

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

March 3, 2021 / Adar 19, 5781

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Volume 56, Issue 6

Local rabbis react to Israel court's conversion ruling

On March 1, 2021, Israel's Supreme Court ruled that people who convert to Judaism in Israel through the Reform and Conservative movements must be recognized as Jews for the purpose of being granted Israeli citizenship.

Israel's Ashkenazi and Sephardic chief rabbis criticized the decision.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid supported it saying: "Israel must have complete equality of rights for all streams of Judaism — Orthodox, Reform or Conservative. We all need to live here together with tolerance and mutual respect."

The Jewish Review invited Oregon's rabbis to weigh in as well.

"Hurray! Small yet welcome step forward," says Rabbi Daniel Isaak, rabbi emeritus of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

"The Reform Movement worldwide is very excited about this recent development," says Rabbi Michael Cahana, senior rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel.

See **CONVERSION REACTION**, page 14



Rabbi Chaim Wilhelm of Northeast Chabad walked around his neighborhood to see if anyone needed help during the power outage, which lasted a week in some parts of Portland. The couple in this house couldn't even get out of their house after this tree fell. After someone chopped the tree into pieces, Rabbi Wilhelm returned and climbed over the wood to deliver some hot soup. "It was worth it to see the smile on their faces," he says.

Reaching out with kindness

BY DEBORAH MOON

When more than 400,000 people in the greater Portland metro area lost power due to snow, ice and wind storms in mid-February, members of Portland's Jewish community reached out to friends and neighbors.

Rabbi Shalom Skolnik, who teaches at Maayan Torah Day School, invited one of the school's families to stay in his home. Rabbi Skolnik and his wife have three children, and the other couple has four children including an infant.

"We were 11 in the house,

and we have three bedrooms," says the rabbi. "My grandfather used to say, 'If there is room in the heart, there is room in the home.'"

The families spent nearly a week together. "It's been really nice," says Rabbi Skolnik. "The kids are friends."

Homes were not the only buildings without power. Maayan Torah lost power at the school in Lake Oswego for over a week. So on the sixth day, Maayan invited teachers and students to gather at

See **HELPING**, page 6

A remarkable first year

When the Jewish Review published its first issue as a biweekly e-newspaper March 4, 2020, Americans had not yet realized the enormity of the health and economic crisis soon to alter our lives.

Beginning March 13, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown issued a series of orders with increasingly tight limits on schools, businesses and gatherings, culminating in a "stay at home order" March 23.

That first issue was full of in-person events past and planned. The second issue on March 18 already reflected the looming crisis. The next week, the Jewish Review published an EXTRA issue on March 25 with information on the COVID-19 Crisis Campaign, volunteer matching, expedited free loans and the advent of virtual events.

Readership for the first year has been high. Readers reacted with enthusiasm to the first issue, and after the world turned virtual, we received many emails thanking us for bringing the Jewish Review back as a news source for the Jewish communities of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

One typical email read: "Thank you for bringing back the Jewish Review. We have

See **REVIEW TURNS 1**, page 11



The Jewish Review returned as an e-newspaper (above) when society still functioned in person. Later that month, the world moved into a virtual realm and the Review published an EXTRA issue (below) to help readers navigate the altered world.



Confronting Hate explores anti-Asian history

BY DEBORAH MOON

"Who would I have become if my life had not been affected by racist policies?" asked third-generation Japanese American activist and artist Chisao Hata.

It is a question that could have been asked by any of the minority speakers in the six-part Confronting Hate webinar series created by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and co-sponsored by several other groups. Webinars on the history of discrimination against Blacks, Native Americans, immigrants, LGBTQ+ and now Asians can be seen at jewishportland.org/uncovering. A March webinar will explore anti-Semitism.

"How much did I lose, did we all lose?" asked Chisao during the Feb. 23 webinar Uncovering the Hidden History of Anti-Asian Discrimination in Oregon. "A child who experiences ... rejection is a loss for our country."

Chisao is the daughter of the first Japanese American nurse in Oregon. Her parents were married in Poston, Ariz., in an internment camp where her mother was paid \$19 a month as a camp nurse. Her parents, like the other interned Japanese Americans, lost their homes, businesses and communities.

Japanese internment camps were established during World War II by President Franklin Roosevelt through his Executive Order 9066 in reaction to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The order and camps are widely viewed as the most atrocious violations of American civil rights in the 20th century.

"My parents and 120,000 Japanese Americans lived three to five years in 10 concentration camps in America," says Chisao. "That happened to American citizens."

That discrimination continues. Introducing the webinar, JCRC Director Bob Horenstein said, "Tonight's program is especially timely and significant. Three thousand Asian Ameri-

cans, many elderly, have been attacked since the onset of the pandemic in America. Locally, recently over a dozen Asian businesses were vandalized."

The surge in hate incidents against the Asian American community since the start of the pandemic was set aflame last year when Trump and other officials referred to COVID-19 as the "China virus" or the "Kung flu." A United Nations report noted that more than 1,800 racist incidents against Asian Americans in the United States were reported in an eight-week period from March to May 2020 alone.

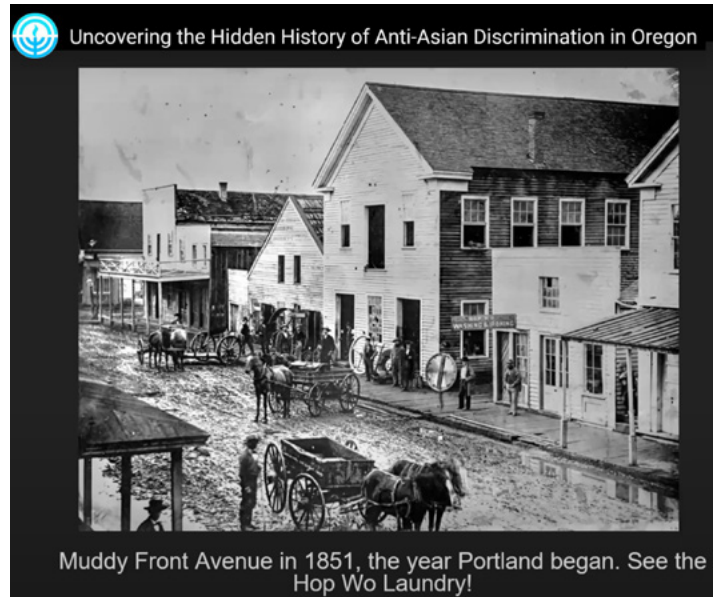
The Confronting Hate webinar was moderated by Judy Margles, director of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Judy said the museum teaches about all forms of discrimination "and stereotyping is certainly one of them."

The webinar also featured Jackie Peterson-Loomis, volunteer Executive Director of the Portland Chinatown Museum, which she cofounded with a group of Chinese American elders with deep family roots in Chinatown.

Jackie traced the arrival of Chinese immigrants to the West Coast to the California Gold Rush. The first arrivals were entrepreneurs who created an extensive merchant culture including laundries. It didn't take long for discrimination to set in. She said it arose from the fact that Chinese workers who arrived after the early merchants soon became the preferred workers because they were modest, sober and could be paid less.

"It disturbed the ability of Irish ... and other Americans to get jobs they thought they deserved," said Jackie.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 suspended Chinese immigration for 10 years and declared Chinese immigrants ineligible for naturalization. The Act was renewed in 1892 and made "permanent" in 1902; it was repealed in 1943.



Chinese merchants arrived in Portland early in the city's history. But stereotypes and the Exclusion Act led to violence against the community. Now new stereotypes blaming Asians for COVID-19 have sparked a new wave of violence. Attacks have soared nationwide and a dozen Asian-owned businesses in downtown Portland have been vandalized. Below, Judy Margles moderates a discussion with Chisao Hata and Jackie Peterson-Loomis. JCRC Director Bob Horenstein introduced the Hidden History program.



By 1900, Portland's Chinatown had become the second largest on the West Coast (only San Francisco's was larger). But the very successful Chinese merchant community "collapses after 1900." Stereotypes comparing Chinese to vermin and rats helped create a very violent era for the community.

Now a new stereotype of Asians as the cause of COVID-19 has led to new waves of violence.

Bob said that emphasized the importance of the Hidden History series.

"We did not learn this history in our schools... It has been whitewashed, ignored or even

distorted," he said. "To be effective in addressing current issues of racial injustice, it is really important to look back before we move forward into the future."

The final webinar on March 18 will explore the history of Jews and anti-Semitism in Oregon, featuring Bob and Professor Ellen Eisenberg from Willamette University, again moderated by Judy. Register at jewishportland.org/uncovering.

On May 26, the JCRC and the many partner organizations that have participated in the history webinars will gather for a virtual summit to confront hate.

PASSOVER VIRTUAL COOKING DEMONSTRATION

with James Beard Foundation
Award-winning Chef
Michael Solomonov

Tuesday, March 16th
5pm PST

Register today!
www.jewishportland.org/solomonov

Register: www.jewishportland.org/passoversession

Prepping for Passover

Sunday, March 14th
at 04:00 PM

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Are the kids all right?

BY JENN DIRECTOR
KNUDSEN

How are our teens doing?

Mel Berwin has been asking herself this question a lot. Particularly throughout January, Mental Health Awareness Month.

She knew that during January, organizations like the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Portland Area Jewish Educators, Jewish Family & Child Service, and the Oregon Board of Rabbis were providing potentially life-saving, mental-health information via online resources like panels, Q and A events, and group sessions – all of which were directed to and structured for adults.

“Can we bring programming like this to our teens?” wondered Berwin, Congregation Neveh Shalom’s director of congregational learning. She brought her question to Rachel Nelson, Federation’s director of educational initiatives and inter group outreach.

Berwin and Nelson thoughtfully and quickly created a one-time, teen-only event open to the community. The goal was to uplift the teens through listening to – and asking questions anonymously of – young adults speaking frankly about their own mental-health challenges. The young adults shared how they successfully cope with, or have coped with, their challenges.

“The more we can normalize mental-health struggles, the better off we’re going to be as individuals and as a community,” Nelson says.

“It takes something really special to get people online right now,” says Berwin, noting that anyone over-Zoomed is familiar with the on-screen, glazed-over eyes and overuse of the platform’s “video off” option. For the forum event, “The teens’ eyes were glued to the screen,” she says. And their minds to the material.

On Feb. 3, the virtual Teen Mental Wellness Forum drew about 20 teens, four young

adults and one psychologist, each in his or her own Zoom box. A parent-free zone, the forum’s only other adult interlopers in addition to Berwin and Nelson were the other community organizers and ALIYAH Tichon teachers.

(A parent-only forum follows March 16. See box at right.)

Teens in grades 8 through 12 listened intently as young adults Abby Diebold, 23, and Lev Weingrad, 19, both of whom grew up at Neveh Shalom, candidly shared their own experiences with depression, suicidal ideation, and other mental-health challenges. Weingrad is Berwin’s eldest child. He graduated from Wilson High School, renamed Ida B. Wells High School in January.

After the event, Weingrad shared that after some initial hesitation, “I decided to participate... once I realized that I was in a unique position to reach boys who are struggling in school and in life.”

Weingrad, who is no stranger to depression, continued. “It became my goal to speak to the boys whose shoes I was once in not long ago and provide them with a booster of sorts to keep them in the fight.”

He recognizes that pandemic life right now is so hard on young people and that resources may be fewer than those he had.

“I could find some respite by going to my local game store and playing Magic: The Gathering with friends and acquaintances,” says Weingrad, noting the online world was and remains a healthy get-away place, “... something which I recommend to anyone.”

Diebold, now communications director for a Pennsylvania state senator, wanted to emphasize to the teens that depression “can look a lot of different ways,” as did hers.

“You grow up seeing depictions of people with depression who wear a lot of black, don’t go to school, sleep a lot, listen to ‘My Chemical Romance,’” she



Panelists Abby Diebold and Lev Weingrad

Parent forum: The kids are not all right

Allan D.A. Cordova, Ph.D., a psychologist with the Portland-based Children’s Program, says, “While I absolutely believe there’s value in professional services and expertise, we also know that peer-to-peer support is incredibly important.”

Now it’s the parents’ turn.

“We want them to hear what the teens heard,” says Federation’s Rachel Nelson of the Feb. 3 Teen Mental Wellness Forum. Cordova, Nelson and Mel Berwin of Neveh Shalom want the parents to learn, for example, how they might start a conversation with their teen about mental health and how to elicit more from their child than, say, “I’m fine,” especially when they are really hurting.

This 6 pm, March 16 session on Zoom is intended for parents of teens. Parents are invited to listen to and ask questions of many of the Teen Forum’s panelists, including Cordova and young adults Lev Weingrad, Abby Diebold and Lili Stadler. The program is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Jewish Family & Child Service.

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

For more information on the program, contact Mel Berwin at mberwin@nevehshalom.org.

Tips for parents

- Attend to your own mental health and well-being. This helps you serve as the best possible role model for your teen and helps you be stronger to support your teen.
- Watch out for your OWN avoidance and withdrawal behaviors. When our teens pull away, we may tend to do the same. These kinds of behaviors might include regularly drinking or using substances (if you feel like you really “need” it, it’s a good idea to skip it); using your phone or computer excessively or reflexively; and retreating more into work.
- Look for small wins and take advantage of openings. For example, your teen wanting to show you a funny TikTok or post could be a small win – it represents them sharing their world with you. Other wins could be joining you for a meal, sharing their frustration about distance learning or walking around the block with you.
- Don’t underestimate the power of a change of scenery. Get out for a drive together (let your teen drive if they are a learner or licensed) or walk to get ice cream or coffee. Anything that can get you out of the house together can have a noticeable impact on mood and energy.
- Be transparent with teens. Say something like, “I think you might find this annoying, but I really need you to know I’m here and that I care. So, I want us to come up with a plan to stay more connected and have a little more fun together.”

~ Allan D.A. Cordova, psychologist

Continued on next page

Maxwell Spurr picked as national Teen Ambassador

Lake Oswego High School junior Maxwell Spurr was selected as one of 10 Teen Ambassadors for the Jewish Teen Funders Network, which works to strengthen the field of Jewish teen philanthropy. Max serves on the teen board of the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation.

Launched in 2016, the Youth Ambassador Council was created to connect JTFN directly with teens in the field and learn together. Meeting virtually throughout the school year, the Youth Ambassador Council empowers the teen voice by fostering relationships with representatives from the field of Jewish teen philanthropy. This is the fifth cohort of the Youth Ambassador Council.

"I enjoy working with OJCYP and meeting other Jewish teens very much. I also swim and play water polo competitively, and surf, play bass, and raise chickens in my free time," says Max.

Max enjoys connecting with the Jewish community through philanthropy. He has been on the OJCYP board for two years. He is a member of Congregation Neveh Shalom. He was previously involved with several secular organizations.

Max is the fourth OJCYP teen selected for the national council. Previous Oregon ambassadors were Layton Rosenfeld, Samuel Rothstein and Mazzi Katzen.



"OJCYP is seen as a leader in the teen philanthropy field," says OJCF Program Officer Sonia Marie Leikam, the youth foundation director. "As an 18-year-old program, we now have alumni as donors and can demonstrate the impact of having a teen philanthropy program in a community. Our teen board is made up of exceptional young people, and when in an applicant pool with other teens, they rise to the top."

OJCYP allows teens to participate for as many years as they wish in high school, which allows for a deepening of knowledge and relationships to local organizations. Some programs limit how long teens can participate.

"Our teens also represent an often-unrepresented segment of the Jewish world – Oregon," adds Sonia Marie. "Their opinions and experiences matter."



Remote dor l' dor for Purim

This year Purim's intergenerational celebration was a remote dor l' dor (generation to generation) experience. The Harper family (above) were among the 200 people in 82 households who assembled and dropped off more than 500 Purim Packages at Cedar Sinai Park Feb. 21 and Feb. 23. On Feb. 26, CSP staff delivered the *mishloach manot* to every resident and professional on the campus. Staff dressed up, played fun Purim music, and handed out the beautiful goodie bags to residents and staff all across campus. The volunteer project was cohosted by CSP, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Portland Jewish Academy, Maimonides Jewish Day School and Maayan Torah Day School.



Residents have created a [thank you video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3q8vLqy). You can see a condensed version of the video at bit.ly/3q8vLqy.

TEEN WELLNESS FORUM (continued from previous page)

says, revealing she recognized only in her senior year that she was suffering from what she characterizes as high-functioning depression. She received straight-As, was active in extracurriculars and had a circle of friends.

In addition to depression, she also endured body dysmorphia, high anxiety, and fatigue, and she began to feel like "nothing mattered."

Weingrad and Diebold both turned to their moms for initial support. Pinpointing and going

to a trusted adult is a key step in getting help, says Sophie Riegel, 20, another young adult at the Zoom forum.

The Duke University sophomore has written extensively about mental health and traveled the country to talk about her own experiences as one who has beaten back obsessive-compulsive and panic disorders, anxiety and a condition characterized by pulling out her own hair. Riegel says Weingrad and Diebold did just the right thing in approaching their parents.

But not all teens' first line of defense is their folks. That's OK, Riegel emphasizes, as long as you go to someone ready and available to sit in the proverbial poop with you and to help pull you from that pile.

Another teen panelist was Lili Stadler, an intern for the Atlanta-based [Blue Dove Foundation](https://www.bluedovefoundation.org/). Blue Dove's mission is to normalize and promote conversation in the Jewish community around difficult issues like substance abuse and mental-health challenges. Stadler says Berwin

and Nelson's program is a first. Samara Oberlander, one of Neveh Shalom's educators online, was inspired by the young adults' stories and appreciated its laser focus on teens. "They saw positive people who've been able to overcome big hurdles."

Duke's Riegel adds, "The forum's coordinators clearly understand what teens need, and I really hope others see that teens want to hear from other teens, and I hope, too, that other organizations around the country will really get behind this."

Jewish community steps up once again to fight hunger

BY DEBORAH MOON

Food insecurity in Oregon is at the highest rate in over a century according to the Oregon Food Bank. That's saying something for a state the USDA said might have been the hungriest state in the nation in 1999.

So this year, Portland's Jewish community has organized a pre-Passover food drive (see box) with drop sites in SW, NE and SE Portland and Hillsboro. Donations of nonperishable foods will be distributed at three food pantries that partner with the Oregon Food Bank in different parts of the greater metro area.

"We're proud of having four drop sites and so many Jewish community partners and recipient organizations," says Caron Blau Rothstein, JFGP director of community planning and a co-organizer of the event.

As you do your spring cleaning and scour your pantry to clear out your *hametz* (leavened products) before Passover, gather food to donate to feed people who may not know where their next meal is coming from.

The Jewish community has long taken leadership roles in battling Oregon's hunger crisis. Emily Gottfried, z"l, American Jewish Committee-Oregon, and Bob Horenstein, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, were among the statewide conveners of the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger, which kicked off at the first annual Harvest of Hope breakfast in October of 2003. Thanks in part to the efforts of OFRAH, Oregon soon dropped out of the top 10 hungriest states.

The 2008 recession upped hunger numbers again. Oregon fought back again, and its steady decline in food insecurity from around 2014 represented the greatest improvement by any one state over that five-year period according to a 2020 report from the USDA.



Last fall, 78 households responded to the call to aid those facing food and housing insecurity and dropped off 745 food sacks and other essentials on Mitzvah Morning. Now, more drop off sites have been added for a pre-Passover food drive to bring in even more food for three food pantries serving different parts of the greater metro area.

PRE-PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE

WHEN: March 14, 2021, 12:30-2 pm

WHERE: Four drop-off locations in Southwest, Northeast and Southeast Portland and in Hillsboro. Register (see below) to select your drop-off site. You will receive drop-site location and address with your confirmation.

WHAT: Nonperishable, nonexpired foodstuffs (please no inherently unkosher products like shellfish and pork)

RECIPIENTS: Three food pantry partners of the Oregon Food Bank

CO-HOSTS: Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Portland Jewish Academy, Chabad Jewish Center of Hillsboro, Chabad of Northeast Portland and Eastside Jewish Commons

REGISTRATION: jewishportland.org/fooddrive

QUESTIONS: ecohn-rozansky@pjaproud.org

The COVID economic crisis that began in spring 2020 reversed all of that progress.

A December 2020 study from Oregon State University found the food insecurity rate in Oregon had more than doubled in a year, with at least 1 million,

hence one in four, Oregonians experiencing food insecurity in 2020. The crisis has brought the state to levels of food insecurity not seen before.

So once again, please join the local Jewish community in stepping up to do our part.

HELPING (from page 1)

Congregation Kesser Israel and the Portland Kollel and other rooms in the same building for a short school day.

"A number of families were still without power, so the kids were happy to be in a warm place and happy to see each other," says Rabbi Skolnik.

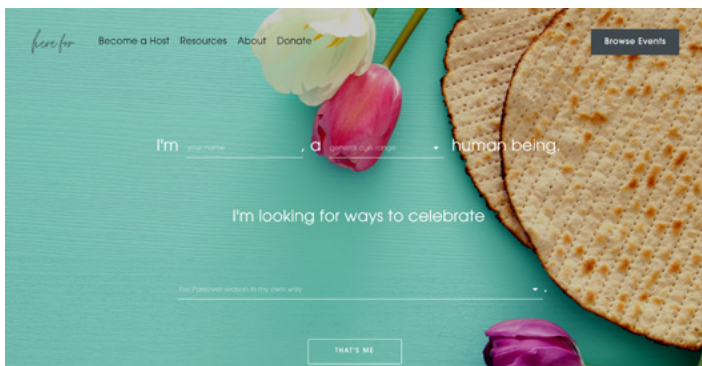
One Maayan parent was so grateful when her power came on after three days that she decided to organize helping other families who were still in the cold. Amy Sohn started a Google doc for people to list what they could provide or share.

"But people without power couldn't see the spreadsheet, so it became a tool for me to connect people," says Amy. She connected about a dozen volunteers with seven families who needed warm meals and other resources.

In Northeast Portland, Rabbi Chaim Wilhelm activated the 2-year-old Chesed Connection to get hot soup to people without power. The Chesed Connection is Chabad of Northeast Portland's volunteer group, which provides support in times of need or joy. Rabbi Wilhelm delivered many containers of hot soup himself.

When Rabbi Wilhelm walked down one block where three transformers had blown, he found most people had left their homes. But he saw one house with candlelight and went to check. He says the man had stayed because he had a dog.

"He was grateful someone stopped by checking on him," says Rabbi Wilhelm. "Knowing people care is very, very powerful in these times. That's what the Chesed Connection is."



How to be *Here for* Passover In 2021

So many of us are looking for new ways to make the holidays feel holy this year. Enter *Here for* Powered by OneTable, a new community-wide, collaborative platform supporting home-hosted ritual and virtual gatherings all year long. Resources are provided by Partners and events can be posted by anyone interested in hosting.

Built upon the success of the *Here for* The High Holidays platform, Seder2020, The Great Big Jewish Food Festival, and PAUSE: First Fridays – *Here for* Passover brings engaging content, curated resources and user-supported gatherings to the site.

In collaboration with nationally recognized partner organizations, *Here for* has curated seasonal resources for all ages. Visitors to the site can find guides and DIY inspiration to elevate their holiday experiences at home.

While Shabbat dinners supported by OneTable have traditionally focused on the 21- to 35-year-old demographic, *Here for* is available to anyone.

Under the resources tab, you

can explore alternate Passover resources, kid-friendly Passover resources and plenty of online haggadot so you can “Pick a haggadah to share with guests so you can literally be on the same page.” A DIY Haggadah page provides templates to personalize a haggadah that you can share with your seder guests to print at home.

You can post a seder or other Passover event to share, or you can browse events to find one you want to join.

Individuals and organizations can post events for Nowruz, Passover and Mimouna:

Nowruz is the Persian New Year, starting Sunday, March 21, (though not a Passover event, Nowruz begins the marathon of spring celebrations for Persian Jews)

Passover, the eight-day Jewish commemoration of the Exodus from Egypt, starts in the United States on Saturday, March 27

Mimouna is the traditional North African end of Passover celebration, starting in the U.S. on Sunday, April 5.

Find events and resources at herefor.com/.

Prepare for Passover – virtually

Passover begins at sundown March 27, 2021. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland presents two free online events to help people prepare for Passover during this unusual year.

On March 14 at 4 pm Haggadot.com offers an interactive session with tools, tips and insights to help you host a meaningful (virtual) seder for the entire family. Sign up at jewishportland.org/passoversession

Chef Michael Solomonov returns virtually at 5 pm, March 16, for a Passover Cooking Demonstration. For Passover, he will show participants how to make Charoset and Mina with Ground Beef, Cardamom and Coffee. Sign up at jewishportland.org/passover-virtual-cooking-demonstration-with-michael-solomonov.

Local Pesach Resources

KOSHER FOR PASSOVER FOODS:

Safeway at 8145 SW Barbur Blvd. has a large selection of Kosher for Passover products displayed near the main entrance next to the Starbucks kiosk. Online delivery is NOT available.

Costco at 7850 SW Dartmouth St. in Tigard expects to have Passover products soon, but they are not yet available. The store typically has a large selection.

Century Catering will offer Kosher for Passover meals the week of March 21 (orders due on Tuesday). When available, the Passover menu will be posted at oregonjcc.org/about-us/cafe-at-the-j. Pickup will be available March 25 and 26. For more information, email centurycatering84@gmail.com.

Seattle Kosher delivers cheese, meat and more to Portland every Wednesday. Order Passover products online at seattlekosher.com.

EVENTS:

jewishportland.org/passoverhappenings

Donate to ensure Passover for All

Every Jewish community is obligated to ensure that everyone has the food they need to celebrate a joyous Passover, and this year – as we have done for over 20 years – Portland’s Jewish community is stepping up. The Passover4All campaign will be working to ensure that area families can truly celebrate Passover. This year, there is more demand than ever because of the hardships brought on by COVID-19.

With your help, we will raise \$7,000 to provide local families who would not otherwise be able to celebrate with the food they need to make a seder. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland partners with Jewish Family & Child Service and Congregation Kesser Israel on this important project.

Donate at jewishportland.org/passover4all-campaign.

Public Service Announcement



**FREE DRIVE-THROUGH
COVID-19 TESTS**

**2nd Sunday of the month through March
12:30-2:30 PM in the MJCC Parking Lot**

CNSCOS and Signature Healthcare will be at Mittleman Jewish Community center to give out:

- FREE rapid tests
- FREE PCR tests

You must sign up for a time slot in advance:

March 14 - <https://tinyurl.com/CNSCOS-test-March>

If you have any questions, please contact us at

covid19@nevehshalom.org or 971-990-5652

People in the News

Shlachters named Legal Citizen of the Year

Rob and Mara Shlachter will be honored with Classroom Law Project's 2021 Legal Citizen of the Year Award. The award event will be held virtually on April 15, 2021.

Classroom Law Project is the premier Oregon nonprofit focused on educating students about the law and legal systems. Among other things, it runs Oregon's high school mock trial and constitutional law competitions.

Since 1996, the Shlachters have been coaching high school mock trial teams, first at Catlin Gabel and then at Lincoln High School. Their teams have won four state championships and have finished in the top four many times. They have mentored over 300 students, many of whom stay in contact with the Shlachters.

"We are deeply honored by the award, and we are very thankful to have had the chance to work with and help guide so many wonderful high-schoolers," wrote Rob and Mara. "Particularly gratifying is watching a number of our grads return to help coach and mentor our teams."

Rob is a mediator, arbitrator, trial lawyer and founder of Stoll Berne. The couple have been very active in the local Jewish community since they moved here 30 years ago.

Rob served as a board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland for almost 20 years and was president from 2001-03. He has served on the boards of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. He was the first board chair of Greater Portland Hillel.

Mara launched the MJCC's first JCC Maccabi Games team and served as delegation head for nine years. Together with Rob, she was honored by PDX Hillel at its 10th anniversary for the couple's leadership. She is also a Judaic artist whose work can be seen at Havurah Shalom and Congregation Neveh Shalom. The couple are members of both congregations.

To register for the event, visit the Classroom Law Project at classroomlaw.org, and go to the award page under the donate tab.



Sonia Marie Leikam tapped for leader cohort

Sonia Marie Leikam, program officer at Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, has been selected for the Jewish Women International 2021 [Jewish Communal Women's Leadership Project](http://JewishCommunalWomen'sLeadershipProject).



Applications to this project quadrupled this year. JWI selected 57 rising leaders who are changing the landscape and culture in Jewish organizations across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Israel. This year's cohort was selected based on their demonstrated leadership, dedication to creating positive change, and ambitious vision for the future of their careers and their community.

Sonia Marie, recipient of the 2020 Rogoway Professional Leader award, directs the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, facilitates philanthropic opportunities for young Jewish professionals, and manages both the scholarship and grant programs. Prior to joining OJCF, she was the executive director of the Oregon Holocaust

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Resource Center until it merged with the Oregon Jewish Museum. A graduate of Lewis & Clark College (BA) and Portland State University (M.Ed.), she holds a certificate in Holocaust & Genocide Studies from Georgetown University. As the grandchild of a partisan in the French resistance and a first-generation American, she spent her youth traveling between the San Francisco Bay area and southern France and is bilingual and multicultural. She and her husband, Theo, own Leikam Brewing, a kosher craft brewery. They have three children and four cats.

This year's expanded program will include four sessions with leadership coach Orlee Turitz, monthly peer group meetings, and 10 master classes led by experts in business, finance, philanthropy, diversity and more.

Women on the executive track in Jewish organizations can still register for Option 2 of this year's cohort. The \$100 fee includes access to recordings of every 2021 master class and invitations to the monthly peer group meetings. Visit jwi.org/jcwl and click on "Register for Option 2."

Singer retires from 23-year PJA/MJCC career

Linda Singer has retired after working at Portland Jewish Academy and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center for the past 23 years.

She spent 13 years as the admission coordinator at PJA. "I LOVED giving tours and showing off what an amazing school PJA



was," she says. "When my son and his wife had twin girls, I decided that I didn't want to work as many hours (so I could help babysit my granddaughters), and I was lucky that they made a new position for me called Community Concierge at the other end of the building! I was able to give tours of the J and

interact with the community. I would answer calls from people wanting to know about Jewish Portland. My passion is interacting with the community and helping wherever I can."

Linda is a lifelong member of Congregation Shaarie Torah and is on the board.

In the fall, Linda will return to work very part time, continuing her role as PJA Auction Sponsor Coordinator. "I enjoy following in my parents (Harry and Diane Nemer) footsteps with the PJA Auction. I still remember being at the very first Hillel Academy Auction as a student," she says.

She has gone from being a student at Hillel Academy to a PJA parent, volunteer, board member and then admission coordinator. While growing up, she spent every Sunday at the JCC, and during high school was there every Tuesday night for BBYO, where she met her husband, Gary Singer. "Our three sons attended PJA there. I was a volunteer, board member, then Community Concierge," says Linda. "This building has been my home away from home!"

"Before I started working at PJA, I thought my dream job would be to be in the lobby of the MJCC wearing a sandwich board letting people know what was going on that day in the Jewish community – like the town crier."

After COVID shutdowns hit last spring, Linda and Gary began spending most of their time in their home in Seaside.

"I hope that in the near future, I can resume playing mahjong at the MJCC every week," says Linda.

Rogoway nominations due March 12

Nominations for the Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional are now open and due by noon, March 12. The winner receives up to \$1,800 to subsidize a professional development experience or program. Nominate a mid-career professional at jewishportland.org/the-rogoway-professional-award.

Portlander selected for iCenter's Leader's Lab

PDX Hillel Israel Fellow Eden Ferede has been named to the first cohort of the iCenter's new program offering a [Certificate in Experiential Israel Education](#). The first cohort of 31 participants comes from across the country and from a wide range of educational settings for Jewish teens and youth.

This cohort, known as "Leaders Lab," is the first of seven planned cohorts for 2021, each of which will include 30-40 participants. While planning for the certificate program was under way for years, the pandemic accelerated the final planning and launch of the entirely virtual program.

Over the course of six weeks in both small and large groups, participants will explore content and practice new skills to move them further on a pathway to literacy in Israel and education, and to engage their learners in meaningful Israel educational experiences. The Leaders Lab cohort will offer vital feedback to shape the content and experience of future cohorts and to help identify other educators and those who would benefit from this training.

"For the past two years, Eden has brought so much light and joy to PDX Hillel, as well as helped strengthen many students' relationships to Israel by engaging in oftentimes difficult conversations," says



PDX Hillel Executive Director Hannah Sherman. "Her participation in this program will allow us to further elevate our Israel-related programming, creating meaningful programming that educates and engages our core group of students as well as broadening our reach into our campus communities and engaging previously un-engaged students."

The iCenter, theicenter.org, believes that this first cohort will be instrumental in creating support within institutions for future, larger cohorts to thrive. Support for the program comes from Charles and

Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, the Jim Joseph Foundation, and the Paul E. Singer Foundation through the Jewish Community Response and Impact Fund.

"Israeli culture is so dynamic and offers many ways for educators to tap into young learners' passions, enabling them to build their own relationship with Israel," says Anne Lanski of the iCenter. "Yet this opportunity can be overshadowed by political polarization, toxic campus environments and hesitation among Jewish educators to embrace Israel – and its educational possibilities – as integral to their work. This new program will help train educators and engagement professionals, and instill in them the confidence and depth of knowledge, to support Jewish students."

In addition to accepting individual participants, the iCenter will work closely with organizations that want to build their own cohort for their professionals. The certificate program is designed for early to mid-career professionals for whom Israel education is a part of their work, but who do not necessarily see themselves as Israel educators. The certificate program also welcomes applications from teens who are responsible for Israel education in their youth groups, summer camps, synagogues, or school Israel clubs.

News in brief

MJCC reopened for members March 1

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center reopened for members with reservations on March 1. The J began to welcome back members for in-person workouts, personal training, racquetball, swimming and vacation day camps. The center will phase in additional programs and services over time as guidelines allow.

The MJCC – like all Multnomah County gyms, fitness organizations, indoor recreational facilities, pools and indoor venues – closed temporarily Nov. 18 under the governor's statewide freeze to stop the rapid spread of COVID-19. After-school and vacation camps were permitted to continue during the freeze. For membership information, email mjcc@oregonjcc.org or call 503-244-0111.

Beginning Monday, March 1, the J opened to members only by reservation during the following hours: Sunday 8 am-3 pm; and Monday through Friday 7-11 am and 3-7 pm.

Portland Jewish Academy, which shares the Schnitzer Family Campus with the J, will begin to phase in the elementary in-person school program on March 3. The school had planned to resume March 1, but "We had to delay a couple of days following the storm and lengthy power outage," says PJA and MJCC Executive Director Steve Albert. PJA's Early Childhood program reopened last July. The middle school is expected to return after Passover.

Vaccination resources for Jewish community

Congregation Neveh Shalom's COVID-19 Outreach and Services team is a team engaged by CNS, with funding from the Oregon Health Authority, tasked with helping limit the spread of COVID-19 by providing services and timely information to the Jewish communities of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties.

CNSCOS has created a resource guide that takes you through the basics of finding vaccination appointments through OHA and through local pharmacies. This guide will be updated regularly when new information becomes available.

Find the guide at bit.ly/2Ntg0NZ.

For those who would like to learn more about the safety and efficacy of available vaccines, sign up for this workshop on March 4, 4-5 pm, led by Dr. Max Cohen, ND with [Boost Oregon](#).

The purpose of the workshop is to inform and educate without fear. We especially encourage people who currently have access to the vaccines, including older adults, teachers and school staff, and essential workers, to join us for this workshop. Sponsors: Boost Oregon, CNSCOS and Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

Register at tinyurl.com/BoostOregon.

Free loan makes first fertility loan

The Jewish Free Loan of Greater Portland has increased its maximum loan amount to \$5,000, and the first loan approved at that higher level is also its first fertility assistance loan.

"We are very excited with the growth and support of Jewish Free Loan," says Free Loan Chair Les Gutfreund.

Loans of up to \$5,000 now are available to Jewish residents of Oregon and SW Washington. The loans require two cosigners and are interest free with repayment over three years. Application-to-approval can take a few weeks. Smaller loans of up to \$1,000 for people directly impacted by COVID-19 do not require a cosigner and application-to-approval takes just one to a few days.

To apply for a loan or to donate, visit jewishportland.org/freeloan, email freeloan@jewishportland.org or call Les at 503-932-7783.

PDX Hillel b'nai mitzvah to celebrate creating leaders

BY DEBORAH MOON

Greater Portland Hillel will celebrate 13 years of creating connections and future Jewish leaders as it honors the achievements of one of those leaders.

PDX Hillel programs are open to all Portland-area college students. Hillel staff work on a weekly basis with Jewish student groups at Portland State University and Lewis & Clark College. Staff also support Jewish students at Reed, University of Portland and Portland Community College to plan programs for their campus or learn what support they need from Hillel.

Over 13 years, PDX has engaged 1,000 students who have interacted with programs constantly and many more at big outreach events such as the PSU Purim Party, LC Passover Seder and Ethiopia Night, which have drawn hundreds of students.

"Now at 13 years old, we have an amazing team with just the right skills and abilities to spark the next generation of Jewish leaders," says PDX Hillel Board Chair Debbie Plawner, who has been on the board about seven years.

"Hannah and her team create such warm, inviting and fun opportunities for students to engage in Jewish life during their college years. I am most in awe of the stories I hear every year of students who, after their time with PDX Hillel, go on to study in Israel, intern or work for a Jewish organization or formally convert to Judaism," says Debbie. "Basically, we have graduated

PDX HILLEL B'NAI MITZVAH

WHAT: Join PDX Hillel for a festive hour of celebrating and reflecting on 13 wonderful years of community building, Jewish learning and leadership development. Meet current students and support Hillel's continued accomplishments.

WHEN: 7-8 pm,
Thursday, March 4

WHERE: Zoom

RSVP: pdxhillel.org

1,000 future Jewish leaders."

One of those students is graduating senior Zack Dworkin, who will receive the Future Leaders Award at PDX Hillel's March 4 celebration (see box).

"He has served as a constant ner tamid or eternal flame for Hillel at Lewis & Clark College," says PDX Hillel Executive Director Hannah Sherman. "Zach's organization keeps staff and students alike on track for successful programming and engagement (for example, he begins brainstorming and planning for Passover before school even starts!). From Zach's first Shabbat as a freshman, to where he is now as the president of Lewis & Clark Hillel, Zach's commitment to creating a consistent, fun and engaging



Lewis and Clark students enjoy PDX Hillel's annual Welcome Back Shabbat, which was held on Zoom at the start of this school year. "Attendance at our virtual New Student Orientation Shabbat at Lewis and Clark was up 48 percent over last year's in-person Shabbat, proving that even though we are mostly virtual, students are looking for a Jewish community on campus (and keep coming back!)," says PDX Hillel Executive Director Hannah Sherman.

Jewish community has been a shining light and an example for his fellow students."

Hannah has served as executive director since 2018. In December 2019, PDX Hillel received Hillel International's Philip H. and Susan Rudd Cohen Outstanding Campus Award for growth in engaging students.

"As children ascend into adulthood with their b'nai mitzvah, we, too, are ascending into our next stage of growth," says Hannah. "We are so excited to be launching our Future Leaders Campaign to inspire the Jewish future by investing in student leadership. We believe that by investing in the professional development and growth of our student leaders now, these leaders will not only

expand and elevate our Hillel work on campus today, but will graduate from college and continue to positively shape and contribute to their local Jewish communities."

More information about the Future Leaders Campaign will be shared at the event or can be found on pdxhillel.org.

"I am very excited about PDX Hillel's growth and reach in the last 13 years," says Rob Shlachter, who served as the group's first board chair. "The future also looks good under the guidance of outstanding Executive Director Hannah Sherman and talented Board Chair Debbie Plawner. The frosting on the cake is our diverse and proactive board of directors. Onward and upward!"



NPR's Ari Shapiro will emcee CSP's benefit.

Heart is Where the Home Is (CSP)

Cedar Sinai Park's Virtual Annual Benefit "Heart Is Where The Home Is" will be Saturday, March 13, 2021. We've extended our RSVP deadline to March 5 to accommodate more friends.

The party starts at 6:30 pm with a craft mixology lesson with Daniel Shoemaker, owner of the renowned Teardrop Lounge. (Guests in the Portland metro area who RSVP by March 5 will receive the makings of two cocktails/mocktails!)

Then spend an exclusive evening with

one of Portland's most famous voices, Ari Shapiro, host of NPR's All Things Considered. Ari will serve as our emcee for the evening. There will also be musical entertainment and inspirational videos highlighting Cedar Sinai Park's residents and programs.

Plus, you'll have the opportunity to show your love and commitment to the people who live and work at Cedar Sinai Park.

The event is free. RSVP at cedarsinainpark.org/giving/benefit.

Youth and families invited to BB Camp during spring break

Day campers and families are invited to experience B'nai B'rith Camp in person during spring break with two programs on the shores of Devil's Lake near Lincoln City on the Oregon Coast. BB Camp will welcome campers for a week-long day camp and families for either of two family days.

Spring break with BB Camp, 9 am-4 pm, March 22-26, is for kids ages 5-14 who live in the Lincoln City area or are vacationing nearby with their families. The camp features traditional camp activities including canoeing, dance, arts and crafts, nature programs and athletics, as well as two meals and a snack daily.

Camp will follow the COVID-19 protocols provided by the Oregon Health Authority Youth Program and Child Care Guidance. Each participant will be screened daily on arrival with a temperature and verbal check. All participants will be required to wear a face mask and follow social distancing, handwashing and sanitizing protocols.

Cost is \$150 for the week. Register at bbcamp.org/spring2021. For questions contact Bette at 541-994-2218 or info@bbcamp.org.

Israel360 to feature Lone Soldier March 21

For its March program, Israel360 features an interview with lone soldier Naomi Shapiro, niece of Congregation Neveh Shalom Rabbi Daniel Isaak.

The 2020-21 monthly Israel360 events focus on historical, cultural and political aspects of Israel.

Naomi Shapiro recently completed her service as a Lone Soldier. IDF servicemen and women without immediate family in Israel are honored in Israel as Lone Soldiers. Despite variations by year, these young people average 5,000 in number – 1,500 to 2,000 from the United States – with about 40 percent serving in combat units.

Naomi grew up in Cleveland. She joins us from Jerusalem, now an Olah Hadashah, newly enrolled as an undergraduate at the Hebrew University. Hear about her experiences as a young American volunteer in the Israel Defense Forces.

The program will be 11 am-noon, Sunday, March 21, on Zoom.

To reserve your space, register at bit.ly/2NPVBCE

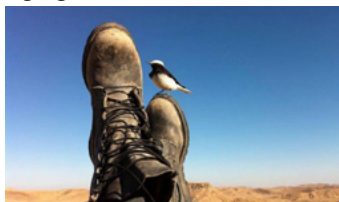
For questions, contact: Lisa Marie Lynch at 503-246-8831 or receptionist@nevehshalom.org.



Families are invited to tour the camp's new facilities, enjoy a camp lunch and participate in a traditional BB Camp activity. This day is perfect for anyone who misses BB Camp on the coast or is coming for the first time this summer. Families can choose from 11 am to 2 pm, March 24 or 26.

All participants will be required to wear a face mask/covering, will be asked to follow social distancing protocols, and will be screened on arrival with a temperature and verbal symptom check.

Cost for family day is \$18 per person. Register for either day at bbcamp.org/family-day.



REVIEW TURNS 1 (from page 1)

missed it. I appreciate this electronic version; the timing of it couldn't be better."

Each issue is emailed to more than 7,300 addresses. On average, each of the first 28 issues has been opened 4,636 times. People open the Jewish Review from the original emails, forwarded emails and clicks from social media posts. The emailed publication features both a flipbook and printable pdf. In addition, Cedar Sinai Park prints each issue for its residents.

The local newspaper was originally published as a print newspaper from 1959 to January 2012. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland publishes the Jewish Review and hosts the publication on its website. Current and past issues, as well as recent obituaries, can be accessed at <https://www.jewishportland.org/jewishreview>.

The biweekly e-newspaper publishes announcements for, and reports on the activities of, local Jewish individuals, organizations and programs. Obituaries and life-cycle events such as births, weddings, anniversaries and milestone birthdays are printed in each issue and added online as they are received.

We invite you to share your news, life-cycle events and suggestions with editor Deborah Moon at editor@jewishportland.org.

JEWISH REVIEW Issue dates & deadlines

ISSUE DATE (9 am Wed)	DEADLINE (Noon, Thursday)
March 17	March 11
March 31	March 25
April 14	April 8
April 28	April 22
May 12	May 6
May 26	May 20
June 9	June 3
June 23	June 17
July 7	July 1
July 21	July 15
Aug. 4	July 29
Aug. 18	Aug. 12
Sept. 1	Aug. 26
Sept. 15	Sept. 10 (Friday)
Sept. 30 (Thurs)	Sept. 23
Oct. 13	Oct. 7
Oct. 27	Oct. 21
Nov. 10	Nov. 4
Nov. 24	Nov. 18
Dec. 8	Dec. 2
Dec. 22	Dec. 16
Jan. 5, 2022	Dec. 30

Submit news to editor@jewishportland.org

Chaplain's Corner

The Storm Will End

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Now is the time to catch our breath. We just finished celebrating Purim when we're commanded to be happy, rejoice and not take life too seriously. We used our sense of humor, the secret sauce that enabled us to be resilient and thrive through the centuries.

Next up? Passover. This will be a much more serious holiday. We will retell our redemption from slavery. Moreover, we are instructed to act and feel as if we ourselves are being redeemed from slavery. For more than a year, we have longed for redemption, as we have struggled with pandemic-related enslavement and plagues.

We have a valuable opportunity to make the most of these days between Purim and Passover. I want to share some of the lessons taught by Rabbi Mike Schultz from a recent "Benefits of Pastoral Care" Zoom session. Schultz is the head of spiritual care of the Oncology Unit of Rambam Medical Center in Haifa.

He taught that we have the precious opportunity to help one another navigate the plagues that have inflicted us: illness, chronic disease, social isolation, unexpected crises, grief and the death of loved ones. We do so not through conversations, but through cultivating quality experiences. We can talk less and listen more. We can focus on what is not said. We can pay extra attention to body language and whether it

corresponds with the words shared and emotions expressed.

To varying degrees, many of us are feeling the same emotions and experiencing similar situations. There has been loneliness, guilt and despair. We have had to realize and begin to accept that life has not worked out the way we planned. We have had to let go of dreams impossible to fulfill and formulate more realistic dreams we are able to achieve. We have asked difficult questions: What's the point? Has God abandoned us? Will I catch COVID-19? Will I, too, become deathly ill?

In response to these emotions and questions, we can be of service to one another. As a result, we ourselves can benefit by making inner connections. We can get more in tune with what we feel. We can reassess our hopes, expectations and dreams. This will lead to a rediscovery of meaning and purpose. As a result, despite challenging circumstances, we can still grow and thrive.

Schultz taught that we also can make connections with others. Whether virtually or literally, we can be with the people who are most meaningful to us. There is power in knowing we can lean on others. There is no shame in recognizing our weaknesses and seeking reassurance and encouragement from others. There is strength in humility.

We can also make connections with something greater than ourselves. This can include religious beliefs, ethical values or



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

a sense of being a vital and necessary part of the larger world.

We can relate all of these ideas to the celebration of Passover, the story of the birth of the Jewish people. Every year, we tell the story and teach the importance and necessity of our connections with our community and with our God. We emphasize the need to redefine our identity from slavery to freedom. We recognize that we can heal from any trauma and rediscover meaning and purpose. We regain faith.

Schultz emphasizes what we can achieve: greater calm, less anxiety, an appreciation for what we have and gratitude for a chance to use our inner resources.

During these precious days between Purim and Passover, may we fill our coffers with hope and with the possibility of what will be. Inevitably, the storm will end, replaced by bright, safe and secure days.

Published biweekly by
Jewish Federation of
Greater Portland
9900 SW Greenburg Road,
Suite 220
Tigard, OR 97223
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JewishPortland.org

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Circulation

To receive the Jewish
Review in your email inbox,
email your name and email
address to
editor@jewishportland.org

OPINIONS printed in the
Jewish Review do not
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of the Jewish Review
Committee, the Jewish
Federation of Greater
Portland, its governing
board or the staffs of either
the newspaper or the
Federation.

Upcoming issues

Issue date	Deadline
March 17	March 11
March 31	March 25
April 14	April 8
April 28	April 22

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

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Rabbi's Corner

In addition to the Chaplain'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, email editor@jewishportland.org.

Teen Column

Police unions don't need to allow brutality

BY EMMA NATHANSON

In 1903, Rose Shneiderman was desperate. With her father gone, her mother overworked and her two siblings hungry, the 21-year-old recent Jewish immigrant from Poland struggled to support her family on the meager salary she received as a cap maker in New York. After asking around at her factory, Rose discovered the men who worked alongside her were making far more than their female counterparts. Angry, passionate and fearless, she organized her shop as a chapter of the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers' Union, defying stereotypes for female garment workers of the time. In the next 50 years, she gained fame on the national stage for her work and leadership in the trade union world, alongside other influential Jewish immigrants.

With her tenacious spirit and strong morals, Rose Schneiderman has long been my Jewish labor hero. Her story taught me that unions are a force for good; the ability to organize to demand better wages, equitable treatment and increased representation affords workers dignity and power. I assumed every union operated on the same principles of equality and justice as Rose's Cap Makers' Union.

When the protests ignited by George Floyd's murder erupted in city after city across the country this past summer, I learned about an exception to my understanding of labor organizing: police unions. These unions successfully demand wide-reaching protections that make it enormously difficult, if not impossible, to discipline or even investigate officers for misconduct and use of deadly force. The Portland Police Association, Portland's police union, is no exception.

In 2010, Aaron Campbell was running away from Portland police officers when he was shot by Officer Ron Frashour. Frashour was terminated, but an outside arbitrator ruled for his reinstatement. In 2017, teenager Quance Hayes was on his knees and armed with only a toy gun when Officer Andrew Hearst shot and killed him. Hearst was cleared of all wrongdoing. The murders continue: Portland police have shot and killed nine people in the past two years. As a result of police actions during the 2020 summer protests, the U.S. Department of Justice recently released a report deriding Portland police officers for their excessive and unnecessary use of force.

The trail of harmful misconduct is long and tragic. If the current contract remains in

place, the violence will continue, as it affords the city few methods of disciplining officers or even discussing cases of police brutality.

Luckily, there is a path forward.

After a delay due to COVID-19, the city began renegotiating the PPA contract in January of 2021 and will hold monthly public sessions until June. The process is more transparent this year – every other biweekly session is held by the city and public – and there are tangible pieces of the contract that could and should be changed to better train our police force and hold them accountable. Unite Oregon, a statewide nonprofit with broad social justice-based initiatives, wrote a letter explicitly stating which elements of the contract must be renegotiated. They focus mainly on securing the existence and authority of civilian oversight (which the public overwhelmingly voted for in the last election, but its implementation is being disputed by the PPA); this will ensure the city has the full ability to discipline officers and maintain fair and equal conditions for misconduct investigations. Over 50 organizations in Portland have already endorsed the letter.

Though none of these changes will solve the often prejudiced and aggressive behavior displayed by the Portland police, each request holds police to higher standards. If they are written into the contract, police officers are much more likely to face consequences for injuring or killing innocent Portlanders rather than enjoying broad impunity. By chipping away at the power of the PPA, we can also chip away at the trauma experienced by people of color and houseless people in Portland, who are too often the victims of police brutality and violence.

I believe we, as Jews, have an obligation to make these demands a reality.

In my hometown of Madison, Wis., protests at the city capitol building are not complete without a legion of elderly Jewish people. Marching among a sea of screaming teenagers, the old Jews of Madison hold a large quilted banner emblazoned with the words "Jews for Social Justice." They never miss a protest.

When asked about the connection between Jews and social justice, the elderly Jews of Madison – and the majority of progressive Jews – often refer to the slogan *Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof*. Translated as "Justice, Justice, you shall pursue," the slogan comes from Deuteronomy.

Before the *Tzedek* phrase, the Torah states, "You shall appoint *shoftim* and *shotrim* for

your tribes, in all the settlements that the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall govern the people with due justice" (Deuteronomy 16:18). Although the exact translations are disputed, *shoftim* is translated as judges and *shotrim* as police. With this verse, the Torah unequivocally connects policing and accountability. The people appoint the police and are responsible for ensuring that their first priority is justice.

Although we apply the word "justice" to all facets of activism work – environmental justice, reproductive justice, housing justice – the root of justice in Judaism is inextricable from progressive criminal justice. The Torah commands us to hold police officers accountable. Let's unite in the fight for due justice.

Here's how you can fulfill *Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof* for policing in Portland right now:

- Sign the uniteoregon.org/ppa_petition and share it widely on social media.
- Attend a livestream of the contract negotiations. The next session is on March 10 starting at 9 am PST. Register for the Zoom session at bit.ly/3kplGUW.
- Learn more about the current happenings with the PPA contract negotiations at rethinkportland.com/ppa-contract.
- Ask the organization you work for or with to sign on to the Unite Oregon letter at uniteoregon.org/policing.
- Contact Andrew Riley, Communications and Policy Coordinator at Unite Oregon, at andrew@uniteoregon.org.
- Write an op-ed or letter to the editor explaining the importance of the contract negotiation.
- Have conversations with your friends and family about public safety and the role of the police. Find resources at criticalresistance.org and un.org/ruleofflaw

Emma Nathanson is currently participating in Tivnu: Building Justice, the social justice Jewish gap year program in Portland.



Originally from Madison, Wis., she is passionate about social justice work, long runs, short naps and copious amounts of chocolate. Emma will be attending Williams College in the fall to major in history.

CONVERSION REACTION (continued from page 1)

"The long-standing discrimination that non-Orthodox Jews have faced in Israel is now being recognized and addressed. Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist rabbis and institutions in Israel have been working heroically for decades to bring new vibrant and engaging religious options to Israeli Jews," adds Rabbi Cahana.

"This Supreme Court ruling legitimizes their work and will help unify and strengthen the relationship with Israel and World Judaism."

Rabbi Isaak adds that this is just one small step forward.

"Conversions that I oversee in Portland are accepted in Portland AND for purposes of citizenship in Israel," says

Rabbi Isaak, a Conservative rabbi. "So, it is only logical that conversions under the auspices of non-Orthodox Israeli rabbis should be legitimate for citizenship as well."

"When I officiate at a wedding in Portland, it is recognized by the state," he adds. "A wedding

that my Conservative or Reform colleague in Israel performs is not considered official since the Orthodox rabbinate controls all issues of personal status."

He says that is just one example of the many more changes that will be required for full religious pluralism in Israel.

Jobs board

The Jewish Review publishes job openings from local Jewish agencies and congregations. Job information will be shortened to fit available space. Submit to: editor@jewishportland.org

OJCF Vice President of Philanthropy

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation helps individuals and families achieve their heartfelt philanthropic goals through the most tax-advantaged approaches to charitable giving. Its mission is to build and promote a culture of giving in Oregon and Southwest Washington that supports a thriving Jewish community now and for generations to come.

The Vice President of Philanthropy is responsible to the President & CEO and will work in partnership with staff, trustees, community donors and partners' organizational leaders to realize long-term goals for the Foundation. This Vice President will specifically help strategize and execute on the fund development and stewardship work, which includes consideration of donor advised funds, investments, impact investing, and grantmaking, all of which keep growing markedly. Continuing to raise the Foundation's profile, this Vice President will also assume some outward-facing duties as directed by the President & CEO, which may include serving as a liaison to partner organizations, representing and presenting as the Foundation's ambassador, leading and attending trainings within the community, and working with stakeholders. Working in various capacities with the Board of Trustees, Professional Advisory Groups, internal and external committees as well as on strategic initiatives will provide elevated responsibilities and growth opportunities. Additionally, internal operations and supervisory responsibilities may evolve over time. Ultimately, this may well be a succession planning opportunity as well.

The Vice President of Philanthropy will possess the highest level of personal and professional integrity; leadership experience; success in developing strategy; skills to comfortably interact with a professional staff, trustees, and community members; and an authentic heart for philanthropy. OJCF seeks an experienced development professional who is entrepreneurial in spirit and adept at collaborating to create and implement a comprehensive fund development and asset accumulation plan that serves the community and donors with professionalism and transparency. This position offers a competitive salary and excellent benefits. We actively welcome all candidates from a wide range of backgrounds who have the skills to partner in and lead this dynamic philanthropic effort – regardless of compensation history. We seek to have someone in place by Summer 2021.

For the full job description email executive search consultant Melissa Ulum at melissa@msssearch.com or OJCF CEO and President Julie Diamond at julied@ojcf.org.

All applications are held in strict confidence. Please submit your resume and a letter of interest to the attention of Melissa Ulum, Managing Partner of MS&S Search, at melissa@msssearch.com.

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Obituaries

ISADORE GERALD YABLON

Isadore "Red" Yablon, z"l, passed away peacefully after a long illness on Feb. 21, 2021, at the age of 87 in Portland. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Rachel (Jones) Yablon; his son, Brian (Laurie Libenson) of Portland; his daughter, Dr. Corrie Yablon (Dr. Patrick O'Brien) of Ann Arbor, Mich.; grandsons, Ben Yablon (Miriam Clayman) of Israel, Jonny Yablon and Will Yablon; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Brenda Yablon of Vancouver and Tel Aviv (Jessica and Richard). He was predeceased by his brother, David.

He was born May 30, 1933, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, the first child of Willie and Adela (Goldberg) Yablon, z"l.

He attended Jewish People's School, Baron Byng High School and McGill University and received his medical degree from the University of Toronto, where he also completed his orthopedic surgical residency. He moved to Boston, where he gained prominence for his skills in surgery, teaching and research at Boston University, and where he trained a generation of orthopedic surgeons. He was a gifted self-taught musician who played piano and guitar and had a wonderful singing voice. He founded a folk group called the Yeomen, who delighted their very select audience for almost 50 years. He was an avid fly fisherman and spent many weeks in the Alaskan wilderness pursuing his passion.

Red was a man of strong opinions and convictions and was not afraid to make them known or to act on them. When the Yom Kippur War broke out in Israel in 1973, though he had a young family, he volunteered as a surgeon at the front. He was also an excellent public speaker. He touched many lives and leaves a beautiful legacy.

Congregation Kesser Israel extends our sincerest condolences to Brian and Laurie Yablon and family on the loss of Brian's father, Dr. Isadore Yablon.

Funeral arrangements were through Holman's Funeral Services, Portland. A private funeral took place at Kesser Israel cemetery, Feb. 22.

Donations may be made in the memory of Dr. Isadore G. Yablon to the Shriner's Hospitals for Children (lovetotherescue.org) or to the Jewish National Fund (www.jnf.org).

HERBERT HOCHFELD

Herbert Hochfeld, z"l, passed away Feb. 12, 2021, at the age of 98. Herb was loved and remembered by his children, Susan (John) Cullerton, Barbara Hochfeld and Harvey (Susan) Hochfeld; three grandchildren, Andrew, Julia and Dawson; and one great-grandchild, Elliot.

Herb was a longtime Congregation Neveh Shalom congregant.

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

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends our deepest condolences to the extended Hochfeld family.

Submit obituaries to editor@jewishportland.org