

The JEWISH REVIEW

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State song gets new lyrics



Amy Shapiro sang her updated version of "Oregon, My Oregon" for the Opening Ceremony in the House of Representatives Feb. 14, 2020, Oregon's 161st birthday.

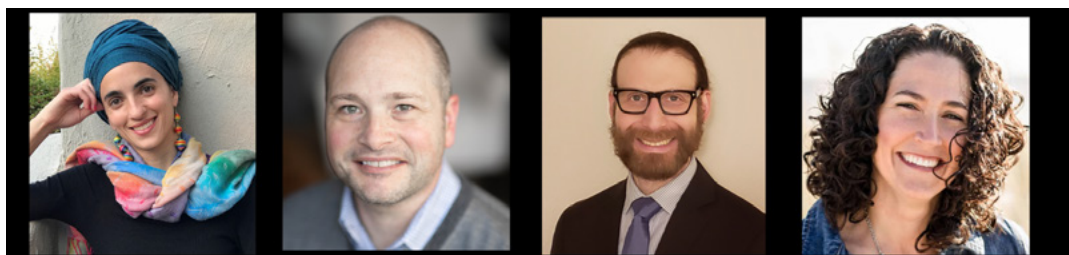
BY DEBORAH MOON

Thirty years ago, Amy Shapiro blanched when she had to teach her Portland Jewish Academy choir the lyrics "blood of martyrs" and "land of empire builders" when they were invited to sing the state song at the Capitol.

She returned last February to sing the new lyrics she wrote featuring mountains, forests and rivers. This year, House Concurrent Resolution 11 passed the Oregon House in April with a vote of 47-6 and passed 23-5 in the Oregon Senate. As a concurrent legislative resolution, it does not need to be signed by the governor, it just needs to be filed with the Secretary of State.

In testimony submitted for the measure, Amy wrote, "Outdated, misleading and offensive words glorifying oppression and murder are replaced with inspiring words glorifying Oregon's natural beauty – majestic mountains, forests and rivers – as well as our love of freedom."

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New Jewish Federation of Greater Portland board members, from left: Jodi Fried, Simon Gottheiner, Stuart Kirschner and Mindy Zeitzer.

JFGP annual meeting looks toward second century

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 101st annual meeting, held on Zoom June 14, 2021, looked at lessons of the difficult past year and shared plans for moving strongly into its second century to enhance local Jewish life.

JFGP Chair Lauren Goldstein shared how Federation grants, programs and resources helped Jewish organizations come through the pandemic and meet the social isolation and other

challenges of their constituents. "Sometimes we were unsure of where things were headed, and perhaps now, as of tonight, we see a light at the end of the tunnel," she said.

Just as Federation forged ahead to meet the challenges of the past year, it is now charging toward that light and into its second century.

The [38-minute annual meeting](#) was packed full of news. This included a record campaign, two new initiatives – the most

comprehensive socio-demographic community study in our history and a three-year grant to enhance Jewish life on the eastside – and plans for the relaunch of two major projects – the Wexner leadership fellowship and Community Israel trip. JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner announced the board's decision to undertake a comprehensive community study over the next two years, the first since 2008.

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Race Talks tackles Jewish-Palestinian conflict

BY DEBORAH MOON

Portland-based Race Talks, which hosts difficult conversations to inform people and build relationships, presented “How David Became Goliath: Israel’s 100 Year War on Palestine” on June 17.

“When I heard the title ... I was hesitant about participating,” said Sharon Erez-Shai, who was born in Tel Aviv and moved to Portland in 2016. “I understand by inviting me, you are willing to listen to the other side and keep an open mind.”

One of the five panelists, Ramzy Farouki pulled out during the program. In an email, which the moderator read during the program, he objected to both Erez-Shai’s participation as a former employee in the Israeli government and to the contextual history film from Vox shown at the start of the program. Farouki is the son of Palestinian refugees and the founder of the Center for the Study and Preservation of Palestine in Portland.

“It was not my intent to give a skewed point of view or to offend Ramzy,” said Race Talks Founder Donna Maxie, noting people have been fighting over that land for thousands of years. “Our goal is for people to learn.”

“I can’t feel anyone can walk away from this discussion and feel they have not had a positive presentation,” she added.

“Are we ever going to have a solution to this problem?” asked Maxie.



Maxie’s daughter Shaina Pomerantz, who is Black and Jewish, said she hosted the talk with “an open heart and open mind.” The panel also featured Asma Taha, Ph.D., Palestinian-American nurse practitioner at OHSU; Ned Rosch, cofounder of the anti-Israel Jewish Voice for Peace in Portland; and Bob Horenstein, director of community relations and public affairs at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

The daughter of 1948 refugees from Yafa, Dr. Taha shared a personal story of her relationship with the land. She heard her grandparents’ stories of Yafa all her life. Now she goes to the West Bank and Gaza one to two times a year with a children’s health organization.

“After many decades, I will always identify myself as Palestinian and hope I will be able to go back one day,” she concluded.

Erez-Shai is an adjunct senior instructor in world languages

“Are we ever going to have a solution to this problem?”

**~ Race Talks Founder
Donna Maxie**

and literatures at Portland State University. She also shared a personal story of her ties to the land. Her mother was born in 1912 in Tel Aviv and her father was a Holocaust refugee. The “oldest history book, the Bible” and archaeological findings connect her to the land.

“My roots connect me to the Hebrew nation,” said Erez-Shai.

She recognizes that Palestinians also feel a historic connection to the land and see themselves as a nation.

“When people see themselves as a nation, you can’t argue,” she said, adding “I believe in a two-state solution.”

She noted that Egypt and Jordan “did not permit the Palestinians to create a nation when they were in Gaza and the West Bank (1948-67).”

“I see the Palestinian people; I also want to be seen,” Erez-Shai added.

Rosch, who was raised in an observant Jewish family and strongly identified with Zionism,

said he now “stands as a Jew in solidarity with Palestinians.”

“Nothing is normal in Gaza,” said Rosch, who spent two weeks there in 2104 teaching yoga in refugee camps. “Fourteen years of an illegal Israeli siege have ripped apart hopes.”

Rosch said he now sees what he once viewed as a triumphant return to an empty land as ethnic cleansing.

“If Israel is committing ethnic cleansing, they are incredibly bad at it,” responded Horenstein, noting the Palestinian population has increased much faster than the Jewish population.

Noting he is married to an Israeli woman of color, Horenstein said 50% of Israel’s Jewish population are people of color.

He said his father-in-law hired many Palestinians during the 1990s for his construction company which resulted in “the personal interactions necessary for there to be peace.”

Horenstein said both he and the Federation support a two-state solution, and Federation has funded several co-existence programs in Israel.

When the Jews accepted the 1947 United Nations plan to partition the land into two states, “all the Arab countries rejected it,” he said. “Had they not, the Palestinians could have been celebrating 73 years of independence.”

For more information on Race Talks, visit racetalkspdx.com/.

Jake House is new Moishe House NW community manager

Moishe House has hired Jake House, 29, as its new Northwest Community Manager. Based in Portland, Jake began his new post May 10.

Moishe House is a global nonprofit that builds peer-led Jewish communities for young adults around the world. Founded in 2006, Moishe House funds, trains and educates young adults to create pluralistic, inclusive and welcoming Jewish communities. Portland’s original Moishe House launched in 2008 and is now



part of the network of more than 140 Moishe House communities in over 30 countries.

Jake manages and enables Moishe House community builders located across the Bay Area, Portland, Vancouver and Seattle to be leaders in creating meaningful, welcoming experiences that serve the young adult Jewish community in their city.

Jake was previously working as a program coordinator/outdoor adventure educator for Trackers Earth in Portland.

Jake has not lived in a Moishe House, but he has deep Jewish roots. He attended URJ Camp Kalsman as its first CIT and returned to camp in various other roles for another five years. He joined the Alpha Ep-

silon Pi Fraternity while earning a BA in psychology at the University of California Santa Barbara.

Jake grew up in Torrance, Calif., but has lived in Portland for about four years.

“I absolutely LOVE the Pacific Northwest,” says Jake. “I’m excited to exercise my leadership skills and build community around me.”

Jake can be reached at jake.house@moishehouse.org. To explore events and opportunities with Moishe House Portland visit them online facebook.com/MoisheHousePDX. The Portland house has room for three new residents; apply at moishehouse.org/welcome/

Day program for seniors returns

BY DEBORAH MOON

Adult Day Services resume at Cedar Sinai Park July 1.

Before COVID restrictions closed the program in March 2020, about 18 seniors a day enjoyed socialization, activities, games and good food. Thanks to support from the state and CSP, the adult day staff are poised to relaunch the program that is both a respite for caregivers and a boon for seniors facing cognitive changes.

During the pandemic, the state subsidized adult day programs that did not lay off staff and that kept in touch with families. CSP shifted Nancy Heckler from her role as Adult Day Services Director to Life Enrichment Director for the campus. Nancy brought her three full-time adult day staff along to provide one-on-one activities and socialization to CSP residents during pandemic restrictions that kept families and volunteers from visiting. She also stayed in touch with day service families via an e-newsletter, phone calls and videos.

"It really was a win-win all the way around," says Nancy. "It was a win because Cedar Sinai Park really needed a lot of one-on-one people – our residents were in their rooms and no family. So my folks just amped it up – they were doing Zoom calls, they were playing cards and games. Now we have my adult day staff coming back to the day program. It's a perfect time because families are starting to be able to come into the building, and we're starting to slowly get in volunteers."

Nancy said day service families are delighted to see the program reopen.

"You feel the relief through the emails (from families)," says Nancy. "One woman wrote, 'Mom has really missed her friends; another woman emailed, 'My husband needs to be with people other than me;' and one caregiver said, 'I really, really need a break.'"

While many family caregivers want an adult day program as



Lorraine enjoys painting and Phil and Claire enjoy gardening at CSP's Adult Day Program (pre-pandemic).



CSP Adult Day Services

cedarsinaipark.org/adult-day-services

HOURS: 8:30 am-6 pm, Monday-Friday, beginning July 1

RATES: Short day (up to 6 hours): \$95

Long day (more than 6 hours): \$115

CAPACITY: 18 people

LOCATION: Cedar Sinai Park, 6125 SW Boundary St.

CONTACT: Director Nancy Heckler at 503-535-4403
or nancy.heckler@cedarsinaipark.org

respite for themselves, Nancy says the program is just as important for the participants.

"Research is showing the benefits of socialization for folks living with dementia," says Nancy. "Less depression, they eat better, they sleep better, they have higher levels of self-esteem."

"I have folks come in with maybe little facial affect, but they are tapping their toes or maybe singing along, or watching the crossword puzzle as it's developing or giggling with their neighbor," she says. "That's all engagement. That's the beauty of being together."

All the participants are adults with rich pasts, and Nancy and the staff treat them as adults and engage them in fun, intelligent activities. Participants can join the program from one to five days. Music, exercise, word

games and eating lunch with friends are part of every day. Gardening, watercolor and bingo are other popular activities.

Lunch and snacks are prepared by CSP's food service staff. Participants can choose from the entrees being served in residents dining halls, or they can special order favorites such as a grilled cheese or a tuna sandwich.

This video [youtube.com/watch?v=EXOGhBi6Dfc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXOGhBi6Dfc) gives a taste of a day at CSP Adult Day Services.

About half of the pre-pandemic participants are returning. Sadly, many passed away during the pandemic, though none from COVID. Therefore, the re-opening program has a few spaces available, and Nancy has begun interviewing potential participants. (See details in box above.)

Cedar Sinai Park holds annual meeting on Zoom

Cedar Sinai Park held its annual meeting virtually over Zoom for the second year and drew 62 households.

Attendees at the June 10 annual meeting heard from CSP CEO Kimberly Fuson, Board of Trustees Chair Elise Brickner-Schulz and Board Finance Chair David Hirsch about the state of CSP and a look to the future.

The team expressed its appreciation to the incredible board for their efforts throughout this past, unprecedented year. Those board members are Elise Brickner-Schulz, Ivan Gold, Jeff Reingold, David Hirsch, Steve Rallison, Michael Feves, Michelle Eastern Gradow, Michael Millender, Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana, Ilene Davidson, Marion Gans, Dr. Marvin Kaiser, Conrad Myers, Mylen Shenker, Eddy Shulman, James Winkler and Bernice Karsh.

CSP members voted in six new board members for the 2021-22 year: Margot Feves Pearmine, Marc Goldring, Howard Graitzer, Jennifer Griffith-Weprin, Jaimie Simon Harper and Felicia Rosenthal. We would like to extend a warm welcome to these new trustees.

And the board confirmed CSP's new slate of officers: chair, Brickner-Schulz; secretary, Ilene Davidson; treasurer, David Hirsch; vice chair-real estate and affordable housing, Michael Feves; vice chair-quality and corporate compliance, Steve Rallison; and vice chairs, Michelle Gradow, Michael Millender and Jeff Reingold.

The meeting featured an upbeat and uplifting song created especially for Cedar Sinai Park by the a cappella sensation Six13.

CSP employees were celebrated for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. The board and executive team are honoring staff by providing a dinner for four to each employee on June 10 and 11 and an outdoor employee barbecue in July.

The meeting was [recorded](#) for those unable to attend.

Song Of Miriam 2020-21 honorees, part 2



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.

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 second group of three women whose organizations selected them to receive the Song of Miriam.

More honorees will be profiled in issues throughout the summer.

HANNAH BERKOWITZ

Honored by Beit Haverim

Hannah Berkowitz is a giving and loving member of Beit Haverim, where she has been active for more than 23 years.

She is an original member of the congregation's choir and has been singing with them for more than 20 years.

Hannah actively looks for ways to contribute to the good of the community and the synagogue. She is excellent at welcoming new people, often ushering or greeting at Shabbat Services and then staying to clean up after services and events. She provides lively information during Torah Study through her love and knowledge of literature and history.

She is an ardent baker and brings Hamantaschen, latkes, delicious desserts and anything else that is needed for a holiday or occasion.

In addition, Hannah cares for the frail and elderly in the community by sharing her talents and friendship. She is an avid gardener, taking pride in her heirloom vegetables and beautiful flowers. And she is a passionate tango dancer and teacher.

Beit Haverim describes Hannah by saying, in short, she lives life fully!



JONI PLOTKIN

Honored by Beit Am, Corvallis

"Get 'er done!" describes Beit Am's Song of Miriam honoree Joni Plotkin.

When her three daughters started attending Sunday School, Joni began her volunteer activities at Beit Am as a teacher. Next, she was hired to be the office administrator, where she quietly and cheerfully kept things running smoothly for 15 years. A newcomer's first Beit Am encounter was often Joni's warm, friendly welcome.

Joni's contributions to Beit Am are diverse and substantial, typically in leadership roles. Currently,



she is on the Beit Am Board overseeing building operations, and she heads the interior design sub-committee and art recommendations committee.

Joni is committed to Beit Am's Burial Society, where she serves as treasurer and organizes Meals of Consolation and cemetery cleanup events. She successfully obtained grant funding to renovate and clean headstones at the Waverly Hebrew Cemetery in Albany and helped get it registered as a National Historic Site.

Joni is a master at community building: she brings her heart, humor and intellect to every project. She is conscientious, reliable and a loyal friend. Beit Am says it counts itself lucky that she is part of its community.

KATHLEEN DOCTOR

Honored by Women of Reform Judaism/Beth Israel Sisterhood

Beth Israel Sisterhood is honoring its past president, Kathleen Doctor, with the Song of Miriam Award. Kathleen has served for eight years on the Sisterhood board in various offices.

With calm, steady guidance, Kathleen encouraged the involvement of new members and has been a great mentor to up-and-coming leaders. She is a strategic thinker with a very positive attitude and a "can do" style. She is not afraid to tackle new projects and has always enjoyed the challenge. She has overseen several fundraising efforts through the years and continues to be involved in them.

Kathleen is a sweet and welcoming person who has opened her home to Beth Israel Sisterhood for many projects and functions.

She was active in her Bay Area synagogue, Congregation Beth Am, and its Sisterhood before moving to Portland eight years ago.

Kathleen has operated her own business and also worked in several nonprofits, including as the director of development at the Palo Alto YMCA and board member for the Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School.

Kathleen is the mother of three adult children, is an avid traveler and cyclist, and loves to get involved and meet people.



B'nai B'rith Camp teen funders seek grant proposals

The B'nai B'rith Camp Teen Foundation, with the support of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Community Fund, announces the availability of grant funds to support projects directly related to youth education, youth recreation, commu-

nity development and critical needs. Grant requests for up to \$2,000 will be considered.

Grant requests must be from 501(c)3 organizations from Oregon Jewish communities or the Lincoln City area. Organizations that deny service to a

potential client on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran or disability status are not eligible for funding.

Individual requests are not accepted. Travel programs and

student tours will not be considered.

To receive the grant application form, email BB Camp Assistant Director Carly Sokolof at csokoloff@bbcamp.org.

Send completed proposals to Carly by July 9, 2021.

Maimonides student wins national essay contest

Sima Wilhelm, a ninth-grader at Portland's Maimonides Jewish Day School, won first prize in the Better Together Cohort V: National High School contest with her essay "One Full Year."

Better Together, a school-based Jewish intergenerational program, launched the contest in recognition that social isolation and loneliness in the elderly is at an all-time high. Students were asked to reflect on the Jewish tradition of creating community and reducing social isolation in both seniors and the elderly.

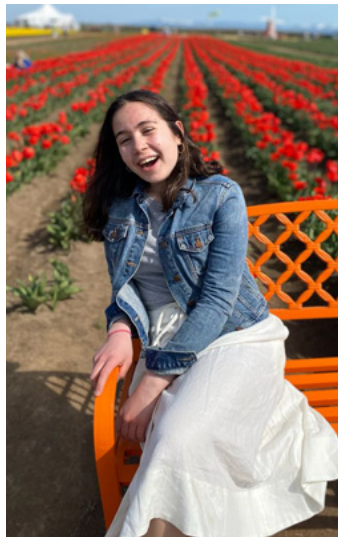
Sima wins a scholarship to a Jewish camp (half the cost, up to \$5,000) or gap year program (half the cost, up to \$8,000), which can be used until 2024.

MJDS receives a \$25,000 prize for the winner's Jewish day school.

An email announcing the national winners notes: "The winning submissions were very meaningful this year. Our esteemed judges are most impressed by how the Better Together program has impacted the students as reflected in their feelings about seniors, aging and the mitzvah of caring for the elderly."

Columbia Journalism School Professor Samuel G. Freedman has been a judge in the Better Together contest for seven years.

"I've always cherished both the goal of building intergenerational Jewish bonds and the high quality of the students' essays," wrote Freedman; he added that the essays from 20-21 were of an entirely different



Sima Wilhelm

order of magnitude. "Amid a pandemic that particularly afflicted the young and the elderly – one group for the psychic toll it exacted and the other for the frighteningly high risk of infection – Better Together defied the unprecedented medical and logistical challenges to build relationships across a vast age difference and to inspire a deeply moving set of essays."

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Professor Dr. Leslie Newman, also a judge, wrote: "That the relationships described in the wonderful student essays filled incalculable voids during this past, hard year is palpable in the writing, in the details shared, and in the learning and feeling so beautifully described in the essays."

Sima's winning essay is in the form of a letter to her Better Together partner (see essay at right).

*Dear Marlene,
ONE FULL YEAR.*

Just over one year ago, you and I would get together every month for "Better Together." We would chat, cook, learn and connect. While you are older than me, our friendship became natural. You shared with me how your passion for running was a hobby you developed in your senior years, and you inspired me with the story of your first marathon which you ran in Israel. I shared with you our class politics and both my excitement and trepidation about going to High School. Through our conversations I learned that we are more alike than different, we both had fears to overcome, dreams to fulfil and we both loved making food for Shabbos.

But without warning that all changed.

COVID hit and an entire new lexicon entered our vocabulary. Social distancing, lockdowns, quarantine, transmission and pre-existing conditions.

Suddenly it was not safe to be together. While as a child I was more protected from the effects of COVID, you as a senior were more susceptible. A virus without a cure was ravaging our planet and the senior population was uniquely vulnerable. I can't imagine how scary that must have been.

Scary and isolating. It was not just me you could not see. Your own grandchildren were unable to come into your home.

I remember how you shared with me how excited you were about your granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah. Now you were unable to attend.

Suddenly we felt so different. You a senior, I only a child.

Enter Zoom. Our Better Together program started meeting via Zoom. We could not cook or taste the food together, but we could sing. You in your home and me in mine. We could bond over melody, poetry and conversation.

One day, you allowed me to interview you. You shared the influence your grandfather had on your life, how meaningful you found volunteering, and how COVID impacted your life.

We shared the challenges we were facing. We were both isolated, worried and anxious and we spoke a lot about when we think this will end. We dreamed of what we will do once that day comes.

We realized we were fighting COVID – together. We were locked down. Isolated. Alone. Together.

And then, once again, it felt like we are really not that different from one another. We each face our struggles, have fears and inhibitions, and we each have to muster the courage to shine our brightest.

Better Together in COVID brought me back to that point of remembering: we are more the same than we are different.

I can't wait for COVID to be over. You are one of the first people I want to hug.

Sima

Oregon Hillel's Rabbi Goldstein tapped for Jewish Wisdom fellowship

Rabbi Meir Goldstein from Oregon Hillel is one of 46 fellows selected to participate in Hadar's Jewish Wisdom Fellowship, a collective learning and thought leadership project for Jewish professionals. Over five weeks, four cohorts will engage with some of the most pressing social, moral and spiritual questions confronting our communities and the world.



Rabbi Goldstein is one of 13 rabbis in the clergy cohort. Rabbi Goldstein serves as the Senior Jewish Educator at the Oregon Hillel Foundation and is an instructor on the Judaic Studies faculty at the University of Oregon. He is committed to a pluralistic vision of Judaism that supports the flourishing of every human being. A passionate student of Torah, Rabbi Goldstein attended the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University, where he earned an MA in Rabbinic Studies in 2003 and Rabbinic Ordination in 2006. He seeks to elevate the human dignity of those

around him. When not at work, you will find him on a hiking trail, baking bread, playing guitar or studying. Rabbi Goldstein and his wife, Laura, live in Eugene with their loving (yet bossy) shih tzu, Koofi.

Hadar empowers Jews to create and sustain vibrant, practicing, egalitarian communities of Torah, Avodah and Hesed.

The fellowship began June 22. Fellows will study and work together over the next several weeks. The program will conclude with a final project, determined by each fellow, aimed at sharing learnings with the broader Jewish professional field.

Julie Diamond earns lifetime achievement prize

Julie Diamond, retiring president and CEO of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, has been awarded the Allan Price Award for Distinguished Service to the Fundraising Profession. This award recognizes fundraising professionals who demonstrate exceptional skill and enthusiasm for their work, who pursue big ideas and successfully engage others in achieving them, and who inspire new levels of giving among donors.



Julie is only the fourth recipient of this award, which is given by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

During Julie's tenure, the foundation grew its assets under management from \$43 million to more than \$110 million and granted more than \$80 million dollars into the community. She has helped hundreds of donors actualize their philanthropic goals by working with them and their professional advisors to turn assets into charitable dollars in creative and tax-wise ways.

In a letter supporting Julie's nomination, Judy Margles of the Oregon Jewish Museum & Center for Holocaust Education wrote, "Julie has been a constant advisor, mentor, friend and colleague, responding to my fundraising questions by generously sharing her expansive knowledge of trends, donors and processes, always accompanied by her trademark respect for others, levelheadedness and honesty."

Philanthropist Jordan Schnitzer supported Julie's nomination with this statement: "Upon her retirement, I feel very indebted to Julie. I am certain that many other citizens would agree that because of her dedication, our community is a better place!"

Julie's colleagues beyond the Jewish community recognize her passion, too. In another supporting letter, Rebecca Bibleheimer from the Northwest Planned Giving Roundtable and Oregon Community Foundation wrote of Julie, "Her dedication and commitment to OJCF has had a measurable impact on the foundation and thus its incredible impact on Oregon. She has helped countless donors create meaningful and impactful legacies with their gifts to the foundation, and the impact of those gifts she has stewarded with such grace, love and deference will continue to improve the lives of people in our community for countless years to come."

As Julie steps into retirement, the Julie Diamond Scholarship Fund was created by her friends and colleagues in recognition of all her passion and work. If you would like to honor Julie through a contribution to the scholarship fund, you can do so at <https://tinyurl.com/JulieDiamond>

OJCF welcomes new trustees

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation welcomes Lindsay Krivosha, Glen Levy and Sharon Morell to its board of trustees and taps Jonathan Singer as chair-elect.

Lindsay Krivosha is Portland-born, from a family with a strong history of involvement in OJCF. Lindsay's father, Steve Kantor, was one of the founding board members of the foundation, and she's excited to carry on the tradition. Lindsay is in her 11th year as a financial advisor; she has worked in financial services in some capacity since graduating college. Outside of work and community involvement, she is kept very busy with her husband, Joel, and their two young children, Eddie and Abby.

Glen Levy and his wife, Lisa, moved to Portland from New York City in 2011. Glen owns and operates a small, blended portfolio of residential and commercial real estate in New York, New Orleans and Portland. Previously, he spent a decade working in gourmet food manufacturing, specifically bread bakeries. He is past president of Congregation Beth Israel and has served on the OJCF Board on behalf of CBI for the last two years. Glen is a founding and current board member of Stone Soup PDX. In addition to supporting OJCF, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and other local Jewish agencies, Glen and Lisa are also ardent supporters of Harper's Playground, The

Circus Project and Mercy Corps.

Born and raised in Portland, Sharon Morell is a past president of the OJCF and a long-standing member of the foundation's investment committee. She has served on the boards of Cedar Sinai Park, Congregation Beth Israel and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Her son, Blake, is a proud graduate of the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation. After a career in the investment industry, Sharon continues to act as a consultant for institutional retirement plans.

Chair-elect Jonathan Singer is a fifth-generation Portlander with deep roots in the community, where he remains active in civic and community affairs including on the boards of the MJCC and Portland Jewish Academy. Before joining Barg Singer as a partner, he practiced law in the Washington, D.C., office of O'Melveny, a global law firm, and in the Portland office of Miller Nash Graham & Dunn. In his spare time, Jonathan enjoys listening to and playing jazz, traveling the world and the Oregon coast, watching the Blazers and spending time with his family.

"Lindsay, Glen, Sharon and Jonathan are joining a board of leaders working actively to complete the task of improving our corner of the world," says Tara Siegman, vice president of philanthropy, referencing a popular Pirkei Avot (2:16) quote on perfecting the world.

OJMCHE offers South Portland Summer Walking Tours

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education has partnered with the Architectural Heritage Center and Halprin Landscape Conservancy to offer guided weekly walking tours of South Portland this summer.

If you are interested in learning more about Portland's first urban renewal project and the Halprin fountains, join us for a guided walking tour of South Portland. The tour will explore historic and architecturally significant sites of the neighborhood.

Trained tour guides will talk about the city's first urban renewal project of the early 1960s that irreparably changed the physical, social and cultural landscape of the neighborhood. Included will be a walk through the Portland Open Space Sequence, a series of fountains designed by Lawrence Halprin and Associates between 1965 and 1970.

The 75-minute tour begins at the former Shattuck Elementary School, 1914 SW Park Ave., and ends at the

former Lincoln High School, 1620 SW Park Ave., on the campus of Portland State University. These buildings, now repurposed for the university, bookend neighborhood changes over the past 100+ years.

The walking tour is offered in conjunction with the OJMCHE exhibition Lawrence Halprin, Fountains, opening on June 23, and the Architectural Heritage Center's current exhibition, South Portland and the Long Shadow of Urban Renewal.

Tours are 10:30 am, July 6; 6 pm, July 15; 11 am, July 25; 10:30 am, Aug. 3; 6 pm, Aug. 12; and 11 am, Aug. 22. Tours are scheduled at various time on different days each week to ensure everyone has a time that fits their schedule.

Tickets are \$12 for members of OJMCHE and ACH; \$20 non-members; and \$5 children 12 and under. All tours run rain or shine. Space is limited to 15 people. Preregistration is required: ojmche.org/calendar.

Beit Salmon prayerbooks find new homes

BY DEBORAH MOON

Congregation Beit Salmon had a short history in Astoria, but its legacy continues with the donation of a box of 24 *machzor* (High Holiday prayerbooks) that will be available to seniors in retirement communities in the greater Portland area.

Beit Salmon was named in honor of being in the salmon capital of world and includes the root letters of Shalom. Abram Goodstein, now a rabbi in Alaska, led services for the congregation in 2014 and 2015. He led High Holiday services at Peace Lutheran Church in 2015, when he was a third-year rabbinic student at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. He is the son-in-law of Beit Salmon founder Ann Goldeen, z”l.

Congregation Beit Salmon did not continue after Dr. Goldeen’s untimely death in January 2016. Goldeen was one of four board officers, and two of the others moved out of the area. Moria Golub moved to Albany for studies, and Dr. Margaret Hammitt-McDonald went east to care for her parents. Dr. Allie Evans remained in the area but opened a naturopathic clinic.

“These prayerbooks now have their own history,” says Rabbi Goodstein. “Jewish prayerbooks in Astoria is no small feat. To me, it symbolizes that Judaism can be anywhere. Even though they may not be in use



Diana Lindemann presents 24 machzors (high holiday prayerbooks) to Community Chaplain Barry Cohen. The books were last used by Congregation Beit Salmon, which served the Jewish community of Astoria in 2014-15.

at the moment, they may have a purpose again in the future.”

Portland-area Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen is working to make those words come true. He plans to find homes for the prayerbooks at local retirement communities, so they can have them available in their libraries for Jewish residents.

The prayerbooks were discovered by Barbara Rasmussen, historian at Astoria’s Peace Lutheran Church. Former Beit Salmon member Carol Newman, who has a folk music and a live arts interview show on Astoria’s community radio station KMUN, took on the task of finding both a history and a future for the books.

Calligrapher Debbie Twombly scribed 28 labels Beit Salmon Astoria, Oregon. Carol recruited friends Ruth and Diana Lindemann to help paste the labels in the machzors.

“While doing so, I found Rabbi Laurie Rutenberg’s name on one of the books,” says Carol. “I called her and finally learned the source of the books. Ann Goldeen had asked her friends for help, and Gesher had lent and then gifted the books.”

After the books were labeled, Diane took them home to Portland to deliver to Rabbi Cohen so they could find new homes.

“The *machzorim* had been used in 2013 with Yankl Falk leading the first Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services in Astoria in about 50 years,” says Carol. “In 2014 and 2015, Rabbi Abram Goodstein led services at Ann Goldeen’s home and Peace Lutheran Church. And now, hopefully, these books will bring comfort and light to others who will learn of Congregation Beit Salmon and Jews still living in the oldest settlement west of the Rockies.”

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
THIS PAST YEAR.**

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



Jewish Federation®
OF GREATER PORTLAND



JFGP AT 101 (continued from page 1)

"There has never been one (community study) of this scope and magnitude," said Blattner. The study will provide "accurate and actionable data that informs community planning ... (and) the findings will be made available to everyone in our Jewish community."

More information on the community study and how to participate will be available once a demographic research firm is selected to conduct the study. Results should be available in about 24 months.

"I also want to highlight one new and special grant – a three-year investment in the Eastside Jewish Commons," said Goldstein (read about the space at jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/eastside-hub). "We're excited about this new Jewish community space on the east side of town and look forward to many programs and services being provided there."

Set to begin last spring, the Wexner Heritage Program now is set to launch in August. Read about the 20 Portland fellows and the program at jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/wexner-announces.

The Federation postponed its Centennial Trip to Israel that was poised to take 400 people to Israel in March 2020; new dates in March 2023 will be announced soon.

Nominating Committee Chair Ed Tonkin thanked outgoing board members Debbie Frank, Rick Haselton, Jim Meyer, Jeff Rob-

inson and Mark Zeitzer, and presented the slate of new members for consideration. Meeting attendees elected four new board members: Jodi Fried, a Jewish professional (formerly program chair at Kesser Israel, now operations manager for Sephardic Adventure Camp) and women's empowerment coach; Simon Gottheiner, an allocations committee veteran and COO of the Presentation Company; Stuart Kirschner, who participated in the first PDX Pathways young adult leadership cohort and has since served on allocations and Jews Next Dor at Beth Israel; and returning board member Mindy Zeitzer, incoming allocations chair and a past campaign co-chair who is also active at Neveh Shalom and Portland Jewish Academy.

Blattner also praised the community's agencies and synagogues for working to ensure that the needs of the community were met during this turbulent year. He thanked outgoing Oregon Board of Rabbis Chair Rabbi Eve Posen and retiring Oregon Jewish Community Foundation CEO Julie Diamond for their partnership in meeting community needs.

"When we come together, great things happen," said Goldstein.

Blattner added that Federation and its partners had to "look at everything differently ... ways we can enhance this Jewish community going forward. But the essence of our work is about people – but we do this

through our organizations and institutions we help fund to make this a reality."

The Federation Campaign for Community Needs increased by 6½ percent, the largest single year increase in more than 20 years. Thanks to the additional \$300,000, Federation was able to allocate more funds both locally (see story page 9) and overseas.

Federation's OSP committee spends months researching and reviewing various proposals from Israeli nonprofit organizations. All allocated funds in Israel are used for social services, and none go over the "Green Line." You can read about the eight nonprofits in Israel receiving funds at jewishportland.org/marcs-remarks/101st-annual-meeting-and-special-projects-june-18-2021.

Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen summed up the year in his invocation. Noting our community and the world have faced tremendous challenges, he said, "We have also strengthened each other emotionally and spiritually.... virtually or in person. What we created and experienced this year reminds me of the wisdom of Rabbi Tarfon recorded in Pirkei Avot: 'It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but you are not free to desist from it either.'" Rabbi Cohen added that even though we will never be able to completely fulfill all the needs of the community, "collectively we can handle any challenge that comes our way."



Vaccinated? Now you can visit mikvah mask free

Rachel's Well Community Mikvah has recently revised its usage guidelines. With the growing number of fully vaccinated individuals, and in consultation with medical experts, health and safety practices have been modified for immersion appointments.

Mask-free appointments are available when all parties provide verification of vaccination. Vaccinated guests are once again welcome to come and support or celebrate along with the immerser. For conversion immersions, the Beit Din of three rabbis presiding over this final step in the conversion experience also can resume on site.

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Vaccinated guests are also able to prepare on site rather than at home, and appointment times will be extended.

Individuals who do not have proof of vaccination may still make a masked appointment with the original restrictions in place. That includes wearing a mask except while immersing, with only the immerser and guide present, and preparation at home.

"Thanks to the pervasiveness of vaccinations in the Portland metro area, Rachel's Well can once again resume more normal appointments. We've seen an uptick in appointment requests in recent months,

and we're so delighted to have more people coming to the mikvah and feeling safe about this experience," says Rachel's Well Mikvah Manager Caron Blau Rothstein.

Appointments are requested by emailing mikvahpdx@gmail.com a minimum of four days before the desired immersion date (not counting Shabbat and other Jewish holidays).

Details about Rachel's Well in general and updated health and safety guidelines in particular can be found at: jewishportland.org/mikvah. Email mikvahpdx@gmail.com or call 971-220-5580 with questions.

Community generosity increases Federation allocations

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland was able to allocate 6.3% more money than in the previous year to its 18 local partner agencies (see box).

"That's reflective of the success of the campaign, which is reflective of the generosity of our community," says Caron Blau Rothstein, JFGP's director of community planning & allocations.

"Our committee was inspired by the many great agency leaders who were nimble, flexible, brave, visionary and creative (in the face of COVID)," adds Caron, who staffs the allocations committee.

"The pandemic brought out the best in our agency leaders, employees and donors," says allocations chair Jack Birnbach. "Our allocations committee certainly focused on how COVID was impacting their agencies, but the mission of the agencies was still carried out (some in person, some online and over the phone). They did not lose contact with those who they serve."

Caron and Jack rattled off an impressive list of some of those innovative adaptations:

- Oregon Jewish Museum and Holocaust Education created exterior window exhibits and developed a virtual tour of the Holocaust Memorial in Washington Park.
- Oregon Hillel had to close its building, but they had Shabbat meals-to-go available for even more students than would have come to Shabbat dinners.
- OneTable created Herefor with holiday resources for all ages to remain connected to community during lockdown.
- Portland Kollel painted an office wall green to create a green screen so they could continue to deliver Jewish learning via Zoom and podcasts.
- B'nai B'rith Camp served meals to fire victims and low-income students

JFGP LOCAL PARTNERS

Akiva
B'nai B'rith Camp
Cedar Sinai Park
Chabad of Hillsboro
Chabad of NE Portland
Greater Portland Hillel
Jewish Family & Child Service
Maayan Torah Day School
Maimonides Jewish Day School
Mittleman Jewish Community Center
Moishe House
One Table
Oregon Hillel
Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education
Portland Jewish Academy
Portland Kollel
Reed College Chabad
TIVNU: Building Justice

who couldn't get their free lunches when schools closed.

- The three day schools found creative ways to teach and keep students and families engaged.
- Tivnu started the year with tents to keep their students quarantined until everyone was safe and innovated virtual, remote internships when local, in-person internships became unavailable.

"The committee was inspired by the resili-

ence of our institutions and because of the generosity of our community, we were able to support our agencies," says Caron.

All the agencies were able to keep aloft during the pandemic and are now ready to carry forward to the future. Many pandemic-inspired innovations likely will continue in some form in the future. For instance, the museum will continue to use its windows for exhibits, day schools will continue to use technology to reach students when they can't be physically in school and virtual-hybrid models will continue at many organizations.

This was Jack's final of three years as chair of the allocations committee. Incoming board member Mindy Zeitzer will chair allocations for the coming year.

"Jack has really been a remarkable chair," says Caron. "He combines the best of head and heart in making decisions. He is a retired CPA ... he creates spreadsheets, but he understands the nuance and humanity of what we do."

Jack takes the committee's work seriously. "Allocations spends hundreds of hours each year researching our 18 partner agencies on behalf of our very generous donors," says Jack. "Almost none of our donors have the time to put in that we do. And we do this with them in mind. In Portland, we allocate block grants to agencies to help them continue to do their good works. We are not project focused, but outcome dedicated."

The allocations committee focuses on providing the block grants to partners in five impact areas: Building Jewish Identity, Jewish Education, Advocacy & Social Justice, Jewish Culture & Engagement, and Social Services.

The full allocations report will be available in the JFGP annual report being released this summer.

STATE SONG (continued from page 1)

The resolution modifies the lyrics, while keeping the same music of "Oregon, My Oregon" to reflect the "significant cultural, historical, economic and societal evolution in Oregon" since the state song was adopted in 1927. Amy changed fewer than a dozen words in the song.

For instance, she changed "*blest by the blood of martyrs*" to "*blessed by the love of freedom*."

The verse beginning:

"Land of the Empire Builders,

Land of the Golden West;

Conquered and held by free men,"

Became:

"Land of Majestic Mountains

Land of the Great Northwest
Forests and rolling rivers."

Amy was PJA's music teacher for about 15 years in the 1980s and 90s. After she taught the choir the lyrics to sing at the Capitol, she didn't sing the song again until 2016, and that was the first time she updated some lyrics. The Hillsboro Symphony Orchestra, which her husband, Jeffrey Ole-nick, plays in, asked her to sing the song during a performance featuring Oregon composers. She agreed, but only if she could change the lyrics.

Then Amy contacted her state legislators. An early measure died, but after Representative Sheri Schouten (D-Beaverton)

invited her to sing at last year's opening ceremonies, things started to happen. Rep. Schouten introduced Amy to Evelyn Kocher, who also objected to the song's racist lyrics. Evelyn started a Facebook page to promote Amy's version.

Last month, when Amy posted the news that the updated lyrics were adopted, one of the PJA students who had sung the song at the Capitol commented: "I can remember you talking about that when I was in fifth grade, 30 years ago. You have accomplished a long goal. Mazel Tov."

Amy hopes that students around the state will now sing "Oregon, My Oregon" with pride.

Chaplain's Corner

Importance of meaning-making

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Now that COVID restrictions are lifting, I have begun to visit retirement communities again in person. Talk about a range of emotions. I have felt a surreal combination of joy, gratitude and relief. I found myself being more patient, living in the moment, more aware of what was going on. I spent less energy planning on what I would say next and more energy on celebrating what was happening in the present.

We must continue to acknowledge that we have just gone through a collective traumatic experience. It has been complex, nuanced and multilayered. Moreover, it is ongoing. We need time to come to terms with what has happened. We need to decompress, grieve and heal.

I recently completed an intense 8-week program called “Essentials of Palliative Care,” sponsored by the California State University Shiley Institute for Palliative Care. I am finding ways to apply some of what I learned to our pandemic experience.

Palliative care emphasizes “meaning-making” in response to how our fabric of life has been torn apart. By making sense of what we have lost and how this has made us feel, we can obtain a sense of purpose and reprioritize our values. We can engage in meaning-making in multiple arenas: the workplace, at home with loved ones and with friends. We can also do this through artistic endeavors, intellectual pursuits, social activism and reconnecting with nature.

With meaning-making, both spirituality and religion play vital roles. Spirituality encompasses a variety of opportunities. Concerning our health, how will we take care of our bodies and souls? Concerning work, how will we re-enter the workplace with a positive mindset? Concerning practices, how will we discard counterproductive habits, continue healthy ones and learn new, constructive habits? Concerning relationships, how will we facilitate hope and optimism?

We can also turn to our religion. How has our faith been weakened or bolstered? Concerning our beliefs, what has helped us navigate COVID-19? Concerning practices, what rituals gave us strength, reassurance and confidence? Relating to our commu-

nity, how did we depend on others? How will we continue to reach out and connect with kindred spirits?

Ideally, our spiritual and religious practices and beliefs enable us to make meaning of our pandemic experience and reduce our stress and pressure. However, we must be careful if our spiritual and religious beliefs impede us from adjusting, coping and healing.

Forexample, if we believe COVID-19 is part of God’s master plan, we may struggle with how to resolve the tremendous suffering, pain and death that the virus inflicted. If we are fatalistic about what will happen to us in the coming weeks and months, we strip away our free will and undermine the idea that we have an obligation not only to take care of ourselves, but that our decisions affect others.

But if we believe that life is what we make of it, try to make good choices and attempt to learn how to be healthier, we embrace a positive attitude. This constructive coping mechanism affirms the power that each of us has to effect change.

Meaning-making is dependent on healthy relationships. As I continue to interact more and more in person with individuals, families and small groups, I am curious about what we will experience. Are people coping in a healthy way? What unaddressed needs, anxieties and expectations will rise to the surface? How will we confront grief that we have ignored or suppressed? What spiritual and religious beliefs and practices have been positive ... what has been counterproductive?

I need to be open to a variety of responses. Who knows what emotions will rise to the surface? The coming weeks and months present an incredible opportunity for us to reconnect – not only with others, but with ourselves. Let us be patient, compassionate and empathetic. Let us be open to reprioritizing our values. And most importantly, let us be grateful for the goodness we have right now.



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

Rabbi's Corner

OBR has achieved much

BY RABBI EVE POSEN

I have many favorite quotes from *Pirkei Avot*, the Ethics of our Fathers. One of my favorites, one that my father of blessed memory ingrained in me, reads “You’re not obligated to complete the task, neither are you free to desist from it.”

As a Type A personality in the “Type A and Type B personality hypothesis,” this is really hard for me. And yet, here I stand at the end of my two-year term as chair of the Oregon Board of Rabbis. We have accomplished so much in the past two years, and I know there is still more work to do.

What specifically have we done in the last two years? At the board level, we’ve built personal relationships by starting each meeting with a personal teaching or favorite text or quote from our diverse membership. We’ve checked in on one another, and when COVID interrupted and changed our lives, we held space for rabbis to ask questions and gain strength from this gathering of colleagues.

Externally, we have worked with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland to distribute sustaining grants and services to a myriad of local organizations. We have given out our own goods and services grants, enabling families and individuals to use gift cards, funded through JFGP, to feed themselves while preserving their dignity. We’ve led multiple community and statewide programs of learning for holidays, as well as workshops allowing us to harness the power of technology to bring us together in this rare moment. And we’ve worked at raising up our voices for justice throughout our community.

Are we done? No. When I took on the leadership of the OBR in 2019, I could never have imagined what lay ahead with a global pandemic and everything else that challenged us as leaders and community members. I have been honored to be a part of these conversations and actions that have led us forward over the last two years. For the last eight years, the Oregon Board of Rabbis has had an incredible gift of leadership in the powerful voices of Rabbi Dunsker, Rabbi Stone, Rabbi Joseph and now me. Together, we have supported the building of a community mikvah, recognized and lifted up voices, and addressed the needs of the most vulnerable.

Have we desisted? Also, no. I’m proud and honored to add my name to this incredible line of leadership and to pass on the mantle to Rabbi Benjamin Barnett to continue to lead us forward and continue our work. Thank you for the support and trust this community offers; though we may never “complete” our tasks, we will make progress on them together.

As the Associate Rabbi of Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland, Rabbi Eve Posen delights in learning from and teaching all ages and stages of her community. Rabbi Posen is grateful to be mother to Shiri and Matan, partner to Duncan and human pillow to Stanley the dog – all of whom inspire and support her work.



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Aug. 18	Aug. 12

Submit news, photos
and obituaries by the
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Guest Column

Tahara, “The ultimate kindness”

BY DAVID LEWIS

“Preparing someone for burial requires from us the utmost in care and respect for that individual, for how we treat our dead reflects how we should treat everyone.” Thus begins the ceremony of *tahara*, which we, the members of Chevra Kavod HaMet, perform for all Jews who want it here in Portland – Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist and non-affiliated. (The Hevra Kaddisha of Portland serves Orthodox congregations and others requesting traditional Jewish burial.)

It is for all of us one of the most tender, loving, caring and intimate things we do. Let me tell a story.

My parents both were non-practicing Jews, and both had made arrangements for their bodies to be cremated and their ashes scattered at sea. I was there when they died. The people who came to take them were kind and professional. But in both cases, they told me to take a walk, saying that I would not want to see what they were about to do, that it would not be something I would want as my last memory of them.

Later, when I found out about the Chevra Kadisha in my community and what they did, I realized that this was something so loving and caring and present that it was exactly what I would want as my last memory of someone. We wash them slowly and carefully; I personally have always thought of how this man’s mother would have washed him as an infant and try to do it with the same love and care. Then we pour water to simulate immersion in a flowing mountain stream, mayim chayim, living waters, to purify them of the sins we all accrete in our journey through this world. We dry them and clothe them in the simple linen garments worn by the high priest to enter the Holy of Holies; garments, that in our case, are sewn by volunteers who



Chevra Kavod HaMet cochair David Lewis, right, is a retired computer engineer and a member of Havurah Shalom. He has been involved with taharat for 20 years, first in Santa Cruz, Calif., and in Portland since 2011. He cochairs Chevra Kavod HaMet with Sharon Fendrich, a member of Neveh Shalom who has been a member of the chevra since 2014. She came to be part of this holy work after a powerful experience with the Chevra Kadisha of Eugene, which prepared her beloved grandmother for burial in 2011. Sharon is an award-winning neoclassical music composer, vocalist and pianist.

are also members of our community. Then we wrap them in a shroud and place them into a simple pine box. They wear their kippah and tallit, one of the fringes cut off and placed in the sash of their garment since they can no longer pray with it. We close the *aron* (the same word we use for the ark, and this is not a coincidence, since it contains something equally holy), and we roll it into a room where other members guard it until the time of burial.

If you have someone you are close to who is dying, please contact your congregation, which can give you more information, or Holman’s Funeral Service directly if you do not belong to a synagogue. **(To volunteer, see box on next page.)**

Most of our work is done through Holman’s, although some is done through River-view. We occasionally have travelled to perform a tahara in other funeral homes or in rural areas where people have

obtained a permit for a private burial on their own property. The text requesting volunteers includes all particulars, so that anyone who is not comfortable either physically or ritually can simply not participate that time.

Let me close with something personal, just one of the reasons that I do this work. We are all individuals, and I cannot speak for anyone else. I travel by bicycle. Coming home after performing a tahara, I ride through a quiet neighborhood, the trees vibrant even in winter, the bicycle silent except for the hiss of the tires on the pavement. Reaching the city, and starting to see people going about their lives, is like havdalah in a way, a rejoining of the stream of ordinary life. Coming home, I feel the differences between life and death and have the sense that every moment – here, now – is important, to be valued and not rushed through in haste. I feel more profoundly alive than at almost any other time.

Kesser Israel joins list of historic cemeteries

Under a new law that changed the designation for historic cemeteries to those 75 years or older, the Kesser Israel cemetery joins a handful of other Jewish cemeteries in the Portland area already designated historic.

Governor Kate Brown signed into law a bill that extends the historic designation beyond the original date of Feb. 14, 1909. The Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries, housed within Oregon Heritage in Oregon Parks and Recreation De-

partment, has worked toward this change for more than a decade. The new law designates a historic cemetery as “any burial place that contains the remains of one or more persons who died before the date that is 75 years before the current date.”

A press release from the commission estimates 180 cemeteries are eligible for listing under the new date. Jewish cemeteries already listed as historic include Ahavai Shalom and Neveh Zedek/Talmud Torah cemeteries of Congregation

Neveh Shalom, Congregation Beth Israel cemetery and Congregation Shaarie Torah cemetery. Historic cemeteries with Jewish sections include River View Cemetery in Portland, Lake Oswego’s Pioneer Cemetery, Eugene Masonic Cemetery, Jacksonville Cemetery and Waverly Memorial Park near Albany.

“We are delighted with the legislature’s passage of HB 2123 – introduced at Governor Brown’s request – which makes it possible for the Congregation

Kesser Israel Cemetery to be included among Oregon’s historic cemeteries,” says Sura Rubenstein, the Orthodox cemetery’s volunteer manager.

The Orthodox Jewish cemetery, located in Southeast Portland, was established in 1924 and had its first burials in 1925. Many of the earliest of the 300-plus burials in the cemetery are of immigrants from Poland and Russia. They came to Oregon in 1890-1924 as part of the great waves of Jewish

Continued on next page

Hevra Kaddisha of Portland members reflect on mitzvah

In recent years, two members of the Hevra Kaddisha of Portland, Jon Perrin and Eve Levy, have shared touching tributes about the mitzvah of caring for the deceased.

Jon Perrin wrote a piece in 2007 about his first experience helping to prepare the body of a deceased person for his funeral. Following are excerpts from his essay, which can be read in full at https://www.aish.com/sp/so/Touching_Death.html:

I was careful to remind myself that this was a man – someone’s father, brother, uncle or husband. We did our best to maintain an atmosphere of modesty and kept him covered as much as possible.

I have been to a number of funerals and been among the mourners. There, everyone focuses on dealing with the living because that is whom the funeral is truly for. Having been one who focuses on the dead, and after escorting this man as he left the mortuary, I have a new perspective.

Eve Levy, who recently moved to the Chicago area, penned a piece in 2018, the first time she participated in a chevra. She stepped in to assist when her friend’s mother died, and one chevra member was injured and could not participate. Following are excerpts from her essay, which can be read in

full at <https://www.aish.com/sp/so/Preparing-My-Friends-Mother-for-Burial.html>:

As a child growing up in Toronto, my mother volunteered for the chevra, but I never really knew what it entailed. I had learnt that this volunteer work is considered the highest form of chesed, (lovingkindness) that one can do for another person. The reason for that is that you could never be paid back in this world. It is an act of giving completely for the sake of giving.

We started with the head, washing her hair and rinsing the soap out ever so gently. Each hair that fell out was collected and placed in a linen bag to be buried with the body. Each limb was washed, one at a time, with so much respect and care. The body was covered at all times.

I felt an intense sense of peace descend as we finished preparing her for burial.

In addition, Levy spoke with longtime Chevra Kadisha volunteer Dr. Donna Kuttner about the mitzvah of caring for the deceased in a recent podcast, “The Ultimate Kindness – Preparing to Meet One’s Maker: Demytifying Jewish Burial.” The 37-minute program is available at facebook.com/eve.levy.37/videos/3968921329887631 and on Apple podcasts.

Burial societies seek volunteers Chevra Kavod HaMet

Chevra Kavod HaMet is recruiting volunteers for both its men’s and women’s burial society teams. In addition, the chevra is gearing up to provide taharat for trans and non-binary people. As part of that effort, the chevra is actively recruiting trans and non-binary members.

Volunteers are needed for teams who perform *taharat*, who act as *shomrim* guarding the body and who sew *tachrichim*, the sets of shrouds and garments. The sewing crew meets once a month; suspended during the pandemic, the sewing group intends to resume work once the team is vaccinated.

New members are interviewed to determine where they would best fit and what their existing level of experience is, but no experience is required. During the pandemic, interviews have been done via Zoom, which will continue to be offered as an option as the chevra resumes in-person operations. The women’s team recently performed its first in-person *tahara* since the pandemic began.

Members who perform *taharat* are trained in person, both in the ritual and procedures to keep everyone safe, including proper donning and removal of PPE. Then volunteers act as readers during their first *taharat* to see how the team works.

If you are moved to participate, visit chevrakavodhamet.org or email chevrakavodhamet@gmail.com.

Hevra Kaddisha of Portland

The Hevra Kaddisha of Portland welcomes new volunteers to help with the sacred task of caring for the dead. *Tahara* (purification and preparing the dead for the final journey) is an age-old ritual. During the pandemic, the Hevra Kaddisha of Portland continued to provide in-person *taharat* under strict protocols outlined by the National Association of Chevra Kadisha under the leadership of Rabbi Elchonon Zohn in conjunction with leading epidemiologists and public health experts. The Hevra Kaddisha of Portland offers its services to all Jews regardless of affiliation throughout the Willamette Valley.

No prior experience is required. For more information, or to schedule a training or observe to see if it’s a mitzvah for you, please contact Michael Rosenberg, head of the Hevra Kaddisha, michael@cashcolan.com, 503-519-2454; or the co-chairs of the women’s section of the Hevra Kaddisha of Portland Donna Kuttner, dhkuttner@gmail.com, and Adele Epstein, adelee7@yahoo.com, 503-539-2391.

Obituaries

CHAIM BEN ZALMAN HALEVI BULKA

Chaim Ben Zalman HaLevi Bulka, z"l, father of Congregation Kesser Israel member Elie Bulka, has passed away. The funeral was in Israel on June 16, 2021. Elie sat shiva in Israel before his return to Portland.

ROSI GOLDSMITH

Rosi Goldsmith, z"l, passed away June 8, 2021, in Portland. She is survived by her brother, David F. Goldsmith (Bonnie S. Hillsberg) of Silver Spring, Md.; sister, Julie Cwikel (Samuel Bar-Gil) of Omer, Israel; nieces and nephews in Israel and Michigan; and cousins in Portland. Her brother and sister-in-law, Daniel and Robin Adler-Goldsmith, z"l, predeceased her.

Rosi was born April 25, 1950. She was the daughter of internationally known epidemiologist John R. Goldsmith, z"l, and paleontologist Naomi F. Goldsmith, z"l. Rosi was born in Salem, grew up in Berkeley, Calif., and graduated from Berkeley High School in 1967. She attended Reed College from 1967 to 1970. From 1971 to 1975, she was part of the Learning Community, an experimental institution of higher education founded in 1970 by a group consisting mostly of former faculty and students at Reed College that was funded by the Carnegie Corporation and affiliated with Antioch College. In 1975, she co-founded a cooperative women's print-

ing press, Olive Press. She returned to Portland State University and completed her dual BS degree in speech communication and physics in 1988.

From 1988 to 2002, she lived in Grants Pass, joining a community of Sai Baba devotees, working with elderly and disabled patients. She returned to Portland in 2002 to help care for her mother, Naomi Goldsmith, working as organic gardening coordinator in an elder care facility.

Drawing on her own deep experiences with injury and trauma, she became a licensed massage therapist and body worker in 2009, specializing in rehabilitation through neurolastic healing, especially for Parkinson's patients. She owned Integration Massage (integrationmassage.com/) in Portland. She taught courses on organic gardening and nature communication.

Rosi was a special spiritual soul who brought light and healing to all those she touched. She leaves behind numerous friends from Congregation P'nai Or and the Sai Baba community.

Rabbi Hannah Laner of Congregation P'nai Or officiated at the funeral June 13.

SUBMISSIONS

Submit obituaries to:
editor@jewishportland.org.

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



The Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial Society) Building was erected in 1928 at the Kesser Israel cemetery. Under a bill recently signed into law by Governor Kate Brown, Kesser Israel now qualifies as a historic cemetery.

CEMETERIES (from previous page)

immigration seeking better lives for themselves and their families. In some cases, the stories of the people in the cemetery tell of hardships and sorrows.

"Although we do not have notable people among the burials, the cemetery tells more of a 'people's history' of Jewish life in Oregon," says Sura. "We are looking forward to working with the Commission on Historic Cemeteries on issues of preservation, restoration and long-term planning for the cemetery's future – and are grateful for the opportunity."

Kesser Israel's cemetery has a Chevra Kadisha Building, erected in 1928, which was likely used for preparations of deceased for burial according to Jewish traditions – washing ("purification") and dressing in shrouds before placing in caskets. Inside, there is a central concrete platform where the preparations would take place. In recent years, the building has been used for storage. The left pillar notes that it was erected by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Chevra Kadisha, whose names are at the bottom of the pillar. The congregation assumes the "officers" listed on the right pillar are officers and trustees of

the congregation.

The seven-member Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries was established to maintain a listing of all historic cemeteries and gravesites in Oregon; promote public education on the significance of historic cemeteries; and help obtain financial and technical assistance for restoring, improving and maintaining their appearances.

The commission recognized that many cemeteries didn't qualify under the original designation, which was based on establishment of Oregon as a state on Feb. 14, 1859. Designated historic cemeteries are eligible for grants and other protections under state law. The commission found many cemeteries that did not qualify still had historic significance. The commission recognized that historic value and significance changes over time. So, the rolling date became the goal.

Operating cemeteries are not required to list as historic with the commission, but they are eligible. For information on historic cemeteries and available resources and to designate a cemetery, visit <http://www.oregonheritage.org> or contact Kuri Gill at 503-383-6787 or kuri.gill@oregon.gov.

Hesed Shel Emet – burial for all

Hesed Shel Emet ("unrequited kindness") provides Jewish burial resources for members of the Jewish community in Oregon and SW Washington in circumstances when the individual or the individual's family needs support – "so that all Jews can be buried in dignity."

Established by the Oregon Board of Rabbis and facilitated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, this partnership is dedicated to assuring that every Jew, regardless of financial means or religious affiliation, receives a dignified, traditional Jewish funeral and burial.

For more information on Hesed Shel Emet, contact program administrator Lisa Spiegel at 503-564-8420 or email HesedShelEmetPDX@gmail.com.

Life-cycle events

BIRTHS

TZVI ELIMELECH AVROHOM SPECTOR

Tzvi Elimelech Avrohom Spector was born on June 6, 2021, to Shifra and Max Spector. He was welcomed by big sister, Masha; grandparents, Gabriela Brown, Sharon Pollin, Marshal Spector and Shari Levinson; and great-grandparents, Harold and Jane Pollin.

The bris was June 14 at Congregation Kesser Israel. Tzvi is named after his paternal great-grandfather, Rabbi Harry Spector, z"l, who bravely retained his Jewish identity after escaping Nazi Germany as a child; after his maternal great uncle, Abe Pollin, z"l, an owner of a Washington, D.C., sports teams and a model of philanthropy; and after the Skulener Rebbe, Harav Yisrael Avrohom Portugal, zt"l, a Hasidic leader who passed away in 2019.



NEIMA TOVA SKOLNIK

Rabbi Sholom and Chaviva Skolnik welcome a new daughter, Neima Tova, to their family. She joins her three older sisters, Freida Leah, 10, Sarah Ita, 5, and Ahuva Bracha, 1½. She was named after services at Congregation Ahavath Achim June 19, 2021. Rabbi Skolnik, who previously taught at Mayaan Torah Day School, is now the Rabbi of Ahavath Achim.

ENGAGEMENTS



DEVORAH BRODKIN-EZRA EPSTEIN

Devorah Brodtkin of Portland is engaged to Ezra Epstein from Bergenfield, N.J.

Devorah is the daughter of Congregation Kesser Israel Rabbi Ken and Aviel Brodtkin. Ezra is the son of Yisrael and Ellisa Epstein of Bergenfield N.J.

The wedding will be Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021.

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ALEX PERRIN-JOSIAH HAMOVITZ

Alexandra Perrin of Portland is engaged to Josiah Haimowitz. Alex is the daughter of Jon and Susanna Perrin of Portland Oregon. Josiah is the son of Bruce and Amy Hamovitz, Pleasant Hill, Oregon

Alex graduated with the Portland Jewish Academy Class of 2009. The two met at the University of Oregon. The Perrins and Josiah are members of Kesser Israel. The wedding will be in August 2021 at Horning Hideout in North Banks, Ore.

WEDDING



MIRIAM LAMBERT-MATYS WEISER

Congregation Kesser Israel wishes mazel tov to Miriam Lambert and Matys Weiser on their wedding Sunday, June 20, 2021, in Ellenville, N.Y.

Miriam Lambert, age 42, is a member of Congregation Kesser Israel. She was born and raised in Eugene and has lived in Portland since 2007. She is a medical physicist employed by Kaiser Permanente.

Matys Weiser, age 54, is a member of the Hasidic community in the Catskills, N.Y. He immigrated to the United States from Poland in the mid-1990s and is an entrepreneur.

Following the ceremony, the couple will drive cross country back to Portland, with stops for adventure in the national parks along the way. They wish to thank the community for their generous outpouring of support and good wishes, and they look forward to many wonderful years to come.

Jobs board

The Jewish Review publishes job openings from Jewish agencies and congregations. Submit to: editor@jewishportland.org.

PORTLAND JEWISH ACADEMY 5th Grade General Studies Teacher

Salary: \$34,700-\$67,082 per year

PJA is an inclusive community day school that strives to recognize, understand and honor all of our families. We value the diversity in our community, and we continuously work to provide an education for students in all of our programs that is equitable, accessible and just.

The General Studies Teacher is responsible for ensuring that all students learn the basic and essential skills at each grade level. This position provides an atmosphere and environment conducive to the intellectual, social and emotional development of students in classrooms and in a variety of other school-related settings.

For full job description and to apply, visit pjaproud.org/about-us/employment

CONGREGATION KOL AMI Director of Education

Part Time, 32 hours per week; Salary: \$40,000; stipend toward health insurance, professional development negotiable

Congregation Kol Ami is a warm and welcoming Reform congregation in Vancouver, Wash. Led by Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker, Kol Ami has more than 140 member families. Kol Ami is seeking an energetic, dynamic, knowledgeable Director of Education to begin in the summer of 2021. Our school currently serves 35 students on Sundays and Hebrew School students on Thursday afternoons. The DOE leads volunteer teachers from the congregation to help foster a love for Jewish learning and connection to our community in a fun, supportive environment.

The DOE sets the vision and the standards for our religious school and Hebrew school program. The DOE will work closely with Rabbi Dunsker and the Education Committee. The DOE will oversee the day-to-day operations of the religious school, recruit and supervise teachers, develop and implement curriculum, and facilitate family education programs.

The ideal candidate is a creative, enthusiastic Jewish educator, with formal and informal Jewish education experience. He/she/they should be comfortable working with children and families. Candidates should have a strong Judaic knowledge base and skills in community building, supervision, staff development and office management.

For the complete job description, email Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker at rabbidunsker@jewishvancouverusa.org.