoes to fill," says Rabbi Spivak. "That being said, I do feel very confident and poised to do so ... (we) closely conferred on nearly all programs, communal issues and rabbinical questions that have come up."

More questions – from a greater cross section of Portland's diverse Jewish community than Rabbi Fischer at first anticipat-

ence of mitzvot."

"We had roughly 1,000 individuals who were engaged in one way or another" in a given year, he says.

"There were some people who'd only pop in two, three times a year to get guidance," on say Shabbat practice or kashrut, says Rabbi Fischer, who was ordained in 2002. Other folks became regular course attendees or participated in the three years it took to launch Rachel's Well Community Mikvah.

Rabbi Fischer emphasizes that every interaction was important, whether a one-time inquiry – a "splash," as he describes it – or something more monumental, equivalent to a Mount Rushmore. (The comparison is

apt given his family starts its cross-country trek on July 7 with a number of stops along the way at national parks and Mount Rushmore.)

For example, Rabbi Fischer recounts a call just before the pandemic set in from a young family who'd just had their second child. The parents had grown up in the Reform Movement on the East Coast where Shabbat was present in their lives as children, but once they went to college, their Jewish practice dwindled.

They'd become interested in Eastern philosophies, but the birth of their second child sparked a realization. They were not interested in synagogue life, but wanted to create a Shabbat experience for themselves and their growing family.

Rabbi Fischer helped the couple create their own tradition – a special Friday evening meal that includes candlelighting, two challot and unplugging from all media to focus solely on family time.

"It was very individualized, it works for them, for that family," Rabbi Fischer says. "It's important because it provides for them an access to what they wanted but didn't know how to get."

One long-term accomplishment was adopting the practice

of Daf Yomi, reading a page of Talmud every day for its seven-year cycle.

Among the roughly 14 classes he taught each week was Talmud study. Eight years ago, a small group approached Rabbi Fischer asking to engage in Daf Yomi. When he began leading the 6 am sessions, he thought the group soon would drop the daily practice of engaging in a page of Talmud for seven years straight.

Instead, he says, "the community and its members really surprised me," with up to 35 regulars studying Talmud prior to COVID-19, even before the roosters roused. "Their desire to learn, connect, bring it alive for the future. That really is what community is, I've learned."

Rick Haselton, in a speech at a mid-June farewell event, said Daf Yomi is "the ultimate teaching challenge," likening it to a marathon, and but one example that Rabbi Fischer was born to teach.

And to lead.

"Rabbi Fischer played a huge role in making sure the mikvah (ritual bath) was a place for all Jews," says Ronnie Malka of Rachel's Well Community Mikvah, with which she also was intimately involved. The mik-

See FISCHER, page 3

## FISCHER (continued from page 2)

vah opened 3 1/2 years ago.

Rabbi Fischer joined the team of founders as one of its Orthodox representatives to ensure the mikvah was kosher and available to all Jews regardless of their level of practice or denomination. "He did this in the most subtle and kindest of ways," Malka says. "He also brought humor to the team and a real sense of inclusivity for all in the community."

Ever humble about the Kollel's accomplishments on his watch, Rabbi Fischer says, "More than 50 percent of things we tried or did were duds." He points to the cleverly named Y-Fi, or Young Families Initiative. "It didn't go anywhere despite its great logo and cute name; there were several things like that.

I've had apology tours to fix situations; it's not all glamour and glory," he says with a laugh.

Ultimately, the Kollel maintains a very powerful legacy here in Portland of the big and the small stuff.

Haselton, who retired as Oregon Appeals Chief Judge in 2015, says the rabbi helped set a legal precedent for confidential communications between community members and rabbis' wives, similar to communications between clergy and lay people.

"So much beyond that, so much more that we will never know: the relationships repaired, the marriages saved," he says. "Rabbi Fischer and Esther's gift to all of us (is) a lasting, immutable connection of

community, chesed (kindness), mutual support. We are ... deeply saddened by this parting. But we rejoice in a new chapter, with renewed promise, in our beloved friends' lives."

Rabbi Spivak says his long-time colleague "has become like a brother to me."

I'll close with a personal reference. More than a decade ago, Rabbi Fischer helped a young woman find her way back to Judaism after a significant rough patch. Privileged to tell her story, I messed up by providing too many details to the community about her identity despite her request for anonymity.

At the time, I apologized to her and to Rabbi Fischer, and I then proceeded to carry a weight of guilt for years thereafter. In an attempt to finally unburden

myself, about three years ago as the High Holidays approached, I contacted Rabbi Fischer.

He'd forgotten about the incident, appreciated my sentiment and noted it was time to let go of the guilt. Would I allow an elephant to put its full weight on my back, let alone carry it around all of my days? Of course not. With that message, I could finally slough off the guilt.

Another lesson greatly appreciated by a community member. A new fund with the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation has been created in honor of the Fischers.

Learn more about the Rabbi Tzvi and Esther Fischer Kollel Future Fund at <https://portland-kollel.org/support/>.



Rick Haselton addresses the some 225 people who turned out June 13 to bid a fond farewell to Rabbi Tzvi and Esther Fischer.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THIS PAST YEAR.

WHEN OUR COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER... GREAT THINGS HAPPEN.



# Song of Miriam 2020-21 honorees, part 3



For 27 years, the Jewish Women's Round Table has recognized women volunteers in the community at its Song of Miriam Awards Brunch.

In the face of the pandemic, the brunch was cancelled last year. This year, JWRT leaders still believed it would not be safe to hold an indoor event that often draws more than 300 people.

Since the first brunch in June 1993, between 15 and 23 women have received the annual award. Honorees have been selected by more than 25 congregations and organizations. Nearly 500 women have been honored since the award was created.

JWRT and the Jewish Review have united to ensure Song of Miriam Award nominees from 2020 and 2021 get the recognition they deserve. Throughout the next few issues, the Review will feature pictures of honorees along with a description of their work and why they are valuable to their organizations.

Following is the third group of three women whose organizations selected them to receive the Song of Miriam.

More honorees will be profiled in issues throughout the summer.

## ROBIN ELLISON Honored by Temple Beth Sholom, Salem

Robin Ellison is the "volunteer-event maven" at Temple Beth Sholom in Salem.

Events that used to be coordinated by the congregation's Holiday Observance Committee have now been organized (and often paid for) by Robin and her family.

She has organized Hanukkah parties such as the "Latkes and Vodka" events and has helped plan and prepare community seders (most recently, an outdoor seder this year because of COVID).

In addition, Robin usually prepares much of the food at these events (including all of the Pesach desserts at the recent seder). Further, she helped prepare take-home seder meals for those who could not attend the in-person seder.

Robin is always available and willing to help any congregant in need, no matter how big or small the task is.

In short, the congregation says Robin is a dedicated volunteer who makes Temple Beth Sholom a better place to be.

## CAROL RAY RICHMOND Honored by Portland Jewish Academy

Portland Jewish Academy is pleased to honor Carol Ray Richmond as its Song of Miriam honoree. Carol's quiet leadership does not go unnoticed and has helped to support the school in numerous ways.

In her years as a parent in the school, Carol has been a tremendous supporter of her daughters' teachers in the early childhood and day school programs. In addition, Carol helped spearhead and lead the Family Giving Circle, which gen-

erously funds projects that support faculty and students in the two programs.

She has worked tirelessly on the PJA auction, procuring items, working closely with auction staff and co-chairing the event for a number of years.

Carol has served on the PJA Board of Directors during this very challenging time and has, along with fellow board members, helped provide the resources needed to give students a quality education during the time of quarantine.

PJA says Carol's caring and generous spirit is deeply felt by them, and they thank her for her heartfelt generosity, saying they are honored to know her and have her as a member of the PJA kehilla – community.

## SHARI RAIDER Honored by Havurah Shalom

Shari Raider has been a key part of the Havurah Shalom community since 2007, when she started welcoming Havurah families to her farm on Sauvie Island for "Shabbat on the Farm." This community-building activity was a program that young families looked forward to every year.

A few years ago, Shari and her family moved to Northwest Portland, and she quickly took on leadership roles at Havurah. She has co-chaired the Tikkun Olam Sanctuary Committee since it was established and is a leader in Havurah's partnership with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice, serving as part of the core team that guides Havurah in supporting a family seeking asylum.

Shari shares her accounting skills as the congregation's treasurer. She has an amazing ability to mold the budget within the context of Havurah's values and to explain those decision points in a way that is easily understandable.

Shari is not only open to new ways of seeing things, she gently challenges members to be open to possibilities that will enable Havurah to continue to evolve into a more transparent, value-based community. Havurah Shalom says it is blessed to have her participation and commitment.



Josh Foster spent five months volunteering at this day care center in Yafo, Israel, while on the Young Judaea Year Course. Here Josh and Israeli counselor Ophir are shown with three youth he worked closely with, Adisu, Adisu and Adam. "This day was really special, because we celebrated an America Day led by me and another girl on Year Course," says Josh. "We played games like pin the tail on the donkey, cornhole and basketball, did face painting, and made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches."



## GAP YEAR (continued from page 1)

fact that we live with a group of Tzofim (Israeli Scouts) who are our age and are doing a year of service before serving in the IDF," says Josh. "Having that connection with Israeli teens really helped me feel like an 'insider' in Israel. They are super friendly and very informative."

Josh spent one Shabbat with a Scout and his family in Ra'anana. He also went on a camping trip near the Dead Sea one weekend with a couple of the Scouts and some friends.

"If you're considering a gap year, want to try something different, make some lifelong connections, learn more about yourself and have an immeasurable amount of fun, Young Judaea Year Course is for you," Josh says.

Josh wasn't the only teenager who went in search of a gap year last spring. The pandemic that closed many college campuses drove many first-year students to defer their admission for a year. Twenty percent of Harvard first-year students opted to defer, more than double the usual rate; Penn State saw a 300% increase in freshman choosing to take a gap year. This year's Young Judaea program was especially large, with 130 kids from the United States, England, Scotland and Holland who spent nine months in Israel.

Josh's uncle, David Hershberg, told him about his experience on Year Course when he was 19 and suggested Josh check it out.

After a 14-day quarantine on arriving in Israel, Josh began volunteering at a day care center in Yafo, which has a huge Ethiopian and Arab presence. He made food for the kids, did art projects and helped them with math. But his favorite activity was teaching the kids English while they taught

him Hebrew.

Josh was a member of Congregation Shaarie Torah in high school and served on the chapter and Regional Boards for Pinwheel USY from his freshman to junior year of high school. Being in a majority Jewish



Josh and his Year Course roommates enjoy rafting on the Jordan River.

country after growing up in Portland felt "powerful," yet he still felt at home.

"The amount of Jewish diversity in Israel (both cultural/ethnic and level of religiousness) was a difference that surprised and impressed me the most about Israel," says Josh. "I

am convinced that Israel's diversity, a pillar of Israeli society, is one of the main reasons why the country, despite its size and age, has thrived and flourished."

Josh hasn't decided on a major when he starts college at Occidental this fall. But he says, "I love learning languages and am eager to continue educating myself and deepening my connection with the land of Israel and my Jewish identity."

He has some advice for parents of high school graduates: "If you wish for your child to develop a deeper connection to both their Jewish identity and the land of Israel, as well as allow your child to experience the beautiful contrast that Israel has between modern, high-tech innovation and powerful religious energy/pivotal historic sites, I strongly recommend you send them on Young Judaea Year Course."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland offers Chai Israel scholarships for high school, summer or gap year programs in Israel. Gap year scholarships are for high school graduates who have not yet started college. For details, contact Rachel Nelson at [rachel@jewishportland.org](mailto:rachel@jewishportland.org) or 503-892-7415 or visit [jewishportland.org/travelisrael](http://jewishportland.org/travelisrael).

## Dignity Grows reschedules party to pack hygiene totes

You can volunteer with Dignity Grows on July 11 to pack Dignity Totes. The totes provide monthly personal and menstrual hygiene products to women, girls and individuals assigned female at birth who cannot afford them.

Totes assembled will be donated to [Outside In](http://OutsideIn.org), an organization supporting youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness and other marginalized people as they move toward improved health and self-sufficiency.

The July 11 Dignity Grows Packing Party has two shifts available (see below). Originally scheduled for June 27, the packing party was postponed.

"The leadership of Dignity Grows and everyone at the Jewish Federation takes public health and safety seriously. Therefore, due to the extreme heat, we canceled the pack," says JFGP Campaign Director Wendy Kahn. "We rescheduled as quickly as possible in July because Outside In distributes approximately 70 Dignity Totes every six to eight weeks. We want to keep them in hygiene totes, especially knowing that the needs increase in the summer months."

In the spirit of tikkun olam and tzedakah, Women's Philanthropy of Greater Portland this spring created the 15th chapter of Dignity Grows, a national nonprofit launched by the federation system's National Women's Philanthropy.

Dignity Grows provides a hands-on opportunity for women (and men) to engage with their philanthropy and community. At each pack in Portland, volunteers will have a chance to learn about period poverty and the Judaic reason for engaging in this social justice effort, and of course, pack Dignity Totes.

What is period poverty? It is the lack of access to menstrual products, clean and safe toilets, handwashing facilities and waste disposal, and education about reproductive biology.

You can support Dignity Grows by volunteering at packs and by purchasing a tote(s). Each \$10 tote contains a one-month supply of hygiene and menstrual products. To learn more, donate or volunteer – all genders welcome – email [wendy@jewishportland.org](mailto:wendy@jewishportland.org) or visit [jewishportland.org/dignitygrows](http://jewishportland.org/dignitygrows).

### DIGNITY GROWS PARTY

**WHEN:** 10-11 am or 11:30 am-12:30, July 11.  
**WHERE:** Outdoors at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland.

**WHO:** The event is open to participants ages 13 and older. All participants must wear a mask unless they bring proof of vaccination. Arrive 10 minutes prior to shift if you are bringing your vaccination card.

**RSVP (required):** [jewishportland.org/dignity-grows-volunteer-registration](http://jewishportland.org/dignity-grows-volunteer-registration).

You can read about the six recipients already profiled in this series: Marni Glick, Eliana Temkin, Sam Perrin, Hannah Berkowitz, Joni Plotkin and Kathleen Doctor. Find Part 1 and Part 2 of the series at [jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/song-of-miriam-awards-part-1](http://jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/song-of-miriam-awards-part-1)



## Michelle Bombet Minch joins This is My Earth

This is My Earth (TiME) has hired its first staff member, Michelle Bombet Minch, who will serve as the social media director. Bombet Minch will build the social media strategy to support the launch of the TiME for Biodiversity 2023 Campaign. This ambitious campaign seeks to raise \$3 million by 2023, acquire 15-20 biodiversity landscapes, build its global community to 100,000 members and integrate its education program into 60 institutions worldwide.

TiME was founded by Uri Shanus, Ph.D., during his 2014-2015 sabbatical from University of Haifa while doing research at Portland State University. TiME is a conservation organization that believes land acquisition and environmental education can help protect human health and the world's biodiversity by purchasing, protecting and restoring biodiversity hotspots.

With its unique model, TiME's members have a voice in conservation decisions; people can become members of TiME for as little as \$1. All members can vote for the particular biodiversity hotspot they would like to see protected. To date, TiME has protected six hotspots, expanded education programming and built a community of more than 5,000 members.

Bombet Minch was born and raised in Baton Rouge, La., and graduated from Louisiana State University. In 1992, her management career in the technology industry brought her to Oregon, where she has lived ever since.

Her involvement in the Jewish community and passion for social action led to numerous leadership roles, including her current position as chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. The

JCRC brings the opportunity to impact change through collaboration with others on important social justice matters that impact both Jews and non-Jews. She is thrilled to bridge a connection between JCRC's Climate Action Committee and TiME's educational program with activities such as speaking engagements.

Most recently in Bombet Minch's professional life, she has provided marketing, public relations and web development services on a consulting basis. Bombet Minch is a longtime champion for environmental welfare and, in fact, volunteered for TiME in 2019. Inspired by the continued success, she is thrilled to now help bring the organization to its next big growth milestones.

Because it takes as little as a \$1 to join TiME and with the ease of social media sharing, it makes for a meaningful b'nai



mitzvah project, birthday gift or Scouts fundraiser. In June 2020, the Jewish Review ran this article about TiME b'nai mitzvah projects: [jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/its-time-to-save-our-planet](http://jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/its-time-to-save-our-planet).

To host a fundraiser or learn more about TiME and becoming a member, visit [this-is-my-earth.org](http://this-is-my-earth.org).

## Life enrichment staff expands at Rose Schnitzer Manor

Cedar Sinai Park welcomed two new team members in late May 2021. Adam Roes and Sandahl Balding have joined the Life Enrichment staff at Rose Schnitzer Manor.

Adam is a board-certified music therapist and looks forward to coordinating a variety of fun and enriching events – especially musical ones. Sandahl has six years of experience in life enrichment, creating programming on both what a person needs to thrive as well as the interests of the residents themselves.

“Adam and Sandahl are seasoned leaders,” says Nancy Heckler, who served as CSP Life Enrichment Director during the pandemic before returning to lead CSP's Adult Day Services program that reopened July 1. “I have confidence that together, they will use their creativity, energy and love of our residents to develop many life-enriching experiences!”

Adam grew up on a dairy farm in northern New York and received a bachelor's in music therapy from Nazareth School



Adam Roes

of Music in Rochester, N.Y. In 2018, he moved to Portland for a music therapy internship and has stayed in Portland because of the beautiful surroundings and community here.

Adam loves to sing and plays piano, guitar, ukulele, violin and trumpet. He is also passionate about houseplants. He currently owns approximately 50 tropical plants and is very proud of his collection.

“My first impressions of RSM are that it feels like a family here,” says Adam. “Everyone knows everyone well and has each others' backs.



Sandahl Balding

Adam adds he is enjoying listening to the seniors and learning about their experiences.

“They always have important life lessons, funny stories, the best jokes, and (they) are teaching me a lot about what's important in life,” he says.

During her six years working in life enrichment, Sandahl has worked in every level of care, directing her own programs in multiple settings.

“My style of programming is based off of the eight dimensions of wellness, focusing my energy and planning on both what a person needs to thrive as well as the

interests of the residents themselves,” says Sandahl. “Historically, that has encompassed lifelong learning programs, philharmonic outings, Shakespeare festival trips, biking club, pickle ball group, happy hours, arrays of games and billiards, rafting trips and organizing with residents who were interested in traveling together via Road Scholar or cruises.”

In her spare time, Sandahl enjoys mountain biking, spending time outdoors, being with friends and family, reading and playing with her dog.

“I am thrilled with the opportunity to become a part of the RSM family,” says Sandahl.

Rose Schnitzer Manor features assisted-living apartments on the campus of Cedar Sinai Park in southwest Portland. The Manor offers private, independent living with the benefit of meals and housekeeping, or assistance with daily activities in a warm, supportive and active environment.

For more information on the campus, call 503-535-4000 or visit [cedarsinainpark.org](http://cedarsinainpark.org).

## Growing up and out: JFCS expands its services and staff

BY JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

Jewish Family & Child Service's scope is expanding and so is its staff.

Janene Richards is JFCS' benefits and operations manager, and Stephanie Lee is a mental health clinician and intake coordinator. Both were hired in fall 2020.

Their backgrounds and job titles are different, but they align in their passion for JFCS and its mission to care for so many in our Jewish and greater Portland communities.

Lee, who most recently worked in Washington as an advocate for children and their foster parents in the foster care system, says this is her first position in an expressly Jewish organization.

A big positive both culturally

and personally, says Lee, who is Jewish, is JFCS' focus on trauma-informed, patient-centered care that undergirds every one of the agency's four programs. They are Counseling, Holocaust Survivor Services, Disability Support Services and Emergency Aid.

Richards, who most recently worked for the Department of Corrections in Wilsonville and in Portland, says her desire to work for a nonprofit capable of making a difference compelled her to apply.

“It's really nice to be part of a social services agency that helps people,” she says.

JFCS' “moral compass” also attracted Richards to the agency, as did its need for her skill set.

As Lee explains, nonprofits require wearing many different hats, and Richards does just that. “She is very essential to the organization,” Lee says of her colleague.

Richards has top drawer organizational skills, human resources and benefits experience, and she knows her way around various software and databases. She also

has fundraising and event-planning chops, once having organized an annual event at Columbia River Correctional that plays host to more than 500 adults in custody and their families.

Lee, who in 2014 earned her master's

in social work, sees up to eight clients a week in the Counseling program and adds to JFCS' offerings as intake coordinator, which previously was handled by multiple counselors instead of one. This streamlines JFCS' operations and allows Lee to combine two previous job descriptions – that of program developer and clinician – into one.

The many tasks both Lee and Richards handle help strengthen JFCS and the services it provides – particu-

larly since March 2020 when the pandemic first took hold.

Most of JFCS' clients were greatly impacted by COVID-19, and both Richards and Lee express joy at being part of an agency that helps so many. That help comes via mental health counseling for people of all ages, utility bill and rent payments, social groups for JFCS' clients with disabilities, and JFCS' new Friendly Callers volunteer service that reaches out to many, including Holocaust survivors, to check in and help chase away the loneliness and isolation endemic to the pandemic.

“It's so important to me to serve all people, regardless of background,” Lee says. Richards adds that no one group is immune from needing help.

Lee concludes: “My Judaism is rooted in general love for humanity and connections to others. So to work for an agency trying to meet the needs of others in multiple different ways, it's cool to be rooted in values that align with helping all.”

[jfcsportland.org](http://jfcsportland.org)



Janene Richards and Stephanie Lee are helping JFCS expand its services.

## Jobs board

The Jewish Review publishes job openings from Jewish agencies and congregations (Listings will be shortened to fit available space). Submit openings to: [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org).

### Jewish Family & Child Service LCSW Child & Family Therapist

Salary: \$60,000 (DOE); fulltime.

Benefits: Health, vision and dental insurance; 401k; paid time off.

The primary role of this dynamic position is to provide clinical services for children, adolescents and families for the diverse communities JFCS serves. The Child and Family Therapist provides mental health services to children ages 0 to 21 years old (variable) and their families. The person we look forward to welcoming into JFCS' clinical family is interested in continuing to develop their expertise around working with children and families and providing input into developing services specifically aimed at the needs of children.

Responsibilities include conducting mental health assessments and providing individual, family and group therapy, case management, care coordination, skills training, psychoeducation, referrals, and community consultation in home, school, community and office settings. The position will include working with clients who have disabilities or care for people with disabilities. Our clinicians provide culturally competent mental health services to individuals and families who are experiencing varying levels of difficulties due to life situations or mental health concerns.

This position will contain a part-time (approximately 10 hours a month) component, working with our community partner, B'nai B'rith Camp. In this position, the provider will be working with camp staff to support camper well-being and provide behavioral and mental health support, while also building a collaborative relationship with BB Camp for referrals and support.

Required: Oregon licensed mental health clinician registered and in good standing with their board (LCSW preferred).

Preferred but not required: Experience with Autism Spectrum Disorder, developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, and/or physical disabilities.

For the complete job description and required qualifications, visit [jfcsportland.org/about-us/employment/](http://jfcsportland.org/about-us/employment/) or email [SGreenberg@jfcsportland.org](mailto:SGreenberg@jfcsportland.org).

Send cover letter and resume to Douglass Ruth at [douglassruth@jfcsp.org](mailto:douglassruth@jfcsp.org).



# Chaplain's Corner

## Buber to the Rescue

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

When I was a congregational rabbi in the Chicago suburbs, our synagogue had a clearly defined ritual within the bar/bat mitzvah ceremony: immediately after I shared personal words with the youth, the cantor and I would seamlessly transition to *Birkat Cohanim*, the Priestly Benediction. This blessing is divided into three parts; after the cantor chanted each part, I would offer a translation.

For each ceremony, I would ready myself for our call and response/Hebrew-English interchange. I loved hearing the cantor's voice, filled with emotion and passion. During one bar mitzvah, I experienced something unexpected. As the cantor chanted the first part of *Birkat Cohanim*, I went somewhere. I can't describe it. I cannot find words to capture it. I did not return until after the cantor chanted the second part of the blessing. I quickly realized I was back, offered the translation and continued with the ceremony.

I had experienced what Martin Buber would call an "I-Thou" relationship. Such relationships are beyond words, time, articulation or explanation.

The opposite of the "I-Thou" is the "I-It." The latter is quantifiable and explainable. Waiting in line to purchase groceries is an "I-It" experience. Making a doctor's appointment is an "I-It" experience.

The "I-It" is transactional. The "I-Thou" is transcendent. We need both to function in a society. But Buber would argue that without the "I-Thou," we are not fully human.

We experience the "I-Thou" in relationships: with art, music, nature, people ... or any combination.

I primarily experience the "I-Thou" through music. Sometimes, when I am listening to the melody and/or the lyrics of Charles Mingus, Thelonius Monk, Miles Davis, Art Blakey, B.B. King or Pearl Jam, there is "lost time." I can only describe it that way because I remember I was following the music, but then I become aware of a gap. For no explainable reason, I could not recall a few seconds of melody or a line of lyrics.

At first when I became aware of these gaps, I was concerned. But then I looked forward to them. When I learned of Martin Buber's theology, I even welcomed them.

After I have an "I-Thou" experience, I am different. I have gotten out of my crowded head. I have escaped my needs. I have made some kind of connection with that which is beyond me, greater than me and yet part of me.

Buber teaches that we experience "God" through the "I-Thou" relationship. For Buber, God is not some external, separated, independently existing entity. Rather, God is in relationship. Therefore, the experience of God is dependent on our experience with the other. We cannot experience God alone.

In the aftermath of my having an "I-Thou" experience, I am a better person. I feel hopeful, grounded and secure, having escaped my rational, sensory, logical, feeling, perceiving self. Though these experiences are fleeting, they open my



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

awareness to what else could be possible. I realize that my sensory, perceiving, thinking and feeling existence is not my only possible existence.

One can relate the "I-Thou" to the afterlife. I try not to dwell too much on "the world to come." I would rather direct my energy, time, creativity and emotions to the here and now. That being said, the fact that I have repeatedly experienced the "I-Thou" makes me curious about what may exist beyond the fleeting, measurable, quantifiable years that I call my life.

The "I-Thou" also helps me navigate everyday stresses, strains, worries and pains. I realize that this experience is not the only possible experience. I realize that through relationships, there is an existence beyond time, words or explanation that is transformative and transcendent.

The "I-Thou" reduces my stresses, worries and fears, and gives me resiliency, hope and reassurance. This definitely has helped me navigate our pandemic and post-pandemic world.

## REOPENING (from page 1)

shows that fully vaccinated people are unlikely to become infected or to spread COVID-19, which has led states, counties and businesses to lift their mask requirements – but those mask requirements have not been lifted across the board, so it's inevitable there will be some discomfort and confusion.

Now that Oregon no longer will require masks or social distancing at all, it might feel hard to adjust back to "normal" life. Ruth says that if you are still uncomfortable going maskless or feel judged for continuing to wear a mask, you should let yourself ease into things. Check in with your loved ones about how they feel about masks at gatherings and stay open minded.

If you're vaccinated, even if you do catch COVID-19, it is unlikely that you'll even show symptoms.

Right now and in the near future, unvaccinated people are the most vulnerable.

A more transmissible variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, called Delta, has already appeared in Oregon. The Delta variant first appeared in India and has swept across the UK. Delta seems to be about **60% more transmissible** than the variants we've seen before, and early data suggests it can cause more severe illness in unvaccinated people – or people who received only the first dose of either of the two-dose vaccines from Pfizer or Moderna.

It's still too early to say how this new variant will affect COVID-19 restrictions in Oregon, but one thing is clear: unvaccinated people are more vulnerable to any variant of the COVID-19 virus. Recent reports show that the vast majority of deaths from COVID-19 are among **unvaccinated people**.

If you have loved ones who are vaccine-hesitant, there are ways to talk to them about getting vaccinated.

"The most convincing thing to say is 'I care about you, and I want you to be safe,'" Ruth says.

If they have questions about the vaccine, help steer them toward reliable sources such as the CDC or the Oregon Health Authority, which has a lot of resources about vaccine safety.

And if that doesn't work, sometimes these situations require an ultimatum, Ruth says. "Want to see the grandkids? Come to this party? You have to get vaccinated."

Foundation School staff and parents have a good vaccination rate (preschoolers are too young to receive the vaccine currently). So for now, the preschool will continue to require masks indoors, Wilson says. She is optimistic that everyone will feel comfortable someday going maskless, but she also understands that the transition period might be hard for some.

"We have real people, real children, and they're showing me that it's not just the science that gets us out of this," Wilson says.

Just like we came together to stave off the virus, we will come together to get through the transition and move forward to a new normal.

*JoAnna Wendel is the lead communications consultant for the Congregation Neveh Shalom COVID-19 Outreach and Services team. Funded by the Oregon Health Authority, CNSCOS is tasked with helping limit the spread of COVID-19 by providing services and timely information to the Jewish communities of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties.*



Reed College professor Laura Leibman, left, and Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon acting president Janice Sellers will present sessions at 41st Annual IAJGS Conference Aug. 1-5.



## Two locals tapped for international Jewish genealogy conference

Reed College professor Laura Arnold Leibman has been selected to present four talks for the 41st Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Janice M. Sellers, acting president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon and a professional genealogist, has been selected to present two talks.

The 2021 International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies All-Virtual Conference will be Aug. 1-5, 2021.

Dr. Leibman is the author of several books including *The Art of the Jewish Family*, which won three National Jewish Book Awards, and *Once We Were Slaves: The Extraordinary Journey of a Multi-Racial Jewish Family*, forthcoming in August of 2021. You can learn more about her work at [lauraleibman.com](http://lauraleibman.com).

Sellers is related to actor Peter Sellers and John of Gaunt, son of a king and father of a king. At least that's what her grandparents told her. Unfortunately, they were wrong, but that's why she has researched her family for 46 years and now is a professional genealogist who helps others find the right pieces to fit their genealogy puzzles. She specializes in Jewish, Black and dual citizenship research. You can read more on her website [ancestraldiscoveries.com](http://ancestraldiscoveries.com).

On Aug. 2, Dr. Leibman will present the Lucille Gudis Memorial Lecture, speaking on "The Art of the Jewish Family."

The conference will feature livestream presentations as well as more than 100 prerecorded, on-demand videos, both available for 60 days after the conference ends. Sessions will cover virtually every aspect of Jewish genealogy and research.

"Based on the successful full virtual format last year as well as uncertainty with COVID, we are again moving to an all-virtual conference with many exciting interactive components," says chair Judi Missel.

Dr. Leibman will also speak on "Jews of Color in Early America" on Aug. 5. Two prerecorded sessions will feature Professor Leibman speaking on "Early Jewish Philadelphia" and "The Secret Language of Early Jewish American Portraits."

A book award judge's description of Dr. Leibman's award-winning book, *The Art of the Jewish Family: A History of Women in Early New York in Five Objects*, can be found on the Jewish Book Council website, [jewishbookcouncil.org](http://jewishbookcouncil.org).

Sellers presents two on-demand recorded talks: "But It Wasn't a Foreign Language to Your Ancestors" and "Online Doesn't Mean Free: Copyright Issues for Genealogy."

The special tracks at this year's IAJGS Conference are Early Jewish Settlers of the Americas, Innovative Methodology, Keepers of the Shoah Memory, Beginners Research, DNA Insights for Genealogy, and Heritage and Cultural Materials.

Registration and conference program details are posted on the conference website: [iajgs2021.org](http://iajgs2021.org). Ongoing information and questions will also be posted on the IAJGS conference discussion at [facebook.com/groups/IAJGS](https://www.facebook.com/groups/IAJGS).

The IAJGS is an umbrella organization of more than 93 Jewish genealogical societies worldwide. It coordinates and organizes activities such as its annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy and provides a unified voice as the spokesperson on behalf of its members.

The IAJGS's vision is of a worldwide network of Jewish genealogical research organizations and partners working together as one coherent, effective and respected community, enabling people to succeed in researching Jewish ancestry and heritage. Find the IAJGS at [iajgs.org](http://iajgs.org) and [facebook.com/iajgsjewishgenealogy](https://www.facebook.com/iajgsjewishgenealogy).

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### Editor

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

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## Upcoming issues

| Issue date | Deadline |
|------------|----------|
| July 21    | July 15  |
| Aug. 4     | July 29  |
| Aug. 18    | Aug. 12  |
| Sept. 1    | Aug. 26  |

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

### Rabbi's Corner

The Jewish Review offers 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- to 600-word piece.

For more information or to schedule a column, email [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org).



# Obituaries

## IRVING JEROME LEOPOLD

Irving Jerome Leopold, z"l, passed away in early July. He is survived by his dear wife, Rhoda; their children, Mike (Gretchen) Leopold and Heidi (Gary) Grenley; four grandchildren; a wonderful extended family; and dear friends.

He was a congregant of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

A private funeral was held with a shiva minyan July 5, 2021.

## JENNIFER BARNUM LURIA

Jennifer Barnum Luria – Jennie to her loved ones – died suddenly of a heart attack Thursday, June 24, during her valiant fight against cancer.

Born in Bellevue, WA, Jennie moved with her parents to the Bay area before settling in southern California. After many adventures foreign and domestic, she arrived in Portland in 2017.

A graduate of UCLA, Columbia Business School, and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, Jennie was as accomplished as she was kind and charismatic.

Known for her generosity, thoughtfulness and quick wit, Jennie never let a little thing like cancer get in the way of living her life. If anything, a brain tumor only enhanced her irreverent sense of humor and boundless joie de vivre. She loved travel, reading, crafting with anything sparkly, the color pink, and carbohydrates. Her greatest loves by far, though, were her husband of 20 years, Gil, and their two teenaged boys, Ben and Adam.

Jennie is survived by her husband Gil Luria, sons Benjamin and Adam, mother Susan Barnum, father Robert Barnum, sister Megan Bijan, brother Kevin Barnum, and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at Beth Israel Cemetery on June 27. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Blanchet House in Jennie's memory.

## CHELSEA LYNN NEWMARK

Chelsea Lynn Newmark, z"l, passed away June 29, 2021. She was the beloved daughter of Barbara Newmark and the late Jerome Newmark.

She was the life partner of Gilbert Coronado, sister of Adam Newmark, and mother of Silas, Mateo and Anna Coronado and granddaughter of Jeanne (Herbert) Newmark, and late Patricia and Richard Goffe.

A private family service will be held at the Beth Israel Cemetery.

## ROSALYN BORG

Jewish leader and human-rights advocate

Rosalyn Borg, z"l, passed away June 27, 2021, at the age of 85 in her home in St. Louis. The cause was lung cancer. Rosalyn served as area director of the American Jewish Committee in Portland and St. Louis. She is survived by sons, Scott Biespiel (Houston, Texas), Matthew Biespiel (Chicago, Ill.), David Biespiel and wife, Wendy Willis (Portland); sisters, Bonnie Spiesberger (San Francisco, Calif.) and Bebe Borg (Miami, Fla.); seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was a pioneering female executive in the commercial waste management industry, was instrumental in bringing the children's program "Sesame Street" to Houston public television, and was active and deeply connected to the Tulsa Jewish community since the 1940s.

She was the daughter and granddaughter of Jewish immigrants from Russia and Ukraine.

While director of the St. Louis branch of AJC from 1988-2001, Rosalyn focused on combating human trafficking, building coalitions among the St. Louis area's diverse ethnic, racial and religious groups, and expanding the AJC's annual Interfaith Lecture Series for Jews and Christians.

As director of the Portland chapter of AJC from 1986-1988, she was instrumental in establishing the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment. She served on the board of the five-state coalition of private citizens and government officials, whose purpose was to address the problem and threat of religious and racial harassment and violence in the Northwest through united action.

In 1987, she led AJC's advocacy for redress legislation for Japanese-Americans who were interned in the United States during World War II.

She was a longtime member of the board of directors of the National Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies.

As president of the Houston chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women in the 1970s, she was instrumental in creating Career Branch to open doors for young women for civic, philanthropic and private sector advancement.

Rosalyn Borg was born in Decorah, Iowa, on Sept. 6, 1935, to Joe Borg, president of Borg Compressed Steel, and Ruth (Lenske) Borg, a homemaker and volunteer. She was the oldest of four daughters.

Rosalyn graduated with a degree in political science from the University of Michigan in 1957 and married fellow Tulsan Stephen E. Biespiel. The marriage ended in divorce.

Memorial contributions may be made to

the Rose Borg Sukkoth Fund at Congregation B'nai Emunah, 1719 S. Owasso Ave., Tulsa, OK 74120. Funeral services were July 1 at Rose Hill Cemetery.

## REBECCA WEISS-CLARK

Rebecca Weiss-Clark, z"l, passed away June 22, 2021, at the age of 54. She is survived by parents, Samuel and Roberta Weiss; daughter Britni Weiss-Alsdorf and her husband Elijah Alsdorf; sisters Tracy Weiss and Julie Threlfall; brother, John Saslow; and many cousins who loved her.

She was born Nov. 6, 1966, in Portland. She grew up at Congregation Neveh Shalom.

Rebecca was a crafter and was widely known as "The Crayon Lady." She melted down broken crayons and created Judaic symbols and other shapes that she sold at many arts and crafts fairs and the Hadassah Hanukkah Fair in Portland and the Temple Beth Shalom Hanukkah Fair in Salem.

She worked for the Jewish Federations in Seattle and Portland, Outdoor School and at B'nai B'rith Camp, among other places.

Rebecca may have the distinction of being the only person to work at BB Camp one summer each in three different decades. She worked in the office and was BB Camp Health Center Administrator the third time she worked there.

Rebecca always made Jewish camp a priority for her daughter, often relying on scholarships to make that possible. Wanting to share that option with other children, the family suggests donations to One Happy Camper; donate at [jewishportland.org/campaign-for-community-needs](http://jewishportland.org/campaign-for-community-needs) and on the comment line write "For One Happy Camper in memory of Rebecca Weiss-Clark" or call Federation office manager Julie Alferes at 503-245-0802.

She was buried June 24 at Shaarie Torah cemetery.

## HOWARD MELVIN JOSEPH SHAPIRO

Howard Melvin Joseph Shapiro, z"l, passed away June 16, 2021, shortly after his 90th birthday in his Portland condominium beside his partner of 10 years, Karen Beal. Howard is also survived by his son, Mark; and two grandchildren, Simone and Eve, who called him Buddy. Howard's daughter, Annie, preceded him in death in 2016 and his sister, Janet Harris, passed away in 2018.

He was born in Los Angeles April 14, 1931. His parents, Louis and Helen Shapiro, moved the family to Seattle in 1932.

From an early age, he loved singing and harmonizing. At Garfield High School, Howard and his best friend Alvin Goldfarb played in bands with classmate Quincy Jones. Howard and Alvin formed a musical duet called the Two Tones and toured the

United States.

Howard later attended the University of Washington and then joined the United States Coast Guard (1952-1956), where he served as a public affairs officer on the Icebreaker Northwind on a pioneering voyage in the North Passage. His article about the adventure was published in Life Magazine.

In 1957, he married Myrna (Manya) Poll, and they had two children, Annie and Mark. Howard worked as an advertising executive during the Mad Men era. Highlights of his early career include the coining of the slogan "Oh Boy Oberto!" He was also responsible for accompanying celebrities on their tour stops in Seattle, and he spent time with Elvis Presley, Johnny Mathis and Sammy Davis Jr.

In 1972, Howard and his family sold their home, bought a Volkswagen camper van, and traveled throughout Europe and Africa. A year later, they relocated to Portland.

His true passions were philanthropy and volunteer work. He was deeply devoted to social justice.

In the early '80s after a trek in Nepal, he joined with investment advisor Carsten Henningsen to become trailblazers of Socially Responsible Investing. They were founders of SRI Northwest, and Howard served on the boards of the national Social Investment Forum and Parnassus Investments, now the world's largest SRI fund.

As a long-term board chair, he led the reinvention and expansion of the Housing Authority of Portland (now Home Forward). HAP commissioned a sculpture named Howard's Way in 2007 to honor his contributions to affordable housing. The sculpture can be found at the Civic Apartments on West Burnside and Northwest 19th Avenue.

Howard was especially proud of his role in the creation of Albina Bank, McKenzie River Gathering (now Seeding Justice), Food Front and the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art. He also served on Portland's Planning & Sustainability Commission and the boards of Oregon Food Bank, SAIF, Oregon Public Broadcasting, The Nation Magazine Foundation, Pacific Northwest College of Art and Camp Caldera. He often enlisted the assistance of his close friend, Joe Hertzberg, in his schemes.

He spent nearly half his time over the last 30 years in the beachside town of Manzanita. His spiritual mooring was with Rabbi Ariel Stone and Congregation Shir Tikvah. At age 13, he had both Reform and Conservative bar mitzvahs and was active at Seattle's Temple De Hirsch.

Contributions in his memory may be

made to Congregation Shir Tikvah, Seeding Justice, PICA or the Wonder Garden at the Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita.

## SHARON COFFEY RUBENSTEIN

Sharon "Cherie" Coffey Rubenstein, z"l, passed away June 9, 2021. Cherie is survived by her son Kent Blumberg and his wife, Cynthia, in Virginia; daughter Wendy Dominguez and her husband, Don, in Oregon; and daughter Kristen Boucher and her husband, Jim, in Connecticut; her grandchildren, Amy, Rebecca, Kitt, Kara, Nicole and Ben; her sister, Carolie Coffey; special cousin, Gary Spaulding and his wife Mary; sister-in-law, Linda Persha; other extended family, several nieces and nephews; and cherished friends Francois and Roger Eiss, Marylyn Klesh, Jack and Nancy Forristel, and many others.

Cherie was born on Feb. 21, 1932, in Ann Arbor, Mich., to Robert, M.D., and Jean (Spaulding) Coffey. With her parents, Cherie and her older sister, Carolie, spent the early years of their lives in Michigan and Alaska before moving to Oregon, where her dad had grown up.

Cherie graduated from Lincoln High School in Portland and obtained her BA degree in Sociology from Stanford University, where she met her first husband, Jack Blumberg, M.D. Together they raised three children and lived in Washington State and Spain prior to resettling in Northwest Portland. Cherie later divorced and, in 1980, celebrated her marriage to Jerome "Jerry" Rubenstein, whom she met while taking flying lessons. The two shared a love of flying and real estate. After 31 years of marriage, Cherie was at Jerry's side when he died in 2012.

Throughout her life, Cherie was guided by her genuine love of people and her joy in life. While raising her children, she volunteered teaching English as a Second Language to Cuban refugees. She also volunteered at the Red Cross and OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry).

Although Alzheimer's progressively diminished her memory and ultimately took her life, Cherie remained the loving, compassionate woman she had always been.

We will always have her love and joy. Cherie was blessed to have her daughter, Wendy, nearby to guide, support and help care for her over the last many years.

Cherie lived in Farmington Square-Tualatin for the past six years, where she was cared for with compassion, respect and love.

There will be a private family memorial.

In lieu of flowers, please consider honoring Cherie's memory by contributing to The Radiant Senior Living, Tualatin, LLC, Workforce Development Fund at RSL Tualatin, LLC.

Arrangements: Holman's Funeral Service, Portland, Oregon [www.holmansfuneralservice.com](http://www.holmansfuneralservice.com).

## RICHARD SAVINAR

After a long and fully lived life, Richard Savinar, z"l, left this world with family surrounding him June 8, 2021. At 96 years old, he was ready to see his wife, Adele, again – the smile on his face when he passed indicated he did. Richard is survived by his children, David, Judy (Dan Cunha), Tom (Anna Maria) and Andy; ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Richard was all about family. He was direct, sometimes to a fault, loved a good debate, a good book, the New Yorker and the New York Times. He ate no red meat but loved a fresh maple bar and vanilla ice cream. He wore caps, not hats, and never backed down from the truth and doing the right thing. He was a one-of-kind guy. Short in stature, giant in character.

Born in Portland on Oct. 15, 1924, to Bessie and Jacob Savinar, Richard joined his older siblings, Shirley and Norman. He attended Irvington Elementary School, moved on to Grant High School and finally to the University of Oregon, where he was a Sigma Alpha Mu. War interrupted college and sent him with the 10th Mountain Division ski troops to Italy, where he served as a mule skinner and ran munitions up the Alps. He returned to U of O after the war; on a blind date, he met the love of his life, Adele Zavin. Together, they had four kids.

Post college, he worked with Norman in the family business, Portland Ice and Cold Storage. Eventually he left and opened Savinar Travel Service. He traveled the world doing what he loved most, adventuring to new places and meeting new people. Leading groups throughout the Swiss and Italian Alps was a perennial favorite. After 30-plus years, he retired having touched every continent but Antarctica.

His passions ran deep and wide. He could lose himself in opera just as much as at a Duck game. He loved camping and fishing; he and his children packed into the Wallowa mountains for a week of both every summer. Fancy cars parked in his garage were not an unusual sight and neither was stuffing the same children into the way back of a Ford. He ran before it was fashionable to run and baked bread on the weekends.

The destination closest to his heart was "God's country," Tolovana Park, where family and friends often gathered.

Donations can be made to Rotary Youth Exchange and The Alzheimer's Association or a socially conscious charity of your choice. A service has been held.

## Ashland's Havurah Shir Hadash turns 36

On July 16, the Havurah Synagogue, a Jewish Renewal community in Ashland, will celebrate its 36-year anniversary as well as Rabbi David Zaslow's 25th year as the spiritual leader of the community.

Rabbi Zaslow was ordained in 1995 by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, zt"l, under the supervision and mentorship of Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield, z"l. In the summer of 1996, he became spiritual leader of Havurah Shir Hadash, also known as Havurah Synagogue.

The double chai celebration kicks off at 7 pm in the Havurah garden (in case of extreme weather, it will be moved inside). The celebration will open with tributes by Havurah Council President Daniel Greenblatt, Rabbi Sue Morningstar, Rabbi Julie Benioff of Temple Emek Shalom, Mayor Julie Aikens, Rabbi Jackie Brodsky and storyteller Devorah Zaslow. Longtime Havurah member Jonnie Zheutlin will also be honored as she moves to Portland to be near family.

Shabbat will be welcomed with candlelighting



From left, Rabbi David Zaslow; Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield, z"l, founder of the Havurah Synagogue; and Rabbi Yitz Husbands-Hankin were all ordained by (not pictured) Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, zt"l. Photo by Jim Young.

and song, followed by a potluck dessert, wine and refreshments. Grizzly Peak wines will be enjoyed by all thanks to the generosity of Al and Virginia Silbowitz of Grizzly Peak Winery.

RSVP to [office@ashlandhavurah.org](mailto:office@ashlandhavurah.org). The event will be livestreamed on Havurah's Facebook page: [facebook.com/HavurahSynagogue](https://facebook.com/HavurahSynagogue).

Havurah Shir Hadash is located at 185 N. Mountain Ave. in Ashland. Call 541-488-7716 for more information.

## Tours, rooftop receptions await newcomers

Newcomers to Portland and those interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the city's Jewish history are invited to explore two exhibits at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education and then mingle at a rooftop reception.

"This is the 'successor' to the walking tours of Jewish Portland for newcomers that went on hiatus last summer because of COVID," says Caron Blau Rothstein,

Director of Community Planning and Allocations for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. "We're trying something new to take advantage of the reopened OJMCHE and their access to rooftop space for gathering."

The program will be presented twice for two age groups – 45 and younger and 45+. The events are presented by OJMCHE, JFGP and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

Guest Curator Kenneth Helphand will lead a tour of *Lawrence Halprin, Fountains and Upon Thy Gates*, *The Elaine K. and Norman Winik Mezuzah Collection* followed by a reception on the museum's stunning rooftop.

Lawrence Halprin stands as one of the great landscape architects of the twentieth century, and the exhibition features his iconic Portland fountain sequence. In a distinguished career spanning 60 years, he created numerous trailblazing projects. His signature design methodology and the series of workshops that he developed with his wife, choreographer and dancer Anna Halprin, grew to be landmarks in



Mezuzahs from OJMCHE's *Upon Thy Gates* exhibit redesigned as a traveling exhibit.

creative design practice. Halprin's work helped to spark a renaissance in landscape architecture in the United States and evolved into a model for creative and innovative work that addresses the urban condition.

Helphand is the Philip H. Knight Professor of Landscape Architecture emeritus at the University of Oregon. The author of *Lawrence Halprin*,

part of the Masters of Modern Landscape Series, Helphand is considered one of the foremost authorities on Halprin's work.

*Upon Thy Gates*, also curated by Kenneth Helphand, was first exhibited at OJMCHE in 2018 and has been redesigned for travel to other museums. Elaine and Norman Winik collected mezuzahs throughout their numerous visits to Israel and other Jewish communities and bequeathed the collection of 169 mezuzahs to OJMCHE in 2017. The traveling exhibit includes 72 mezuzahs and is generously supported by the Andy Fund, established in memory of Andrea M. Bronfman by her children.

Tickets for the programs are \$10. The exhibit tour/rooftop reception for those 45+ will be 11 am, Aug. 3. Register at [ojmche.org/events/ojmche-exhibition-tour-and-rooftop-reception-community-members-ages-45over/](https://ojmche.org/events/ojmche-exhibition-tour-and-rooftop-reception-community-members-ages-45over/).

The program repeats for ages 45 and younger at 5:30 pm, Aug. 10. Register at [ojmche.org/events/ojmche-exhibition-tour-and-rooftop-reception-community-members-ages-45below/](https://ojmche.org/events/ojmche-exhibition-tour-and-rooftop-reception-community-members-ages-45below/).

## Join fun at BB Camp golf tourney July 12

Last week, B'nai B'rith Camp opened its gates for its 100th summer. The joy of campers and parents alike was palpable. For 90 of those 100 years, Men's Camp and the B'nai Brith Men's Camp Association have been instrumental in bringing this joy to fruition, fueled by the fond camp memories of its members.

While counting down the days from the end of one Men's Camp retreat to the beginning of the next, some grew antsy to get a head start on the fun and fundraising, hence, the birth of the Send a Kid to Camp Golf Tournament.

BB Camp strives to keep costs as low as possible, yet it still remains beyond the means of many. The Send a Kid to Camp Golf Tournament raises vital funds for scholarships to ensure that every child can participate in the life-changing experiences BB Camp provides.

BB Camp thanks Lou Rosen, Lowell Lebenzon and Jerry Lewis for establishing the tournament 36 years ago. After a brief hiatus, Mort Simon and Hal Mink, z"l, reinvigorated it. Steve "Sudsy" Friedman and Denny Shleifer contributed additional tournament leadership over the years.

Because of these men and dozens of other dedicated volunteers, the tournament has grown from a small gathering to a widely anticipated event, drawing attendees from well beyond the Men's Camp community. Despite the many pandemic-related obstacles, last year's Send a Kid to Camp Golf Tournament raised more than \$100,000!

As BB Camp begins its second century, a new generation of leadership brings their energy and commitment to the event. This year's cochairs, Loren Koplan and Jon Cohen, are excited to continue raising significant dollars and finding new and innovative ways to make the event even more fun for participants.

The community thanks Menashe Properties – Barry, Jordan and Lauren Menashe – for decades of support as the Tournament Sponsor.

The golf portion of this year's event is almost sold out, but there is no cap on the fun and camaraderie. Join the fun at Red Shed at Langdon Farms at 6:45 pm on Monday, July 12, for the evening festivities: dinner, auction and of course, raising money for camp scholarships. Register at: [bbcamp.org/golf](https://bbcamp.org/golf).