

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

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OR/WA overnight camps get approval to open

BY DEBORAH MOON

Overnight camps in Oregon and Washington will be allowed to open this summer thanks in large part to the efforts of two Jewish camp leaders.

B'nai B'rith Camp CEO Michelle Koplan serves as chair of the Alliance of Oregon Camps, and Camp Solomon Schechter Executive Director Zach Dutch is co-chair of the Washington State Camp Coalition. Both groups were formed in response to the pandemic, which forced the closure of overnight camps in both states last summer.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown announced on March 17 that Oregon's overnight camps will be allowed to open and operate in 2021. The Alliance submitted recommended guidance, which proposes stable cohorts of up to 20, to the Oregon Health Authority on March 19. The Governor's office will release guidelines by mid-April.

Washington Governor Jay Inslee has released [guidance](#) secured with the assistance of The WSCC that allows overnight summer camps to operate safely this summer. The guidelines are part of the governor's COVID19 Outdoor Recreation Guidance update released March 23. The guidance sets a maximum cohort size of 16, which should remain consistent for both daytime activities and sleeping in bunks/cabins/campsites together. Facial coverings are required to be worn at all times by all staff and campers, and anyone else present at the camp, except for when eating, drinking, brushing teeth, sleeping or specific outdoor activities.

See SUMMER CAMP, page 9

OR/WA Jewish Overnight Camps Registration is open at:

bbcamp.org
campschechter.org
campkeshner.ncsy.org

Find other Jewish camps at:

jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper

Financial aid/grants: Each camp offers financial aid on their websites. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland provides [One Happy Camper](#) incentive grants up to \$1,000 for first-time campers.



Activities are back! Residents enjoy an exercise class at Robison Jewish Health Center led by CSP Life Enrichment Director Nancy Heckler (left). Groups are limited to 10 people with masks and social distancing required.

Seniors celebrate renewed freedom at Cedar Sinai Park

BY DEBORAH MOON

This year Passover's journey to freedom has been a viscerally joyous one for seniors living at Cedar Sinai Park.

With most residents and staff fully vaccinated and COVID restrictions relaxing, the seniors are enjoying getting out of their apartments and rooms. Small group seders were just one sign of the new freedoms (see related column page 10).

"Our vaccine rates and decreasing positivity rates in the Portland metro area have created the opportunity for CSP to come together in person," says CSP CEO Kimberly Fuson. "In addition to indoor and outdoor visits, small group activity and small group dining, perhaps most important is the human connection. Our souls are lifted; We've begun, albeit cautiously, to hug again. This is the result of the indomitable spirit of each and every member of the CSP team throughout the pandemic. I am truly humbled."

Under the relaxed restrictions, residents now can gather (socially distanced) in groups of 10 or fewer; family visits are permitted with a limited

number of families in the building at one time and only two people per family. Activities have resumed including bingo, exercise classes, Resident Council, music, crossword puzzles, word games and art projects.

Even with the vaccines, Kimberly emphasizes PPE (mask/shield/gown), hand hygiene and distancing continues to be the best defense.

Administrator Krista Mattox, Harold Schnitzer Center for Living/Robison Health Center, says residents have enjoyed seeing their friends who reside in other houses in the community.

"They are more able to move about the facility and participate in an expanded variety of activities, such as bingo and group singalongs," says Krista. "Mostly, the ability to visit with their families has lifted spirits and brought comfort in knowing they are loved by seeing and talking with them in person."

Robison resident Rose adds, "I'm so glad we can come out of our rooms and do some activities and I can see my family."

See CSP SENIORS, page 8

Shoshana Bean: Giving back through song

BY DEBORAH MOON

Broadway star, Billboard #1 recording artist and local treasure Shoshana Bean took a short break to catch her breath at the start of the pandemic, but she quickly jumped into productivity mode and started thinking of ways she could give back.

"It's always important to me to pour back into the places that have poured into me," says Shoshana.

Two of those places are Beaverton High School and Congregation Neveh Shalom.

In an article for the Neveh Shalom newsletter, Shoshana's uncle, Riley Atkins, wrote: "As a Beaverton High School student, Shoshana blossomed on stage in their outstanding performing arts program. ... At CNS, some may recall Shoshana leading the Confessional (Vidui) at Yom Kippur for several years."

As the uncertainty of the pandemic set in, Shoshana says, "Everyone sort of kicked into gear with how to give back and take care of each other. ... One of the ways I did that was to make sure that we honored my annual concert at my alma mater at Beaverton High School."

Shoshana's third annual concert to support performing arts was scheduled as a live concert in April 2020. But as the world shifted, the concert was recast as a virtual concert, eventually airing July 13, 2020. It became her first virtual production.

"I am inspired to always give back to Beaverton because I



Shoshana Bean with her mom and aunts. From left, Felice Moskowitz (mom), Shoshana, Geri Luxenberg and Marci Atkins.

think the arts and schools are so important and so undervalued – and undervalued honestly by the districts and the state and by portions of the community," says Shoshana. "I think that it is up to those of us who know how valuable they are to be there for the kids and make sure that they still have even a fraction of what we had when I was there."

Her connection to Neveh Shalom goes back even further. Generations of her family have found a home and community at the Conservative congregation in Southwest Portland.

"My mother and aunts were married there," says Shoshana. "I was bat mitzvahed there, my cousins were mitzvahed there ... it's a special place in our family."

She fondly recalls "being a naughty teenager" and skipping out on the High Holiday sermon

and services to socialize with her friends in the hallways.

"My bat mitzvah was one of the greatest moments of my life," she says. "Cantor (Linda) Shivers ... (saw) I really enjoyed singing all the prayer, and she gave me more and more responsibility so ... I got to lead both Friday and Saturday services essentially. That's my absolute favorite memory."

Now she is looking forward to producing a fun musical evening (at right) for the congregation where she grew up.

"I'm really excited about the people who are involved and the music that I've curated," says Shoshana. "I encourage people to attend not just for the wonderful cause of supporting the synagogue and education within the synagogue, but also just for a great evening of music and wonderful personalities."



Evening of Broadway with Shoshana Bean & Friends

WHAT: Fundraiser for Neveh Shalom education programs featuring CNS alumna Shoshana Bean performing an evening of Broadway melodies and songs

WHEN: 5 pm, Sun., April 11

WHERE: Online

AUCTION: An online virtual auction will pause during the performance and resume afterward with bids accepted until April 13.

TICKETS: Concert: \$36/household. Raffle: \$25 for chance to win virtual coffee date with Shoshana Bean.

nevehshalom.org/shoshanabean



JOTV is "Checking In" with the first interviewee from its debut episode in 2019. Join host Jemi Kostiner Mansfield as she virtually revisits Christine Walter at Bauman Farm. Jemi "returned" to the farm to find out if their ciders had succeeded in earning a kosher hechsher. You can see the episode at <https://youtu.be/2o9QWMWrNfK>

Jewish Oregon TV is back

The pandemic has touched everything, including the entertainment world. In 2019 co-producers Ken Klein and Jenn Director Knudsen and host Jemi Kostiner Mansfield launched Jewish Oregon TV to showcase the spectrum of Oregon's Jews in a celebratory fashion. The pilot episode in October 2019 visited of Bauman Farm, which was in the process of kashering its ciders. JOTV produced four pre-pandemic episodes posted on its YouTube channel youtube.com/channel/UC2nnQ3qyMJ-ozPBc0EjNTUw/featured.

JOTV took a pandemic pause, reconsidered its format and now has its first brief, post-pause episode available. The revamped series will feature vignettes of Jewish life, including life during a pandemic. Speaking of that, did you get yourself a pandemic pet? If so, JOTV wants to know. Please email jewishoregontv@gmail.com.

Good Deeds Month begins April 11

Good Deeds Day came to Portland in 2013. This annual celebration of community volunteering takes place on a spring Sunday, with participants around the world doing good together.

But this year, with pandemic restrictions on gatherings and organizational modifications of volunteer offerings, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland will spotlight individuals and organizations doing good to create a monthlong celebration of good deeds.

The month kicks off on April 11, the worldwide Good Deeds Day, and highlights events happening over the following four weeks. Opportunities on the first day include a blood drive, nature park cleanup and socially distanced gathering to make food for the houseless.

“Because of COVID, it is difficult to gather in person for a large-scale, COVID-safe volunteer opportunity or opportunities,” says organizer Caron Blau Rothstein, JFGP director of community planning and allocations. “And many nonprofits have curtailed, modified or altogether put on hold many of the volunteer opportunities conducive to groups. At the same time, people are wanting to do something, anything, to be helpful and supportive of others in these especially challenging times.”

Good Deeds Day has always been a centerpiece of JFGP’s hands-on volunteerism efforts.

“We wanted to give people ideas for how they can be engaged from home in small, safe, socially distant

groups in outdoor opportunities, virtually, etcetera,” says Caron.

The month draws on the success of several smaller programs over the past year – phone calls to seniors, Pre-Yom Kippur Mitzvah Morning, Purim Pack-ages and a Pre-Pesach Food Drive.

“We also wanted to highlight the good works being done within our community and by programs and organizations led by/supported by members of our community and beyond to highlight their good deeds,” says Caron.

Some of those efforts have been featured in the Jewish Review including the Kindness Farm (jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/farming-with-kindness) and efforts by Jenn Louis to feed those living in tent encampments (jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/former-restaurateur-cooks-for-the-homeless).

One group debuts its programs during Good Deed Month. Portland became the 15th chapter of the national Dignity Grows program (see below).

Volunteers put into practice the simple idea that every single person can do something good, be it large or small, to improve the lives of others and positively change the world. Join our community for a month full of events for the whole family that make Greater Portland a better place. Discover different activities and organizations you can participate in safely during this pandemic by visiting jewishportland.org/gooddeedsmonth.

JFGP Women’s Philanthropy presents Dignity Grows

In March 2021, Women’s Philanthropy of Greater Portland became the 15th chapter of Dignity Grows, which was founded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford’s Women’s Philanthropy.

Dignity Grows provides monthly personal and menstrual hygiene products to women, girls and individuals assigned female at birth, who cannot afford them.

One in five American women can’t afford menstrual supplies and toiletries. This inability creates barriers to education, employment and social connections. Feeling shame, some girls stay home from school during their periods, while women miss work, often losing wages. Government benefits like SNAP don’t cover these necessities.

Dignity Grows embodies the Jewish values of tzedakah (righteousness) and

tikkun olam (repairing the world). The Portland Chapter has expanded the concept of other chapters and has created five teams: partnership development, supply chain, education, distribution, and teen and youth engagement. Volunteer to work with distribution partners and expand strategically as we grow our initiative in the Greater Portland area. Volunteers will be able to plan and participate in packing parties, each of which will include education about the issue or the recipient organization.

You can sponsor Dignity Totes for \$10 each; each Dignity Tote holds a month’s supply of sanitary pads and tampons, toothpaste and a toothbrush, a bar of soap, deodorant and shampoo.

To learn more, visit jewishportland.org/dignitygrows or email Wendy Kahn at wendy@jewishportland.org.



From left, Jon Perrin, Michael Rosenberg, Sam Perrin and Alex Perrin assemble 140 bags of Passover essentials in the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

Passover4All in pandemic

A Jewish Cub Scout Pack launched a project to provide Passover foods to families in need more than 20 years ago. Though the pack disbanded, Passover4All is now a grassroots effort that continues to ensure that local families have the food they need to celebrate a joyous Passover. This year, the program delivered 140 boxes to families and individuals identified by Jewish Family & Child Service as needing assistance to celebrate Passover.

Names of recipients are provided by JFCS and local rabbis, funding is organized by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, food is procured by Allen Levin Café @the J and volunteers come from across the community.

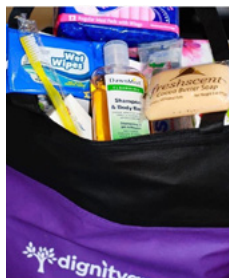
Long-time organizers have committed to the grassroots effort “because Talmud tells us that before we do our own preparations for Passover, we are to make sure that everyone in the community has the means to conduct their own seder.”

“Prior to COVID, people from across the community participated,” says Jon Perrin, one of the grassroots organizers. “It was common to have 30 to 40 people packing and 25 delivery drivers. COVID changed a lot. Last year, there were only 10 people packing ... the only delivery drivers were the case workers for JFCS and its Holocaust Survivor Program.”

The need has grown almost every year. This year, demand was especially high because of the hardships brought on by COVID-19.

The project started in the late 1990s when Michael Rosenberg (now a longtime organizer) participated with his sons in the Jewish Cub Scouts. In 2002, Jon Perrin and his kids – then 6, 8 and 10 – joined the effort and now coordinate much of the work that goes into packing and supervising volunteers. This year, Alex Perrin (now 23) helped coordinate sending the drivers on their routes when they made their pickups. Sam Perrin (now 29) has supervised the volunteers who do the packing for the last few years.

Each kosher for Passover package included two boxes of matzah, one bottle of wine, two boxes of soup mix, one chicken and a gift card to allow the recipients to purchase whatever additional foods best suited their needs. This year JFGP’s Passover4All campaign raised \$9,500 to buy the food and gift cards. Allen, Michael and the Perrins family did the packing with volunteers returning as drivers on March 21.



Adult soccer league and youth sports classes return to MJCC

Beginning April 7, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center will offer an adult soccer league, youth soccer classes and youth tae kwon do.

"After many months, sports and recreation programming is back at the J," says Sports and Recreation Manager Ashley Scacco. "We're so excited to have our participants back on the turf and in the community center with several new safety precautions in place. All of our spaces have been set up to comply with state COVID-19 guidelines, including temperature checks and screening questions for all participants, instructors and spectators upon entering both facilities. Masks will be worn at all times in both the bubble and the main building by everyone, and all high-touch surfaces will be regularly sanitized to help mitigate the spread of germs. Additionally, one way traffic flow arrows will indicate the path to and from our programming to meet state recommended guidelines."

For the first soccer season, the J will offer only one adult league, which is already full with eight teams signed up. A second season including multiple leagues will start June 1, 2 and 3.

Adult soccer league participants are excited about the return of soccer.

"During the pandemic shutdowns, I really missed playing soccer at the J. My mental health isn't as great when I'm not playing soccer, so I'm so excited to be able to get back out on the turf and see my teammates again for the physical and social outlet," said one registrant.

Another told her, "Yessssss! I'm so excited soccer leagues are back. My teammates are going to be so excited when I tell them we can play again finally."

Registration is now open for youth sports classes. Youth soccer classes are running April 7-May 26. Pre-kindergarten classes meet 3-3:30 pm, Wednesdays, followed by a class for children 6-12 meeting from 3:45-4:30. Youth tae kwon do for ages 6 to 12 will meet 5 to 6 pm, Thursdays, April 8-May 27.

To register, visit oregonjcc.org/sports/youth-classes.

Shabbat School enrollment opens

Enrollment opens April 1 for Havurah Shalom's 2021-2022 Shabbat School, a cooperative Jewish education program for children and families. Shabbat School is for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade in the fall.

With the help of Havurah's education staff, parents work together in teams to plan and implement the curriculum and community-building activities for their child's grade.

Families must be members of Havurah Shalom by April 18. May 1 is the enrollment deadline for Shabbat School. Classes begin in September and meet approximately 17 Saturday afternoons throughout the school year.

Learn more about Shabbat School at havurahshalom.org/shabbat-school-grades-k-6.html.

For more information, contact Education Director Deborah Eisenbach-Budner at deborah@havurahshalom.org or Communications/Membership Coordinator Brad Pector at brad.pector@havurahshalom.org.



Rabbi Heshy Glass of the CoJDS, left, visited Portland in February 2020 to meet with administrators from Maimonides Jewish Day School, SAMIS Foundation, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Portland Jewish Academy and Maayan Torah Day School.

Targeted fund boosts day school enrollment

BY DEBORAH MOON

A local family fund, a national day school consortium and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland joined forces to provide targeted funding to enable 15 students to attend Jewish day schools in Portland this year.

The 15 sponsored children in three schools have generated a total of \$104,725 in revenue for the schools, according to a 2020-21 mid-year report from Rabbi Hillel Adler of the Consortium of Jewish Day Schools.

The Jerry and Helen Stern Grandchildren's Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation initially provided \$18,300 to provide a bridge to make tuition affordable for 11 students in the 2019-20 school year. Now the fund has awarded a third grant of \$25,000 to again make day school an option for several families in the 2021-22 school year.

"Like last year, this grant is to serve as gap money outside of the school's regular financial aid," says Marc Blatner, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. "It is to be used as a 'leverage tool' in securing registration for select cases. The focus of this program is for those families choosing between a Jewish day school and a public school."

Portland is the first city to support all the day schools in the community through this type of grant. Maayan Torah Day School, Maimonides Jewish Day School and Portland Jewish Academy all participate.

"I applaud all three schools for their willingness to work together to boost enrollment in Jewish day schools

"It's such a beautiful thing being done ... to help Jewish education in the city."
~ Rabbi Hillel Adler
Consortium of Jewish Day Schools

across the city," says Jonathan Singer, who chairs the Stern Grandchildren's Fund. "I'm blown away by how the schools are able to work together on this program."

Rabbi Adler likewise praised the collaboration. "It's such a beautiful thing being done ... to help Jewish education in the city," he says, adding CoJDS wants to "take the Portland model on the road."

"In small communities, each extra student can make a big difference to a school, and the impact on a community is huge," says Rabbi Adler, noting several studies show day school education plays a major role in long-term Jewish engagement. "The question is does this need to translate into an unreasonable burden for middle-class families?"

Families apply to the school of their choice and apply for financial aid from that school. After the school has made its scholarship commitment, school principals can apply to CoJDS for families who need additional financial aid to attend the school rather than a public school.

Continued on next page

Maayan Torah principal plans temporary leave

BY DEBORAH MOON

At the end of June 2021, Maayan Torah Day School General Studies Principal Aviel Brodtkin will begin a leave of absence – from the school she helped launch a decade ago – to grow professionally so she can be a more impactful leader in the school's future.



Maayan Torah (Maayanpdx.org) launched in 2011 with one preschool class of 11 students. For its first seven years, the day school leased space from Congregation Neveh Shalom. When the Jewish day school moved to Lake Oswego in the fall of 2018, it had grown to 95 children in preschool through eighth grade. Since then, the school has stabilized at about 100 students, with graduating students opening spaces for incoming students each year.

"I have grown professionally with the school," says Aviel. "As the school grew, I learned to keep pace."

Now she plans to complete a graduate degree she began a couple years ago.

"I am excited for the school's next stage," she says. "I need to prepare ... to arm myself for the next stage."

She also plans to recuperate from the physical and professional challenges she has faced over the past year and half. In addition to running a school during a pandemic, she also faced a personal health challenge.

"I am in a strong spot now," she says. "Maybe sharing (my story) will bring some light to others that healing is possible."

In August of 2019, she was suffering from rapidly deteriorating eyesight. An MRI revealed a noncancerous tumor in her brain pressing on the optic nerve. A week later, she underwent an eight-hour surgery to remove the meningioma.

"Being a principal, you don't get a chance to stop, because children are depending on you," she says. "I woke up the next morning and hired a fourth-grade teacher. I met with new teachers over the next week to go over the curriculum. I took minimal leave – six weeks. The first place I drove was to school; I pushed myself a lot."

She worked hard to be strong mentally, and by March 2020 she was looking forward to Passover.

"Then COVID came as soon as I started to feel strong again," she says. "I am a person of faith; G-d gave me the energy."

She rose to the occasion and worked out remote learning



Maayan Torah General Studies Principal Aviel Brodtkin teaches a first grade lesson in February 2020. She plans to go on temporary leave to continue her own education at the end of this school year.

schedules, helped teachers connect virtually with students one-on-one and in groups, and planned a drive-through graduation ceremony.

"I didn't do it alone; we ended the school year like a team of heroes," she says.

This school year began with students on an online learning platform. But Maayan obtained an emergency child-care license, and most students returned to the campus. With stringent safety procedures in place, the school has not had a single case of COVID.

"It's been a phenomenal year," says Aviel. "At the same time, I said to myself, I need to pause."

She feels the school is in a

strong place, and she can now step away comfortably.

"I want to thank the board of directors and staff for working together with me to create this school," she wrote in a letter to the school community. "It was a dream come true to see this vision develop. I am blessed to see it take its next steps. The teachers, the administration and the board are well-positioned to take Maayan to new heights."

She looks forward to working with the school board and Judais Principal Rabbi Yerachmiel Kalter to conduct a candidate search to find an outstanding educational leader to oversee Maayan's general studies department.

DAY SCHOOL FUND (continued from previous page)

CoJDS will process the applications and make determinations as to how much each family will be awarded. They will base these decisions on their past experience administering such a program in other schools. JFGP then distributes the funds to the school. Neither CoJDS nor JFGP are compensated for their role; all grant funds go directly to the schools.

In 2016, CoJDS was founded as a national program to fund a targeted scholarship program aiding principals negotiating tuition for parents who were

"on the fence" about choosing day school over public school for their children. Since then, CoJDS has provided 245 scholarships in 23 schools in North America.

"Our experience has shown that a scholarship between \$1,000 and \$2,000 can make the difference," says Rabbi Adler.

That hope prompted the Stern grandchildren (and their spouses) to make the grants. Three of the grandchildren attended PJA, and some of the partners attended day schools in the communities where they grew

up. Jonathan credits his brother, Binyamin, a rabbi in Israel, and Marc for facilitating the connection with CoJDS to develop the Portland program.

"The group was looking to catalyze new initiatives that would affect families and the future of Jewish life in Portland," says Rabbi Binyamin Singer. "We had not heard of the Consortium program, which came to our attention after working on the grant."

Though the program was created before COVID, "It is even more important now," Jonathan says.

The CoJDS annual report quotes PJA Principal Merrill Hendin and Executive Director Steve Albert on that very topic: "While the cost of an independent school education is always a challenge for some families, the need this year has been greater than in the past due to the economic downturn associated with the coronavirus pandemic. ... It has been a challenge to meet the financial needs of some of our families, and the availability to the Stern family funds has made a substantial difference to our community."

Share pandemic story for oral history project

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education seeks community members to participate in *Chronicle These Times*, a project of the Council of American Jewish Museums to record Jewish stories from the pandemic.

More than 230 Oregonians from ages 13 to 99 already have shared their stories with OJMCHE during phase one of the project. This second phase will run until February 2022.

“For those of you who have not yet joined in, we invite you to become part of a national project that will provide a snapshot for researchers and future generations of the Jewish experience during these unprecedented times,” says OJMCHE archivist Alisha Babbstein.

“We still want to capture any and all voices who are interested in participating,” she adds. “That said, we’d love to have a few more participants in the 20-40 age range.”

Two trends emerged during the first round of interviews.

“Many people have talked about baking challah for the first time and starting new family traditions or coming back to an old family tradition because they found that they had more time to bake,” says Alisha. “I loved hearing people talk about joining friends and family on



Oral History Interview with Rabbi Rachel Joseph

Created by: Alisha Babbstein, October 29, 2020 11:46 am

In this interview, Rabbi Joseph talks about her experiences early in 2020, specifically how COVID-19 radically altered her wedding plans. She also talks about how the pandemic has affected her work as a rabbi at a large congregation here in Portland, Or., including her role in bar and bat mitzvahs, funerals, Shabbat services, and the High Holidays. She also talks about attending the protests and how important voting is.

Participants: Rabbi Rachel Joseph Alisha Babbstein

Zoom calls as they baked on Friday afternoons – trying new flavors, new recipes, new methods of braiding, and all the photos being shared.”

Staying home and doing fewer activities allowed people to slow down – not just to bake but also to rethink their priorities.

“The frantic pace many of us kept before COVID came to a forced, screeching halt last March – no school, no extracurriculars, no work out of the house, no eating out,” says Alisha. “Many participants report that their families spend more time together, they talk about more together, they eat meals together for the first time in years. It’s been nice to hear people have had the chance to slow down, and I’ve loved hearing how many of them are determined to maintain as much of the slow pace as they can when things return to some semblance of normal.”

Alisha was also struck by a moment she feels captured what many felt and experienced in the early months of the pandemic. A woman speaking about calling her sister on her birthday reflected the fear, the uncertainty, the inability to put into words everything we were feeling.

“So, I called my sister at the end of August (it was her birthday). And this was the only time that I really acknowledged what was going on. Really. I called her, I said, ‘happy birthday.’ She said, ‘yeah.’ And she started laughing. ... Then I started laughing and then I started crying, then she started crying. I mean we were hysterical. It was just kind of like, ‘yeah, happy birthday.’ Some moment that we really acknowledged that this is really terrible.”

Many participants also spoke about how their children have internalized COVID. Some kids insist dolls and make-believe

friends need to have masks on and stay physically distanced. “They talk about their kids hiding behind their legs or holding their breath when they pass other people in public, even when they have masks on,” says Alisha. “It’s rather tragic. And we can hope only temporary.”

OJMCHE is one of 18 collecting repositories from New York to Portland partnering with CAJM. The project uses the *TheirStory* video recording platform, which works much like Zoom and requires no prior knowledge or software from the person being interviewed. Trained volunteers record online interviews with community members as they ask questions relevant to the pandemic, the political landscape, the vaccine and plans for moving forward. The online interview takes less than an hour.

To participate or for more information, contact Alisha at ababbstein@ojmche.org.

Mental health matchmaker brings network home to Oregon

In response to the ongoing therapy needs coming from the coronavirus pandemic, Mental Health Match, a free service that instantly matches individuals with mental health providers that best meet their needs, is launching in Oregon.

Mental Health Match founder and CEO Ryan Schwartz is a member of Congregation Shir Tikvah. Through Mental Health Match, Ryan hopes to remove a major barrier preventing people from healing and hope – the barrier of finding a therapist. Prior to founding Mental Health Match, Ryan was a communications consultant working with social change organizations.

With its new Oregon network, Mental Health Match offers Oregonians a quick, easy way to find an available and affordable therapist who can be seen either in person or online. The pioneering matching platform adapted tools from online dating (matching algorithm, questionnaire and profile prompts) to help clients and therapists find the right fit.

“After helping over 60,000 people from other states find a therapist, we are now ready to come home and help other Ore-



gonians,” says Ryan.

Mental Health Match launched in Houston in 2019. Houston was tapped as the pilot site to ensure the resource was built to help people of all backgrounds. Houston is one of the most diverse cities in

America (by race, economics and religion), so it seemed like a natural place to start and learn.

“We’re all struggling to make sense of our rapidly changing world, and a good therapist is one of the most helpful resources available,” says Ryan. “As more and more people realize

it’s time to talk with a trained professional, our matching tool makes it more possible for Oregonians to find the provider that they will trust and connect with from the very first moment.”

The company, headquartered at the Hatch Innovation Lab in Northeast Portland, is funded by private investors who believe therapy and counseling should be easy to access. After a free trial, therapists pay a small monthly subscription. Mental Health Match is anonymous; personal data is never sold.

For more information, visit mentalhealthmatch.com. Find therapists at mentalhealthmatch.com/search/start.



**Why make it a day when it
can be a month?**

**Join our community at
jewishportland.org/gooddeedsmonth**



CSP SENIORS (continued from page 1)

Across the street at Rose Schnitzer Manor assisted living, residents and family are also enjoying the new openness.

“Families have been very complimentary of the care we have taken with the residents thus far,” says RSM Administrator Vivian Villegas. “Residents are very happy to be able to visit in the privacy of their own homes. Families are grateful to be able to come in and celebrate birthdays in a normal loving manner.”

"Family members are bringing the sunshine in," says CSP Spiritual Life Coordinator Cathy Zheutlin. "They are patiently putting up with our insistence that they get a rapid test before entering the building. I love seeing all the new life around here. It's such a joy!"

“Visits with my family, with my children, are the highlight of my life,” says RSM resident Marion Gans. “To see them in person and have some private time together has been a joy.”

"We are excited to finally have a conversation without a video," one family says.

“As Dad became a resident at CSP during lockdown, we had yet to experience any activities or visits, so the reopening is a welcome change,” says Cynthia, the daughter of a newer Robison resident. “We are both looking forward to discovering all that CSP has to offer and more time together!”

Passover kicked off a return to the dining rooms (for small groups).

Just days before Pesach, CSP decided the county's low positivity rate made in-person seders possible. Life enrichment and leadership staff ensured all were appropriately distanced, disinfected and PPE'd at each seder.

“Passover in the dining rooms will bring life back to the dining rooms that have been dark for over a year,” says Vivian.

Yet as hard as the past year has been, CSP Life Enrichment Director Nancy Heckler says the pandemic has created closer relationships between staff and residents.

“We were forced – in an endearing way – to be the families of the residents,” says Nancy. “We set up one-on-ones and spent time with them. It is such a positive – really, really knowing residents in a personal way.”

Before the pandemic, Nancy says she (and other staff) would interact with and have exchanges with residents but not with such intensity. She says the new closeness was important to the residents, but she was surprised to see how important it was for the staff, as well.

"They have grown together," she says. "I see the relationships in pictures and conversations."



Family visits are back: Sylvia Bush and her daughters had to be content with outdoor visits over the past year, but now as restrictions relax, they get to play games in her apartment at Rose Schnitzer Manor.



Robison resident Phyllis celebrates the return of activities with a bingo win.

Even as things open up and families begin to return, Nancy believes the staff will continue with one-on-one interactions, though on a smaller scale.

“Seeing what happens with those relationships, I think we will continue,” she says. She adds the staff will also continue to facilitate Facetime visits with families. “They are able to connect with family across the country, across the ocean or down the block. Though it’s not a replacement, we have learned it is still a huge factor in staying connected.”

As doors swing open, Nancy also has enjoyed seeing the higher energy, alertness and engagement of residents. After a year of seclusion, she says some emerge instant-

“I’m so happy I get to see my daughters, and I get to hear the piano music.”

~ Robison resident
Jean Hasson

ly smiling, clapping and singing. Others emerge a bit more tentatively. She saw two old friends come to their first activity and nervously look back and forth across the six feet between their chairs. "By the end, you could see they were relaxed."

Bingo and music have been winning ways to bring the residents back together.

RSM resident Joleen Rodinsky says of bingo, "It's fun. I didn't win once last time, but it's fun!"

"I'm so happy I get to see my daughters, and I get to hear the piano music," says Robison resident Jean Hasson.

Nancy, who often played the piano for participants in CSP's Adult Day Program before it was suspended during the pandemic, now plays the piano in the living rooms of Robison and RSM.

“Music is a great equalizer,” she says, adding residents can “sing, hum, smile, tap their toes ...”

Through all the ups and downs of the past year, one thing has not changed.

“The mission and CSP’s person-centered approach are the same,” says Nancy. “We did that well before, and we do it well now. We’ve tweaked it a little bit, but the core hasn’t changed.”

SUMMER CAMPS (continued from page 1)

The Alliance of Oregon Camps is an organized group of American Camp Association, Christian Camp and Conference Association, and all licensed Oregon overnight camps.

“As our state began to shut down last spring, I had the opportunity to be actively engaged with the Governor’s Office and the Oregon Health Authority to prepare and submit the COVID-mitigating guidance necessary to open Oregon’s summer camps,” says Michelle. Though overnight camps were not allowed in 2020, “the relationships made translated to the convergence of a coalition of Oregon’s camps and my continued work with the Governor’s Office and OHA.”

The primary priorities were to secure state funds to support camps’ operations and advocate for a regulatory framework (guidance) that allows overnight camps the ability to open and operate as fully as possible. The Alliance has been successful on both fronts.

“After meeting with many stakeholders and legislators, in late December, the State of Oregon’s Early Learning Division called us to share that they were releasing \$1.5 million of

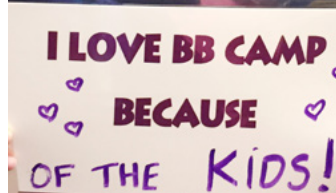


Zach Duitch

CARES Act funds to Oregon’s overnight camps,” says Michelle. “In early January, the State’s Joint Emergency Board approved \$10 million to be allocated from state appropriations to Oregon’s youth summer camps and programs.”

Michelle says the news of camps opening this year has been greeted with joy and relief by camp staff and camper families.

“A number of families shared that when they received our email announcement regarding the opening of BB Over-



Michelle Koplan

night Camp, there was singing, dancing and loud cheers in their homes,” says Michelle. BB Camp creates joyous and meaningful Jewish experiences for our campers and our community, and everyone is excited to come back home!”

The WSCC is the collective voice of Washington State resident camps that are advocating at the state level for the camp industry. It was founded in the fall of 2020 by Zach and Camp Beausite Northwest Executive Director Raina Baker.

“We’re so appreciative that Governor Inslee and the Department of Health embraced our science-driven approach to address the safety of our campers as we collaborated with the state and put forward a blueprint to return to overnight camping in Washington,” says Zach. “We brought a team of experts ... to help us formulate a plan that works for Washington and complies with CDC standards.”

“The Jewish community should be proud that the directors of two Jewish overnight camps were the leaders in the statewide efforts to open all overnight camps in Oregon and Washington,” says Marc Blattner, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

“Zach has demonstrated true leadership and advocated for all 145 overnight camps and their camp families,” says Schechter Board President Mark Kalenscher. “Zach and the WSCC Steering Committee crafted a solution that works for small camps as much as it does for larger programs, and Schechter’s Board is so proud of Zach’s initiative and commitment to the entire camp community.”

Walk for the MJCC April 18

After a year of COVID-19 disruption and quarantine, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center invites you to get out, get moving and walk, run or roll for the J.

On Sunday, April 18, join friends and family and Walk for the MJCC. You can do a 5K walk on paths leaving from the J. Or just walk back and forth in a socially distant bunch. Cedar Sinai Park is asking residents to find ways to get moving, whether walking or rolling in their wheelchairs.

Gather via Zoom at 10 am to kick off the day and finish the day together around 4 pm.

“I am so excited for the first-ever Walk for the J,” says event chair, Amy Blauer. “The MJCC has been my home away from home for many decades.

The J remains the supportive and fun second home for my family. Whether the pool, basketball court, BBYO meeting or mah jongg table, we are always heading to the J for one reason or another. ... The J can only continue to provide for our community with everyone’s support.”

The Walk for the MJCC will help maintain the J as the living room of the Jewish community. It will support member financial assistance, day camp scholarships, cultural programming that puts the “J” in MJCC, fitness equipment and the warm water therapy pool.

The walk will also help support Cedar Sinai Park as a partner in the event.

oregonjcc.org/about-us/support-our-center/walk-for-the-j

MJCC on cover of national magazine

Community Rec Magazine’s current issue features Mittleman Jewish Community Center as its cover story. The story begins: “As the only JCC in the state of Oregon, the Mittleman JCC is committed to being the ‘living room’ for the Portland area, welcoming those of all ages and backgrounds into their facility.”

The article focuses on the evolution of the J and what it has become in recent years. The story includes a short sidebar on how the pandemic has forced the MJCC to find new ways to serve its community, including up to six virtual programs per day. In the piece, Executive Director Steve Albert notes that as the J moves toward reopening, it will continue its virtual offerings to support members who cannot yet return to the center.

Community Rec Magazine is published bimonthly by Peake Media. Since 2003, Peake Media has been educating and empowering health and fitness professionals by providing best practice business resources. In 2019, Peake introduced Community Rec Magazine, a free business resource for YMCAs, JCCs and community rec centers.

See the issue at communityrecmag.com/march-april-2021-issue/.



Chaplain's Corner

The Power of Dayenu

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Back in 2018, as I began to establish the brand new position of "Community Chaplain," one of the first things I did was reach out to Cedar Sinai Park.

After a few back-and-forth conversations, we decided that I would visit every Tuesday morning for breakfast as a way to get to know residents and establish connections. These visits became a part of my routine. While the small talk was engaging, these surface-level interactions often led to deeper conversations and opportunities for me to provide spiritual and pastoral care.

Then COVID-19 hit. For the sake of safety and security, the doors of Cedar Sinai Park became selectively open to those from the outside. Understandably, my Tuesday breakfasts were put on hold.

Fast forward to this year's Passover celebration. I was invited to lead two of the *seders*, and we confirmed plans for me to cover the second night of Passover. It felt surreal as I prepared to return to Rose Schnitzer Manor after more than a year.

One of the songs of the Passover seder is *Dayenu* (roughly translated as "it would have been enough for us"). *Dayenu* is broken down in a number of verses, each one thanking God for the various steps we took from bondage in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In years past, I have taken this song for granted as just another step leading to the seder meal. But this year, I understood – I felt – that we sing *Dayenu* to cultivate a sense of gratitude for everything that is good in our lives.

This year, based on what I ex-

perienced at Cedar Sinai Park, I will remember most our singing *Dayenu*.

For my being tested for COVID in the Rose Schnitzer Manor lobby: *DAYENU!*

For my returning to the Newmark and Holzman Dining Rooms for the first time in more than a year: *DAYENU!*

For interacting with residents as they found their seats, even though I still had to wear a mask and a face visor: *DAYENU!*

For re-introducing myself and leading the opening song: *DAYENU!*

For discussing the importance of washing our hands to protect ourselves and others: *DAYENU!*

For talking about what matzah represents in the COVID-19 world: *DAYENU!*

For chanting the Four Questions together: *DAYENU!*

For listening to residents describe the Four Children and talking about which other kinds of children and adults need to be welcomed to our table: *DAYENU!*

For making sure everyone knew what page we were on: *DAYENU!*

For not caring about the side conversations that were taking place: *DAYENU!*

For telling the story of Moses, culminating in the lesson that all Jews are responsible for one another: *DAYENU!*

For adding how we are responsible for all of humanity: *DAYENU!*

For reciting the Ten Plagues and adding contemporary plagues, such as the pandemic, social isolation, threats of climate change, wildfires, systemic racism, sexism and bigotry: *DAYENU!*

For singing *Dayenu* and calling out what we are



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

grateful for: *DAYENU!*

For adding symbols to the seder plate, such as the COVID-19 mask: *DAYENU!*

For eating matzah, followed by maror, symbolically connecting the pain of slavery to the pain we are feeling today: *DAYENU!*

For the delicious seder meal: *DAYENU!*

For singing *Birkat Hamazon*, the prayer of gratitude for the meal and for being together: *DAYENU!*

For hoping that Elijah would arrive at last, not just for the safety and security of the Jewish people in particular, but for humanity in general: *DAYENU!*

For counting the first day of the omer: *DAYENU!*

For noting that the story of our liberation does not end with freedom for freedom's sake, but for the freedom to serve a higher power and the freedom to serve one another: *DAYENU!*

For seeing that many did not want the seder to end, and instead spontaneously choosing to sing a couple of additional songs: *DAYENU!*

For realizing that the encouragement and hope I received was far greater than anything I shared: *DAYENU!*

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Upcoming issues

Issue date	Deadline
April 14	April 8
April 28	April 22
May 12	May 6
May 26	May 20

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

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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. To schedule a date to submit a 500- to 600-word piece or for more information, email editor@jewishportland.org.

Explore Israel-UAE relationship April 12

The Head of Mission from the Israeli consulate in Dubai will meet with Portlanders via Zoom at noon, April 12, as part of Israel Week. Head of Mission Ilan Sztulman Starosta will share “An Insider’s View of Israel’s Growing Relationship with the United Arab Emirates.”

Last August, Israel and the United Arab Emirates reached an agreement that includes the “full normalization of relations.”

Born in Brazil, Starosta immigrated to Israel in 1975. He served in a special Air Force Unit of the IDF from 1978 to 1982, rising to the rank of major.

He began his career in Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001 in the communication division overseeing production of ministry content in English and Latin languages (he speaks



Ilan Sztulman Starosta

Hebrew, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian and French). He served the ministry in Brazil, Washington, D.C., and Argentina before becoming head of mission in Dubai.

To register for the event, visit jewishportland.org/israeluae.



Virtual Yom Ha'atzmaut 4 pm April 15

Jewish Federations of North America will be hosting a free virtual Yom Ha'Atzmaut Event in celebration of Israel's 73rd Independence Day. The worldwide celebration will be 4 pm PDT, April 15.

Mark Wilf, Minnesota Vikings owner and chair of JFNA Board of Trustees, will give welcoming remarks and discuss how his passions for sports, Israel and the Jewish community connect.

The event will feature special appearances by Israeli Olympic gold medal hopefuls who are on their way to Tokyo this summer and Jewish athletes from around the world. Linoy Ashram is a 2021 Olympic rhythmic gymnast sensation and first Israeli to win the gold medal in the Individual All-Around Event at the 2020 European Championships. Marhu Teferi is a 2021 Olympic marathon runner and holder of Israeli records.

Bid farewell to His Excellency Reuven Rivlin as he completes his term as Israel's 10th president.

Jewish Together is a virtual community with informative resources. It is powered by The Jewish Federations of North America.

Register to celebrate Team Israel together: jfeds.org/Israel73

White supremacist propaganda surges in region and nation

White supremacist propaganda distribution surged across the Pacific Northwest and the United States in 2020, with a cumulative total 926 cases of racist, anti-Semitic and other hateful messages reported by the Anti-Defamation League in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho and Montana.

In Oregon, ADL tracked 85 incidents, a 553 percent increase over 2019. In Washington, ADL tracked 345 incidents, a 245 percent increase over 2019 and the second highest number of incidents nationwide. The year 2020 marked the highest level of incidents reported since ADL began tracking such data – an average of about 14 incidents per day nationwide, and nearly double the 2,724 cases reported in 2019.

ADL's Center on Extremism (COE) tracked the distribution of racist, anti-Semitic and anti-LGBTQ fliers, stickers, posters and banners by various members of far right and white supremacist groups. The annual report found that at least 30 known white supremacist groups were behind hate propaganda efforts, which affected 49 states in 2020.

“Hate propaganda is a tried-and-true tactic for white supremacists,” said

ADL Pacific Northwest Regional Director Miri Cypers. “White supremacists appear to be more emboldened than ever, with a divisive political climate, the pandemic and other factors which may have provided these extremists with additional encouragement.”

In 2020, hate propaganda appeared in every state except Hawaii, with the highest level of activity in Texas (574).

“Perpetrators often post their bigoted propaganda under the cover of darkness – giving white supremacists the ability to maximize media and online attention while limiting their risk of exposure and evading arrest,” said Cypers. “The literature helps to bolster recruitment efforts and spreads fear by targeting specific groups, including the Jewish, Black, Muslim and LGBTQ+ communities, as well as non-white immigrants.”

For more information, visit: adl.org/white-supremacist-propaganda-spikes-2020.

In response to the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol by insurrectionists and the overall increase in domestic terrorism in recent years, ADL recently announced the PROTECT Plan (adl.org/protectplan) to mitigate this threat while protecting civil liberties.

Holocaust Remembrance events April 7 & 8

Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, will be observed virtually this year.

Yom HaShoah begins the evening of April 7. A short service led by the Oregon Board of Rabbis will begin at 7 pm that evening with the participation of Holocaust survivors and their descendants via Zoom.

The Reading of the Names from 11 am to 1 pm will also be virtual. Every year, communities around the world uphold the memory of victims of the Holocaust through the Reading of the Names, a public recitation of Holocaust victims' names, ages and birthplaces. While the event is normally held at Pioneer Courthouse Square, this year the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education will produce the event at the Oregon Holocaust Memorial in Washington Park. A selection of community members, elected officials and Holocaust survivors will read the names written on the memorial, which recognizes the lost families and friends of local Holocaust survivors. The Reading of the Names will be a virtual event and will be recorded.

These events are part of a series recognizing Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. The series is cosponsored by The Immigrant Story, Oregon Historical Society, OJMCHE, PSU Holocaust and Genocide Project, Never Again Coalition and WorldOregon.

Details/registration: ojmche.org/calendar/

Life-cycle events

The Jewish Review publishes life-cycle announcements such as births, b'nai mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and landmark birthdays. Submit to editor@jewishportland.org

BIRTH

ZACHARY NOAH FRANK

Debra Anne Frank announces the birth of her son Zachary Noah Frank born March 20, 2021. His grandparents are Diane and Richard Frank of Mobile, Ala.

Zac's brit milah took place at Debbie's home in Portland this past weekend and was led by her dear friend of 25 years Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker of Congregation Kol Ami in Vancouver, Wash.



Mom-son duo sing to feed Texas

Feeding Texas was the goal when Lisa Lieberman and Jordan Ackerson (Lake Oswego mother and son and members of P'nai Or) teamed up with Sami Scot (samiscot.com). Believing in "music as the universal healer," they presented a March 13 benefit concert on Zoom for Feeding Texas FeedingTexas.org. A February storm had caused power outages and shortages of food and water in Texas.

Obituaries

Submit obituaries to editor@jewishportland.org

RUTH SHLACHTER

Ruth Shlachter, a 10-year resident of Portland, died Wednesday, March 24, 2021, of natural causes. She was 100.



She is survived by sons, Robert (daughter-in-law, Mara) of Portland, Marc (Kumiko) of Kahuku, Hawaii, and Barry of Fort Worth, Texas; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, Jay; and her husband of 66 years, Harry.

She was born July 18, 1920. A charismatic woman of boundless energy, Ruth was a world traveler as well as a campaigner for heart research and Jewish causes.

She raised four sons and was one of the first women builders in northern Ohio, constructing and selling seven houses. She ran an antiques store and launched the "Comfort Teddies" toy line at 85.

Donations may be made to the American Heart Association and the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

The family would like to especially thank the staff of Rose Schnitzer Manor and Loving Care Providers.

Burial was in Cleveland.

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Jewish Arts Month goes virtual

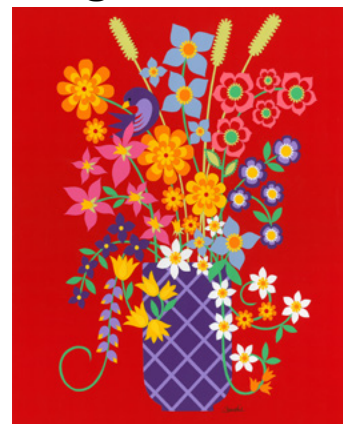
Join ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists for its 10th Jewish Arts Month art show. This year's show takes place virtually at northwestjewishartists.org from Sunday, April 18, through Saturday, May 8.

You can view fiber work, beadwork, metal art pieces, glass, ceramics, painting and more from 17 artists from the comfort of home.

Last year's ninth annual JAM exhibition was held in the lobby of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in February, just before the world shifted to virtual. ORA debuted a virtual art show in November when it combined its annual Celebration of Art and Chanukah Fair into "Virtual Marketplace: Gifts for All Occasions" to provide a safe shopping experience in the era of COVID.

During JAM you can purchase unique artwork and Mother's Day gifts online for yourself or family and friends. Everything displayed will be for sale.

JAM is sponsored by ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.



"Red Floral" by Annelie Thurin; puzzle earrings by Victoria Epstein; and "Hollow Forms" by Jack Liskear.

