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Students gather in a tent at Portland Jewish Academy for a small-group program earlier this year. Beginning in March, families with students in kindergarten through fifth grade will have the option for in-person or distance learning.

PJA to resume in-person learning

BY DEBORAH MOON

Portland Jewish Academy will offer in-person learning for kindergarten through fifth grade beginning in March, nearly a year after the day school shifted to distance learning at the start of the pandemic.

Classrooms will open for kindergarten through third grade March 1, with fourth and fifth grades beginning March 8. Families of PJA's 104 elementary students will have the option to continue distance learning or return to in-person learning. Middle school students may return to in-person

learning in April after Passover break.

"We are very excited to welcome back students to in-person learning and have worked extremely hard to provide a full-day, five-day-a-week, in-person program to all K-5 students whose families elect to participate," says PJA Executive Director Steve Albert.

Students who continue with virtual learning will have synchronous learning with their peers in the classroom as well as asynchronous time to work independently.

See PJA, page 5

Free loan has funds available

BY DEBORAH MOON

By almost any measure, the [Jewish Free Loan of Greater Portland](#) has been a rousing success since its founding five years ago. The lending pool has doubled, there have been no defaults, loan amounts have increased, approval time has gotten shorter and a special pool of quick loans was added to meet COVID-related needs.

The only area where Free Loan needs to improve is community awareness of this resource designed to give a hand up to families and individuals.

"We are struggling in getting the word out to the community so we can make more loans," says Free Loan Chair Les Gutfreund.

Since its inception in 2016, JFLGP has given \$127,500 in loans to 52 individuals or families. This includes \$107,000 in traditional loans and \$20,500 in COVID-19 Emergency Loans. Loans have been given for many different needs including tuition assistance, Jewish overnight camp, teen Israel experiences, job loss or transitions, legal fees, housing assistance, paying off high-interest debt, family planning and small business loans.

See FREE LOAN, page 9

March 4 Zoom to share COVID vaccine information

A COVID-19 Vaccine Educational Workshop for the Jewish community is slated for 4-5 pm, March 4, on Zoom.

The purpose of the workshop is to inform and educate without fear. People who are now or soon will be eligible for the vaccines – including older adults, teachers and school staff, and essential workers – are especially encouraged to join this workshop. To find out if you are eligible and where you can get vaccinated, visit covidvaccine.Oregon.gov.

The community workshop covers the COVID-19 virus, the vaccines available currently, the safety and effectiveness of each, the process of developing the vac-

Seniors: Get help to find shot

The CNSCOS team will help seniors walk through the registration process for a COVID-19 vaccine appointment. The team will not collect any sensitive or personal information, and every communication will be confidential.

For help scheduling a vaccination appointment, call 971-990-5652 or email covid19@nevehshalom.org.

cines and monitoring their safety, and potential reactions to the vaccines. The workshop will address audience questions.

The workshop is facilitated by Boost

Oregon, which empowers people to make science-based vaccine decisions. The program is cohosted by the Congregation Neveh Shalom COVID-19 Outreach and Services and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. CNSCOS is funded by the Oregon Health Authority to help limit the spread of COVID-19 by providing services and information to the Jewish communities of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties.

Presenter Dr. Max Cohen is a naturopathic physician and lifelong Oregonian. His goal is to inform and educate his patients on the importance of preventive health care. Register at <https://bit.ly/2Niw770>.

Weekend in Quest goes to the circus

BY DEBORAH MOON

In years past, Weekend in Quest has brought together about 70 people for a scholar-in-residence weekend in Astoria. With this year's shift to a virtual program, WIQ will likely reach a far wider audience – and with a scholar who could not have been brought in for a weekend at the coast.

On Sunday, March 7, multidisciplinary performer and academic Stav Meishar will Zoom into Portland to present “Circus Jews Under National Socialism: A Lecture/Performance.”

The webinar will explore the lives of Jewish circus artists in 1880-1945 in Germany and the process of transforming historical research into performance.

The lecture is based on over seven years of extensive research and combines photos from personal albums, recorded testimonies and personal stories. In addition, Stav will present excerpts from her one-woman show, “The Escape Act,” based on the true story of a Jewish acrobat who survived the Holocaust by hiding in a German circus.

“The committee thought it would be wonderful to offer this program on the circus, because it is so very different from any-



Circus artist and scholar Stav Meishar performs in “The Escape Act,” a show based on one of the stories she uncovered – that of a Jewish acrobat who survived the Holocaust by hiding in a German circus. Weekend in Quest will feature excerpts from the show.

thing we have ever offered before,” says Mimi Epstein, who cochairs WIQ with Michael Feldman. Mimi has cochaired the event since 2011, except for 2014 and 2015, when Michael chaired WIQ alone.

This year will be the first time the long-running program will be under the auspices of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. For decades, the weekend was hosted by the Institute for Judaic Studies, which disbanded last year and passed its popular programs to the OJMCHE.

“Despite the challenges of the

pandemic, I couldn't be more pleased,” says OJMCHE Director Judy Margles of this first event. “The committee, so ably chaired by Mimi Epstein, started planning last summer. Wisely, they planned a virtual event from the beginning, which gave them the flexibility to think more expansively about who could Zoom in. Stav Meishar will be speaking from Great Britain; we would not have been able to bring her otherwise. So while we can't wait to return to Astoria for a weekend Shabbaton, we are excited to introduce our audiences to the

little-known world of the lives of Jewish circus artists in Germany between 1880 and 1945.”

Born and raised in Israel and now based out of Bristol, UK, and New York City, Stav has spent the past two decades performing on professional theater and circus stages. When Stav isn't performing, she directs Dreamcoat Experience, the award-winning organization she founded, which uses performing arts as tools for teaching progressive Judaism. She also founded Petite Mort Productions, a performance company committed to developing original multidisciplinary works.

When OJMCHE adopted IJS programs, it set up the Rabbi Joshua Stampfer Cultural and Program Fund to support the cultural programming.

This year's program is free, but Mimi says, “We are hoping people will want to help with our expenses by making a donation.”

After this year's virtual program, the committee is looking ahead to next year in Astoria. The committee has invited Sasha Senderovich of the University of Washington to lecture on Soviet Jews for the 2022 WIQ.

To register for the 11 am webinar, visit ojmche.org/events/2021-weekend-in-quest/.

Ken Klein wins international award with powerful short film

Portland filmmaker and Neveh Shalom member Ken Klein won an Award of Merit in the short film category at the February 2021 IndieFEST Film Awards with his film “Almost There.”

The IndieFEST is an international awards competition for independent filmmakers worldwide. More than 4,000 films were submitted.

“Almost There” is the story of a dad who routinely picks up his girls after school. But on this one day, he encounters increasingly difficult hurdles, which turn this mundane task into an increasingly desperate attempt to reach them and keep everyone whole. It's a parable for early onset Alzheimer's disease, told from the point of view of the sufferer.



“What makes it a surprise win is that the film was produced on a micro-budget with a crew of two and competed against films with budgets of tens of thousands of dollars and more, with large crews and famous names attached,” says Ken. “I wrote, edited and directed the piece.”

In winning an IndieFEST Film Award, KleinFilms joins the ranks of other high-profile winners of this internationally respected award including Liam Neeson as the narrator of “Love Thy Nature, A Path Appears” featuring George Clooney and Blake Lively, “Radical Grace” executive produced by Susan Sarandon, and “Touched with Fire” starring Katie Holmes.

“The IndieFEST is not an easy award to win,” says IndieFEST Film Awards Chair Rick Prickett. “Entries are received from around the world, from powerhouse companies to remarkable new talent. The IndieFEST helps set the standard for craft

and creativity.”

Information about the IndieFEST and a list of recent winners can be found at theindiefest.com.

“Almost There” was also chosen as an Official Selection of the NYC Independent Film Festival and the Action on Film Festival, where it also received a nomination for Best Actor in a Short Film. It also won First Place at the Oasis Short Film Festival.

Watch Ken's powerful film on his website kleinfilms.com or on [Vimeo](https://vimeo.com).

Ken has directed many projects in the local Jewish community. He recently did a video of the Chabad House fire and plans to relaunch the Jewish Oregon TV YouTube channel he produces with Jemi Kostiner Mansfield and Jenn Director Knudsen. The trio produced four episodes in late 2019, early 2020 before COVID.

For more information on Ken's projects, visit KleinFilms at kleinfilms.com.

"Kaddish for Bernie Madoff" premieres at PIFF

Just months before moving to Portland in early 2013, poet, composer and Jewish educator Alicia Jo Rabins premiered her one-woman show, "A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff," in New York. Now a feature-length film, it is set to make its U.S. premiere at the Portland International Film Festival screening virtually March 5-14.

Havurah Shalom is hosting a free 8:30 pm, March 6, Q&A/talkback on Zoom for the wider Portland Jewish community with Rabins and director Alicia J. Rose. Participants can purchase tickets and stream the show through PIFF (cinemaunbound.org/events/a-kaddish-for-bernie-madoff) and then join the hour-long talkback on Zoom; sign up for the Q&A at havurahshalom.org/event/watch-party-for-a-kaddish-for-bernie-madoff.html#

"A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff" is a hybrid of docudrama and musical memoir co-adapted and directed by Rose, produced by Lara Cuddy and starring Rabins playing herself as well as a host of colorful character roles. Fueled by her growing obsession, real-life interviews transform into music videos, ancient spiritual texts become fevered fantasies of synchronized swimming, and a vivid, vulnerable work of art is born from the unique perspective of an artist watching the global financial collapse up close.

The film is inspired by a true story. In 2009, Alicia Jo Rabins was an artist-in-residence through the LMCC's (Lower Manhattan Cultural Council) Workspace residency – which made use of vacant office space in lower Manhattan, giving it to artists for one year.

Rabins and her fellow residents set up their studios on the ninth floor of a building in the financial district, a dilapidated and eerily empty space that bore the remnants of its previous function. Bits of paper with account statements and forgotten whiteboards, along with the outlines of where cubicles had once been, gave the space a haunted quality.



Alicia Jo Rabins stars in "Kaddish for Bernie Madoff."

*"... this person
from my own tribe
had committed
this huge crime."*

~ Alicia Jo Rabins

had crossed the line and was no longer part of the Jewish community. As she explored this idea, she learned of her personal connections to people who had been affected by Madoff's crimes. As she spoke with them, she began to turn their stories into songs, which grew into a rock opera, in which Madoff himself did not appear, but his transgressive act functioned as the center of the story. The resulting work ran at Joe's Pub in New York, as well as three short runs in theatrical venues in Portland and touring performances in three additional states.

Of her original show, Rabins says, "As I so very often find, when you set out on a creative journey, the result is usually not what you expect, and it's usually deeper and more challenging than your original concept."

Rabins and director/photographer Alicia J. Rose met by chance when their similar names resulted in a misdirected email received by Rabins that planted Rose on her radar. After meeting to discuss documenting the stage show, Rose pitched the idea of turning "A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff" into a feature film, one that would combine musical memoir with bright-edged fantasia and put the viewer in Rabins' shoes on Wall Street. Rabins was convinced, and three years later, the film version is ready to be shared with film festivals. Rose's team – working on a micro-budget and led almost entirely by women and non-binary artists – reconstructed Rabins' ninth floor NYC office in the Falcon office building in downtown Portland. Combined with exterior footage shot in various iconic locations in Manhattan, the result is at once concrete and dreamlike.

PIFF offers Virtual and Drive-In Films

Established in 1977, The Portland International Film Festival highlights the best of international and regional cinema while celebrating all forms of storytelling. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, PIFF 44 will look very different from previous festivals. A combination of virtual and drive-in screenings and events will bring the world to Portland – and Portland to the world.

Virtual screenings feature 78 films from 34 countries March 5-14. Each night of the festival, PIFF will also welcome guests to safely gather for the Cinema Unbound Drive-In at Zidell Yards on Portland's South Waterfront.

For tickets and schedules of both the virtual and drive-in offerings, visit cinemaunbound.org.

Other relevant films:

200 Meters: Screens online March 5-8

cinemaunbound.org/events/200-meters/

Mustafa and his wife, Salwa, live 200 meters apart in villages separated by the wall. One day he gets a call every parent dreads: his son has had an accident. Rushing to cross the Israeli checkpoint, Mustafa is denied entry on a technicality. A 200-meter distance becomes a 200-kilometer odyssey, as Mustafa, left with no choice, attempts to smuggle himself to the other side of the wall.

Shiva Baby: Screens online March 5-14

cinemaunbound.org/events/shiva-baby/

A near-college graduate, Danielle gets paid by her sugar daddy and rushes to meet her neurotic parents at a family shiva. Estranged relatives accost her for her appearance and lack of post-grad plans, while her confident ex-girlfriend, Maya, is applauded for getting into law school. When her sugar daddy arrives with his wife and crying baby, Danielle struggles to keep up different versions of herself and confront her insecurities.

"It felt like the world was turned upside down as we made art separately, side by side, in this post-apocalyptic space as the financial world collapsed around us," says Rabins.

When Bernie Madoff was arrested for perpetuating the largest Ponzi scheme in history, the fact that Madoff himself and many of his victims were Jewish struck Rabins.

"I felt a strong calling to think

about what it meant that this person from my own tribe had committed this huge crime," says Rabins.

When a friend told Rabins that the Mourner's Kaddish had been recited for Madoff at a synagogue where many of his investors were members, she became inspired to create a modern version of the ancient excommunication tradition, a ritual that would signify Madoff

Teen board plans social justice programs

BY DEBORAH MOON

Eleven teenagers have spent six months planning social justice programs for youth with the first program this month (see box).

The teens are members of the Student Advisory Board of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. The diverse board includes Jewish and non-Jewish high school students from private and public schools in the Portland Metro area and Eugene. The board is chaired by Matreya Barnett, Annie Bragdon and Rebecca Auerbach, who were student interns at the museum before the program was halted by the COVID shutdown.

"Youth advocacy is becoming increasingly more impactful and important, and the Student Advisory Board seemed like a great way to get more involved with anti-discrimination work and to be able to educate my peers as well as myself," says Matreya, 17, who is a member of Havurah Shalom. "SAB seemed like a great way to share and hear from other people my age with the same passions for social justice."

The three chairs, OJMCHE Director of Education Amanda Coven and other museum staff selected the other board members from a pool of applicants. Each chair heads one of the three subgroups: Book and Film Circle, Creative Arts and Resistance Series, and "Inspiring Change" student summit. During monthly virtual meetings, Amanda rotates between the three subgroups offering advice.

"Really though, the program is student developed and driven," says Amanda. "I'm really proud of the work they've done!"

Matreya says she felt empowered by her student educator internship at OJMCHE last year. After 12 hours of training to learn about the museum and its core exhibits, she and other interns took shifts and answered questions about the museum's core exhibits on Discrimination and Resistance and the Holocaust.

Now she is working on the April student summit designed "to educate students about the tools of protesting and give them the confidence and skills they need to inspire

change in their peers and communities."

Matreya is very excited about all the programs the teens have planned.

"I will be encouraging all of my friends/virtual classmates to participate in all of the programs," she says. "Every one of them is going to be an extremely impactful event/program, and each of the groups is organized by an amazing group of youth."

Eva Vu-Stern, 15, Olivia Morrison, 15, and Olive Paternoster, 16, have been busy planning three programs for the Creative Arts and Resistance Series in March.

Eva first heard of the museum when her English teacher at Catlin Gabel encouraged students to enter OJMCHE's writing and art contest. She applied for the student board because "I wanted to help enhance art-related student experiences at the museum. I also wanted to learn ... how young people like me could contribute to social justice."

Eva plans to encourage her friends to check out the March series. "They have interests in art, music and writing, and I think our programs' speakers will be very informative and inspiring. ... I am especially interested in the music program, because music in resistance is not often talked about."

Olive and Olivia both joined SAB to work with others and collaborate on social justice. Both are excited about the Creative Writing as Resistance Program.

"I personally love writing, especially poetry, and Michelle Peñaloz seems absolutely amazing," says Olive. "What she has planned to share and teach participants will definitely be inspiring and encourage students to think further and deeper."

Olivia is also excited to hear what the award-winning poet has to say. "I personally enjoy writing in my free time, so it'll be cool to hear about how a hobby can become something you can use to inspire change."

"My experiences in the SAB have made me realize that youth can really get stuff done," says Olivia. "If you're really passionate about something, it doesn't matter what age you are, you can do something about it."

Youth Programs

For details and to register visit ojmche.org/teach-learn/youth-programs/

BOOK AND FILM CIRCLE

Racial (In)Justice

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 5:30-6:30 pm PST

For students in grades 9-12 to explore films and books covering topics related to the museum's core exhibitions and mission.

For the first session, participants should watch the 2016 documentary "I Am Not Your Negro" and/or read the book *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Participants will discuss the messages in the book and movie and how they relate to today's political climate and continuing movements for racial justice.

CREATIVE ARTS AND RESISTANCE SERIES

For youth in grades 6-12

Creative Writing as Resistance with Michelle Peñaloz

Wednesday, March 3, 5-6:30 pm

Writing is a powerful way to share ideas, your identity and your experiences with the world. Join poet Michelle Peñaloz for a reading, discussion and writing exercise.

Music as Resistance with Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell

Thursday, March 11, 5-6:30 pm

Music has always been influential on society and has the power to move us. Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell will share how Jewish people used music to resist during the Holocaust in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp.

Visual Arts as Resistance with Intisar Abioto and Willie Little

Thursday, March 18th, 5-6:30 pm

Art can create statements about society and evoke reactions in a unique and powerful way. Join these two Portland-based artists for a conversation about art, identity and resistance.

B'nai B'rith Camp plans summer 2021 Teen Israel Experience Trip

BB Camp is offering a summer 2021 Teen Israel Experience Trip, with the first 20 teens to register receiving a \$3,000 discount voucher! Vouchers are limited. Registration is now open.

For the past 100 years, B'nai B'rith Camp, located on the Oregon Coast, has created meaningful Jewish experiences for children and teens. This summer, in partnership with JCC Maccabi Israel, BB Camp is proud to launch its new BB Camp Teen Israel Experience Trip. Joining teens from Camp JCA Shalom, located in California, BB Camp teens will follow an itinerary made just for them, filled with unique hands-on experiences at various "must-see" destina-

tions throughout Israel. Guided by inclusivity and core values, the Teen Israel Experience Trip focuses on leadership development, creating valuable connections with each other and Israel, strengthening Jewish identities and hands-on experiences. Teens will discover the beauty of Israel's culture on this incredible adventure!

If traveling abroad remains challenging due to COVID-19, BB Camp is committed to creating innovative programs and, if necessary, will pivot to a more traditional OJA in the Pacific Northwest.

For questions, email Camp Director Bette Amir-Brownstein at info@bbcamp.org. To register, visit bbcamp.org/oja-israel.

PJA (cont. from page 1)

Families will have the option to shift between distance and in-person learning once this spring. Whichever option families choose now will remain in effect through May 3, when they can choose to shift between the two options. That decision will remain in effect through June 11, the last day of the school year.

“Our teachers are excitedly planning for their kindergarten-fifth grade students to return in March,” says Principal Merrill Hendin. “While we all know that this is going to be a very different way to teach and learn, we are thrilled to be able to have children in classrooms, building community in person with their peers, and doing all we can to ensure that the students at home will have many opportunities to join their peers via Zoom and other technology.”

“Our families have been very supportive of our decisions and are looking forward to having their children back in school,” adds Merrill.

Portland’s three Jewish day schools – PJA, Maayan Torah Day School and Maimonides Jewish Day School – all moved to online learning last March 13 when Gov. Kate Brown ordered schools across the state to close to slow the spread of COVID-19. The three schools offered distance learning for the rest of the school year.

This year, all three reopened their pre-schools as licensed early childhood programs. Maayan Torah and Maimonides both received emergency child-care licenses that enabled them to bring elementary-age children onto campus.

Teachers and other staff who elected to receive the COVID vaccine will have received both doses by the time in-person learning resumes at PJA.

“We are grateful for the tremendous support and patience of our families as we have sorted through a seemingly infinite number of details and modified our plans to comply with frequently changing guidance from the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority and the Multnomah County Health Department,” says Steve.

Some classes may not be in their regular rooms. The school may rearrange classroom assignments based on numbers to ensure there is at least 35 square feet per person (Oregon Dept. of Education mandate) and at least six feet of separation between individuals (ODE recommendation).

“We have sent numerous communications to families about the new guidelines, and we’ve held two Zoom sessions for parents,” says Steve. “Teachers are working with students to help them prepare.”

For more information on the school’s safety guidelines and schedules, visit pjaproud.org/about-us/k-8-opening.



Exploring Masada in Minecraft

BY KERRY POLITZER

For many years, Congregation Beth Israel has operated a rich, multi-faceted Jewish education program for school-age children and recently added a pre-K classroom. Education Director Ben Sandler says the focus is on “joyful Jewish learning.”

“We really want kids to feel excited about being Jewish and also give them the skills to feel knowledgeable wherever they go to have that connection,” he says.

Before the pandemic, children had the opportunity to travel – learning about Jewish history in Israel, performing mitzvot in Los Angeles or visiting Washington to enhance political awareness. The current situation has made all of these activities impossible, but virtual learning expert Alex Mansfield is making Jewish education more exciting than ever at CBI. Alex is the development team leader at Adir Learning, a Jewish education resource company.

“I was thinking about our high school electives and how to keep kids engaged, knowing that we weren’t going to travel or be together, and I reached out to him,” says Ben.

Alex uses the popular Minecraft platform to engage children of all ages. High schoolers use the game’s Creative Mode to build replicas of the ancient Masada fortress and reenact Jewish history, while younger children do live-action role play in Survival Mode.

“We actually made two different courses; the one where we do more of the role-playing of Jewish history is the elementary and middle school course,” says Alex. “We start at Creation all the way up to modernity. This (past) week we did an entire class about leaving our base to go find a boss battle... we related this to the idea of the Diaspora, where we basically have to leave a place that we’re comfortable with. And there are potential dangers, but there’s a

whole wide world to explore.”

Older children use third-party programs to create maps and topographical models.

“The idea is that we do a deep dive into whatever our location is, whatever the history of the location or the event is,” says Alex. “We can use a program that’s a lot like Microsoft Paint to actually hand-create a map or a world. So, I’ve taught the high schoolers how to use this, and we actually used it to create the topography around the fortress of Masada.”

While the weekly synchronous lessons run for about an hour, students can log onto the Minecraft server at their convenience. They can also communicate through the class Discord (invite-only class space for specific topics).

Student response has exceeded the educators’ wildest expectations.

“When I pitched this to Ben, I had in my mind, oh, at maximum there’s going to be 10 kids for each group,” says Alex. “I was thinking, oh, not many people are going to be into it. And then within I think 15 minutes (of my presentation), I was told that we had 24 registrations.”

Ben adds, “You know, normally you don’t have a chat box blowing up in a Jewish education Zoom call with kids typing WHEN DO WE START?”

Looking beyond the pandemic, Ben anticipates a deepened understanding for Jewish children when they can eventually travel to places they modeled in Minecraft.

“Pedagogically, thinking about a student who has built Masada, and then having the opportunity to physically go there... to have that connection in terms of project-based learning is really unique,” says Ben. “It’s not just studying – it’s interacting.”

To learn more about Alex’s innovative Jewish learning methods, visit www.adirlearning.com

Jewish Book Awards honor Portland professors

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Jewish Book Council celebrated the work of two Portland professors with last month's announcement of the winners of the 2020 National Jewish Book Awards, now in its 70th year.

Reed College professor Dr. Laura Arnold Leibman won three categories with her impressive book *The Art of the Jewish Family: A History of Women in Early New York in Five Objects* (Bard Graduate Center). Professor Leibman won the Gerrard and Ella Berman Memorial Award for History, the American Jewish Studies Celebrate 350 Award and the Women Studies Barbara Dobkin Award.

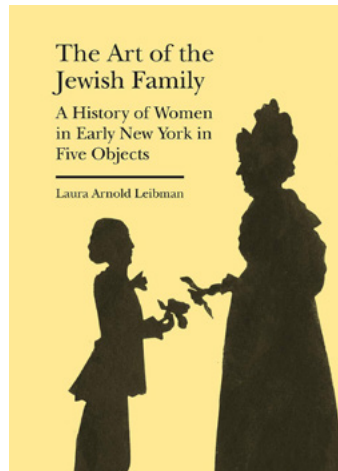
Fellow Portland scholar Dr. Natan Meir was a finalist for the history award won by Leibman. Professor Meir is the Lorry I. Lokey Professor of Judaic Studies in PSU's Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies, where he also serves as academic director. *Stepchildren of the Shtetl: The Destitute, Disabled and Mad of Jewish Eastern Europe, 1800-1939* was published last July by Stanford University Press.

Both Portland professors look at oft-overlooked segments of the Jewish community. Leibman explores the roles of women in early American society, while Meir reconsiders the place of the lowliest members of an already stigmatized minority in Eastern Europe.

Leibman examines paper fragments, silver cups, miniature portraits made of ivory, "commonplace books" and artistic



Dr. Laura Arnold Leibman

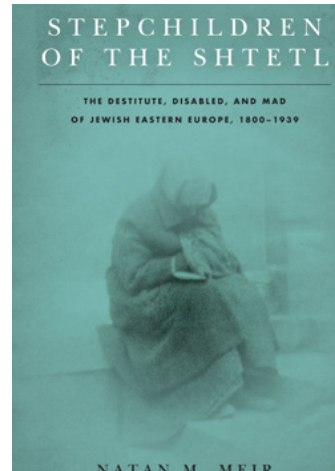


renderings of family silhouettes to paint a more complete picture of early American Jewish women who have too often been neglected in the scholarly accounts.

"My book is very much about how and why women's voices get erased, and the role poverty, education, mental illness and racism have played in that erasure," says Leibman. "It was very important to me, for example, to make sure that I represented the diversity of Jewish women's experiences, including those of Jewish women of color, rather than just the few



Dr. Natan Meir



women who were financially successful and left good records between 1750 and 1850."

Though historical, the book seems especially pertinent this year with many women taking the brunt of the pandemic's economic fallout.

"While obviously things have changed dramatically in the past couple centuries, the pandemic has really brought home to me how much we continue to devalue women's contributions to society," says Leibman. "On the one hand, we finally have a female vice president, but on the other hand, even as

the economy begins to recover, women of color continue to be left behind and are losing jobs at a higher rate."

Meir traveled to Jerusalem, Kiev and New York to study archival documents, newspapers and fictional accounts to research beggars, madmen and madwomen, disabled people and poor orphans of the shtetls.

"I'm honored that *Stepchildren of the Shtetl* was recognized by the Jewish Book Council," says Meir. "It is a very good feeling when a book that one has poured one's heart and soul into over a decade is recognized by others, especially an august body like the Jewish Book Council. I'm also deeply honored to be in the company of my friend and colleague Laura Leibman, whose book won the award in the History category."

Leibman was likewise pleased with the recognition: "I am incredibly honored and humbled to have been recognized by the National Jewish Book Awards this year and overwhelmingly grateful to all the amazing people at Bard Graduate Center who made the book *The Art of the Jewish Family* possible."

The 2020 winners will be honored on April 12, 2021, at 4 pm PT, at a virtual awards ceremony. [Tickets](https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/tickets) are available on JBC's website [jewishbookcouncil.org](https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org). The website also features a [database](https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/database) of current and past National Jewish Book Award winners and finalists. Judges' remarks on the 2020 winners and finalists will be available on the site after the virtual celebration.

OJMCHE window exhibits feature poet Amanda Gorman and song lyrics

Two new window exhibits grace the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education's 12 highly visible ground floor windows facing Davis Street and around the corner facing the North Park Blocks.

The windows of the museum along the Park Blocks feature an excerpt from "The Hill We Climb" by National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman delivered at the inauguration of U.S. President Joe Biden.

Dwell Together in Unity is OJMCHE's 2021 PDX Winter Lights window exhibition. Designed by Benjamin Ariff, Straw into Gold Studio, the museum's front windows on NW Davis Street become an exploration of the traditional Jewish song *Hinei Ma Tov*.

The Portland Winter Light Festival is an annual event of the Willamette Light Brigade. In 2021, this (non) festival featured a series of outdoor art installations throughout the city the first two weekends in February. OJMCHE's exhibition will remain up through April 30.

The phrase Dwell Together in Unity is spelled out in warm-colored LED lights across the windows, and the same phrase in Hebrew, *Shevet Achim Gam Yachad*, is displayed beneath.

Please wear a mask and practice social distancing when visiting. While the evening is the best viewing time, the windows are viewable all day, every day.

[ojmche.org](https://www.ojmche.org) | 724 NW Davis St., Portland

Nominate Jewish professional for award

BY DEBORAH MOON

Nominations for the Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional are now open and due by noon, March 12. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland created the award to recognize Laurie Rogoway's dedication and passion for Jewish life when she retired after a 30+ year career in the local Jewish community.

"It's a great way to remind the community what Jewish professionals do," says JFGP Director of Community Planning Caron Blau Rothstein of the award. "When COVID hit, we didn't stop. We raised funds through the emergency campaign, synagogues kept offering services ... all of us had to pivot and respond to emergent needs. It's important to help community."

The award recognizes a mid-career professional (not executive-level leadership) at a Jewish communal organization in Greater Portland. The winner receives up to \$1,800 to subsidize a professional development experience or program.

Noting that burnout is common among Jewish professionals, Caron says, "The award helps them want to stay and stay with better training."

Professional development and having the resources to take advantage of that opportunity are important for Jewish professionals says committee chair Eliana Temkin, who worked at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center for 16 years before joining



Laurie Rogoway presents the first award.

the Kaiser Foundation in 2004. "For me, learning could have influenced the job. ... It's special we have this (award) in our community."

Eliana says the committee always has a difficult decision selecting the year's winner. "All the candidates are inspiring, gifted and talented."

After the first award in 2015 was presented to Oregon Hillel Executive Director Andy Gitelson, the committee decided to focus on mid-career professionals.

"The committee really looks at the overall impact the nominees have had on the community and where their trajectory can continue to make a difference," says Jemi Kostiner Mansfield, who has served on the

committee since winning the second award.

For Jemi, the award clearly did both. She worked at Congregation Beth Israel for 23 years and was serving as director of spiritual life for Cedar Sinai Park when she won the award. The award helped propel her career, and she now serves as executive director of Congregation Shaarie Torah.

"The award was certainly a nice addition to my resume, and it drew attention to the 20+ years I'd already been serving the community," says Jemi. "I won't deny that it was a validation that my work was valuable to people. And it did boost my confidence in what I am capable of when it came to pursuing my current role as ED at Shaarie Torah."

The honorees are not the only ones who feel pride from the award. After seeing this year's call for nominations, Laurie wrote of the award named in her honor: "I cannot tell you how much joy I get each year when I see the announcement for the Rogoway Leadership award. I know I have told you before but truly, there is no more meaningful thing you could have done for me."

For more information on qualifications and the online application, visit jewishportland.org/the-rogoway-professional-award. For questions, contact Caron Blau Rothstein at 503-245-6449 or caron@jewishportland.org.

The award will be presented at Federation's Annual Meeting on June 14, 2021.

MJCC seeks high school heroes for Glickman Award

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center seeks nominations for the Harry Glickman Award. Any Jewish high school junior or senior who has gone above and beyond during these challenging times should apply.

"The Harry Glickman scholar athlete award is taking one year off to honor high school community heroes," says Josh Frankel, Glickman Scholar/Oregon Jewish Sports Hall of Fame Committee Member. "The lack of high school sports in 2020 certainly played a role in this decision. With the unbelievable amount of negative news in 2020, we wanted to highlight the high schoolers who are bringing light to our world. The kids who are busy doing good. The kids who, despite the challenges of 2020, continue to thrive and practice tikkun olam. We fully intend to award the Harry Glickman Scholar Athlete for 2021/2022 as we continue to honor the legacy of Mr. Glickman."

Any Jewish student who has lived in Oregon for the past three years and is a junior or senior in high school is eligible. Two winners will be selected and recognized at MJCC's Community Celebration on May 12, 2021. This award was established in 2012 in honor of Harry Glickman, z"l, the "father" of professional sports in Oregon. He was the founder of the Portland Trail Blazers, the Trail Blazers' president from '87-'94 and the founder of the Portland Buckaroos. He is also a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

If you helped with getting food or clothing to people in need, addressed social justice issues, or participated in any form of commu-

nity service, we want to hear from you. Applicants will be judged on academic achievement as well as commitment to community service. Winners will receive a \$500 scholarship for college. Apply by April 15 at oregonjcc.org/sports/glickman-award-application.

Jewish Sports Hall of Fame nominees sought too

Nominations for the Oregon Jewish Sports Hall of Fame also are requested by April 15.

The Oregon Jewish Sports Hall of Fame was established in 2012 to honor Jewish men and women who have accomplished extraordinary achievements in sports and have a deep connection to the State of Oregon. The goal is to inspire and educate the Jewish community, and the community at large, that sports play a major role in our culture.

Nominees for the Oregon Jewish Sports Hall of Fame must have a deep connection to Oregon, identify as Jewish and meet one of the following criteria: played or coached high school sports in Oregon, with a preference for those recognized as an all-league or all-state performer; played or coached collegiate sports; played or coached professional sports; achieved success as an adult athlete of high regard and renown within the State of Oregon; or achieved significance in sports management, finance or ownership.

To nominate someone or view the past inductees, visit www.oregonjcc.org/sports/oregon-jewish-sports-hall-of-fame.

The Harry Glickman Award Committee and Oregon Jewish Sports Hall of Fame Committee include Glen Coblens, Josh Frankel, Steve "Sudsy" Friedman and Elyse Stoner.

Passover prep by the book

BY DEBORAH MOON

Passover is the most widely celebrated Jewish holiday in America; with COVID limiting travel and communal gatherings, many people are making Passover at their own home for first time.

From unaffiliated to observant, Passover seems to resonate. A 2013 [Pew Research survey of Jewish Americans](#) found that 70% said they had participated in a seder the previous year.

"Instead of flying home to parents for Pesach, many young couples will be making Passover for the first time," says Oregon NCSY Director Meira Spivak, who has written a book titled *How to make Pesach in 5 Days*. "If you usually go to friend's house for seder, this year you may be doing seder at home for the first time."

Meira says she wrote the book both for those who find Pesach preparations stressful and exhausting, as well as those taking on the challenge for the first time. Even people who just make one seder for their family will find the book helpful, she says. "I made the recipes and meal planning really simple."

However, Meira says she used Pesach instead of Passover in the book's title "because people who just do a seder would think it's crazy to spend five



days preparing. This (book) is in large part for people who do all the cooking and cleaning – people who overstress about entertaining and cooking and cleaning."

Meira says people need to differentiate between spring cleaning with Pesach cleaning.

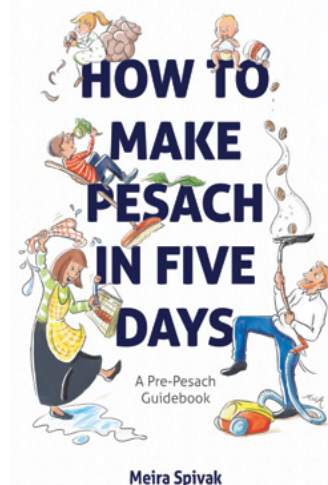
"If you spend a month doing spring cleaning, by the time it's time to clean up chametz for Pesach, you'll be exhausted," she says. "If you start cleaning right after Purim, you will still have to clean chametz in the days before Passover."

Her guidebook can help everyone from the novice to the balabusta complete the cleaning, shopping and cooking for the entire holiday in five days.

She also emphasizes the importance of laughter.

"When you're cooking and the kids come in and want to help and end up making mess, you can stress out or laugh," she says. "If I can minimize stress and accept craziness and laugh, everyone is better off."

Meira says she buys a lot of peelers so all her kids can feel they are helping. "If one child



NCSY Oregon Director Meira Spivak, left, cooks up a batch of schnitzel. Her new book, above, benefits NCSY and offer stress-reducing ways to get ready for Pesach whether you normally cook and clean for a month or make one seder meal.

peels two carrots, that's two less I have to peel," she says, adding that she then laughs her way through cleaning carrot peels that are all over the sofa.

All proceeds from sales go to NCSY if purchased through oregon.ncsy.org/pesachbook. Cost from NCSY is \$18 including shipping. NCSY brings meaningful Jewish connections to students in third grade through college. About half of the 2,500 copies have been sold since they arrived in Portland from the printer in Israel Jan. 20.

Prepare for Passover – virtually

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

March 14, 4 pm: Haggadot.com Community Passover Session

No matter how you decide to gather this Passover, [Haggadot.com](https://haggadot.com) is here to help you do it with purpose, creativity and fun. This interactive session will share tools, tips and insights to help you host a meaningful (virtual) seder for the entire family.

This event is free. Sign up at jewishportland.org/passoversession

March 16, 5 pm: Chef Michael Solomonov Cooking Demonstration

Three-time James Beard Award-winning chef Michael Solomonov returns for a holiday hat trick. This will be the famed Israeli cookbook author and restaurateur's third virtual visit to Portland to present a holiday cooking demonstration since the pandemic began. His Rosh Hashanah and Chanukah programs on Vimeo drew rave reviews. For Passover, he will show participants how to make Charoset and Mina with Ground Beef, Cardamom and Coffee.

Sign up for the free cooking class at jewishportland.org/passover-virtual-cooking-demonstration-with-michael-solomonov.



For Rosh Hashanah, Chef Michael Solomonov taught viewers how to spatchcock a chicken. For Passover, he will teach cooks how to make Mina, a savory pie popular in Sephardic kitchens during Pesach. This third virtual holiday cooking class featuring the author of *Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking* will be March 16.

FREE LOAN (cont. from page 1)

Free Loan, which is under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, now has about \$220,000 in the lending pool, with \$54,000 out in active loans.

"The fund started with \$110,000 in 2016 and has doubled in size thanks to generous support and market gains," says JFGP Director of Finance Ben Winkleblack, who staffs the Free Loan.

This month the maximum loan amount for residents of Oregon and SW Washington was increased to \$5,000 with two cosigners. Loans up to \$2,500 are available with one co-signer. Loans are interest free with repayment over three years.

Application-to-approval takes a few weeks, though Les says that timeline has been shortened recently with a shift to a virtual process including phone or Zoom interviews, DocuSign and direct deposit. "We are up with or ahead of some 100-year-old programs in terms of our turnaround time," he says.

The program received \$25,000 from the COVID relief fund facilitated jointly by the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and Federation. These loans of up to \$1,000 do not require a cosigner and application-to-approval takes just one to a few days. These loans are for people directly impacted by COVID-19. In response to the wildfires last summer, the applicant pool was expanded to include those impacted by the wildfires and may be continued

to meet future emergencies.

"The Jewish Free Loan of Greater Portland's long-range vision is to be able to offer larger loans, provide a limited number of loans that are backed by angel guarantors and ensure the long-term viability of the program through an endowment," says Ben.

To increase the awareness of the program, last week Free Loan sent a letter to local rabbis encouraging them to make their congregations aware of the resource. The week's Torah portion, Parshat Mishpatim, teaches about the mitzvot of helping our fellow Jews by lending money without interest.

"Jewish Free Loan of Greater Portland continues to carry out this Mishpatim commandment by loaning money at zero percent interest to Jews across Oregon and southwest Washington," wrote Les. "JFLGP is here and ready to help Jews during COVID-19 as well. JFLGP's interest-free loans help with living expenses, medical fees, legal fees, home repairs, student loans, interest-debt consolidation and for covering unexpected challenges that life throws us."

"At Hebrew Free Loan, every person is met with understanding, respect, dignity, confidentiality and the agency's sincere desire to help fellow Jews in times of need," the letter concludes.

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

Uncovering History of Hate series continues

Uncovering the Hidden History of Anti-Asian Discrimination in Oregon will be presented at 6:30 pm, Feb. 23, on Zoom.

In this time of reckoning with our state's grim legacy of discrimination and hate, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has partnered with allies to create a series of public programs to educate the greater community about the history of discrimination in our state and learn how, as people of good will, to come together to confront hate.

Panelists for this free program are Chisao Hata, Japanese American Museum of Oregon, and Jackie Peterson-Loomis, Portland Chinatown Museum. The program is moderated by Judy Margles, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education Director.

To receive the Zoom link, register at jewishportland.org/uncovering-the-hidden-history-of-anti-asian-discrimination-in-oregon

Recordings of past programs in the Uncovering Hate series can be seen at jewishportland.org/uncovering.

Families invited to apply for grants

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland supports the Jewish community with grant opportunities for families of youth and undergraduate students. Applications are now being accepted for four programs to support the Jewish lives of Portland-area families.

All grant programs are needs-blind. Three of the programs accept applications until all funding for the year has been awarded. Applications for college grants are due by March 1.

For more information on any of the Federation grant opportunities, contact Rachel Nelson, director of educational initiatives & intergroup outreach, at rachel@jewishportland.org.

Jewish Right Start

Families enrolling for the first time in one of our six area Jewish preschools are eligible for the Jewish Right Start grant. The grant is for one year up to \$2,000 depending on number of days a child is enrolled. Grants are available one time per family. To apply, visit jewishportland.org/rightstart

One Happy Camper

First-time campers attending a Jewish overnight camp are eligible for this camper grant. Attendees for 12-18 days are eligible for \$700, and those attending 19 or more days are eligible for a \$1,000 grant. For more information and to apply: onehappycamper.org

Chai Israel

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland provides two opportunities for teens to travel to Israel. For teens currently in high school, grants of 18% (up to \$1,800) of the out-of-pocket trip cost are available for any Jewish teen in the Greater Portland area going on an approved Israel trip. High school graduates are again eligible for funding to attend a gap year program in Israel between high school and university for 18% of the out-of-pocket cost up to \$2,000. This program is in addition to the Krichevsky Fund through the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation for those teens enrolled in Hebrew high school programs. For more information and to apply: jewishportland.org/travelisrael

Sussman Fund

The Sussman Fund was established in 1981 by Lillian and Gilbert Sussman to provide grants to Jewish students from the Portland metropolitan area toward their higher education. The funding is for undergraduate students pursuing studies toward a degree in an accredited college or university in the United States. Awards of \$1,800-\$3,600 are given to one to three recipients per year. Application deadline is March 1. To apply: jewishportland.org/sussman

Answer the call on Super Sunday Feb. 21

On Dec. 20, 2020, volunteers successfully called, texted and emailed households to raise critical funds that support the network of organizations that make the metro Jewish community vibrant and strong.

Volunteers are needed to reach out one more time from 11 am to 12:30 pm, Sunday, Feb. 21, to enhance and protect the well-being of the Jewish community locally, across North America and in Israel. It's easy to participate from the comfort of your home!

Answer the call to volunteer to make a difference in 2021, or answer the call when your phone rings and be ready to make a gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's campaign for community needs.

Register to volunteer to call, text or email at jewishportland.org/super-sunday-feb-21-2021.

For more information, contact Campaign Director Wendy Kahn at wendy@jewishportland.org or 503-892-3015.

Chaplain's Corner

Precious Untapped Reserves

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN



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

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Upcoming issues

Issue date	Deadline
March 3	Feb. 25
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.

I'll admit it. I am suffering from COVID-fatigue. I am tired of wearing a mask in public. I am tired of communicating through a two-dimensional screen. I miss the simple act of shaking a hand or sharing a hug. At times, late at night, when I am staring at the ceiling, I fear that my spiritual and physical reserves are depleted.

But then I feel a sliver of hope. I am reminded that we all have resources we never knew existed.

We can find messages of hope in the Psalms, one of the most popular books in Tanach, the Hebrew Scriptures. These 150 poems are filled with hope and with the full range of human emotions including rejected, threatened, scared, helpless, frightened, overwhelmed, insignificant, humiliated, frustrated, ridiculed, despair, inferior, ashamed, grief, abandoned; and conversely, astonished, peaceful, content, thankful, hopeful, joyous, happy, exalted, loved.

According to tradition, David wrote the majority of the Psalms. He expressed his emotions in relationship with others and in relationship with God. He possessed a skill set of being able to identify his emotions and articulate them poetically. In the midst of crisis, he expressed what he felt. I wager that during times of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic instability, the preceding list of emotions recall what we have felt.

Here is but a taste of David's self-expression:

*O God, turn! Rescue me!
Deliver me as befits Your faithfulness...
I am weary with groaning;
Every night I drench my bed,
I melt my couch in tears...
God heeds my plea,
God accepts my prayer.
(Psalm 6)*

*Humanity speaks lies to one another;
their speech is smooth;
they talk with duplicity...
Because of the groans of the plundered poor
and needy,
I will now act, says God.
I will give help, God affirms to us.
(Psalm 12)*

*Though I walk through a valley of deepest darkness,
I fear no harm, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff – they comfort me...
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in God's house forever.
(Psalm 23)*

David possessed faith and a steadfast belief that God would rescue him in the end.

My faith has never been as strong as David's. In my many interactions with those in pain and in crisis, few expressed David's confidence that God's salvation is inevitable. But that does not mean that David's Psalms are useless to us.

I have no idea what your personal theology is. Maybe your faith is strong; maybe it is conflicted; maybe it is absent. We can still use a version of faith to help us navigate these times of crisis. We can have faith in ourselves, faith in our family and friends, and faith in sacred relationships.

Maybe the word "God" is the potential each of us has to find strength, hope and encouragement and keep moving forward. Maybe the word "God" is the freedom to acknowledge what we feel and not be ashamed. Maybe the word "God" is our determination to foster connections with one another during our darkest of times.

During my darkest of times when I am feeling the most painful emotions, I turn to Pirke Avot 2:5 – "U'vamakom she'ein anashim hishtadeil l'hiot ish." And in a place where there is no humanity, endeavor to be human.

Rabbi Pinchas Kehati explains, "Where there are no people to care for the needs of the community, endeavor to be that man." This interpretation continues to inspire me to take care of myself, my children and my family. It inspires me not to be afraid to reach out to others for help and to help those in need.

We all have reserves we never knew existed. Let us share them with one another to navigate these treacherous days.

Rabbi's Corner

Real estate, harm reduction & Portland's homeless

BY RABBI DAVID KOSAK

The three rules of real estate, goes the old saw, are location, location, location. In many ways, location in the Bible provides necessary context to understand what a particular narrative is trying to communicate. Unfortunately, because we only *read* the Torah, we don't always hold in mind the visuals of where a particular episode occurs. Those place descriptions normally lack much detail, presumably because our ancestors knew the locales and description was not needed.

In last week's parashah of Yitro, the Torah reminds us that *b'nei Yisrael*, the Israelites, have camped opposite of Mount Sinai. It is there with our ancestors housed in basic tents that God will appear to them and deliver to us and all humanity the *Aseret Dibrot*, the Ten Speech Acts or Commandments.

Let's be clear. God provides what will become the moral basis of Western civilization to a homeless encampment. Now this may be a homeless encampment, but homeless doesn't have to mean hopeless. It is there that we will be provided a legal basis and structure by which we can build a more permanent settlement in Canaan, the Holy Land. It is there that we will receive a mission and a purpose that will transform this previously oppressed and enslaved people into a light to the nations and a major contributing force to all humanity.

It is this enduring geographical fact that comes to mind whenever I view the heart-crushing homelessness crisis that darkens our city. I am concerned first and foremost for our houseless neighbors. I also deeply commiserate with our business owners downtown. The scattered clusters of tents in any old place harm their attempts to make a living for themselves and

their families, and the tax base they create – a source of revenue necessary if this city ever wants to live up to its motto of "Portland Works." This also creates a blight that discourages tourists and residents from visiting downtown. Currently, it doesn't much feel like the city is working for anyone.

For a long time, there have been a number of local roadblocks to alleviating homelessness. Some of those were built into the law itself, and some were enacted by people who claim to be homeless advocates, but who persistently obstructed decent solutions in favor of the nonexistent perfect solution. That has begun to change.

Currently, homeless encampments are everywhere. Most lack sanitation or garbage facilities. Few have oversight, and they have exacerbated a rodent problem that our city was already struggling with. Drug use is rampant, with significant presence of heroin and meth. The lack of integration with other agencies also means that it is hard to provide wraparound services to this population. We need permanent solutions to homelessness, which includes changes to zoning and permit fees (those have seen important adjustments) as well as what a home is.

In the meantime, before our urban leaders determine how to finance those capital-intensive permanent fixes (something they've struggled with for decades), we need harm reduction.

A new model is now on the table. The city began to palletize homeless tents, raising them off the ground. Unfortunately, their pallets were made from 1/2" plywood that rotted quickly, and rats found it convenient to nest underneath. Cascadia Clusters, with whom we partnered to build some small houses and provided a short-term building site on our campus, has developed a solution that uses more

robust lumber to build pallets wrapped in rat-proof fabric atop of which will sit sturdy ice tents. The price of this model is an achievable \$1,800 per unit.

The new zoning adjustments allow encampments of up to 20 of these pallet villages on faith-based land. This means that Cascadia Clusters and other organizations can also build toilet, cooking and sanitation facilities, all of which will address numerous current problems while providing security. Cascadia Clusters is interested in using the land where they currently are stationed, next to PJA and the MJCC, as a site for 20 such units. The request would be temporary and moderate in nature, with a one- or two-year lease and with portability a feature of the model. With our communal support, we can convert encampments to *kibbutzim*, tents into villages.

I can imagine that there will be voices in the community who won't like this. Most of us understandably experience some sort of NIMBY (not in my backyard)-ism. What the pandemic has brought home is how our houseless neighbors are already everywhere. Look under the bridge where Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway turns into Bertha Boulevard, and you will see an unplanned encampment. This is not a downtown problem. It is an all-of-us challenge. Without an assortment of plans aimed at harm reduction, as well as more durable solutions, we will all continue to suffer. And of course, the brunt of that pain will fall on "the orphan, the widow and the stranger." That is the Torah's phrase for society's most vulnerable populations, and our mandate to care for them.

In addition to providing immediate relief and harm reduction, it would be symbolically valuable for the Jewish community to step up and permit this land use. If we do so, it will



Rabbi David Kosak is the senior rabbi of Congregation Neveh Shalom. A version of this column appeared in his Oasis Songs weekly email.

encourage other faith groups to allow similar supportive villages to be built on other faith-based land. Moreover, like our ancestors experienced at Mount Sinai, it would provide a sense of hope to the homeless "other" who feels invisible and spurned by the rest of society. It would make them feel less like orphans and more as children of the human family.

Is this palletized tent model a perfect solution? No. Can we do it and call it quits? Not really. Permanent, appropriate, plentiful and affordable housing is a societal necessity. This time, however, let's not allow the perfect to be the enemy of the good. Let's raise our voices in favor of harm reduction. It's the right thing to do. And the time is now.

Rabbi's Corner

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

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Find local Jewish events at:

jewishportland.org/community-calendar

Jobs board

The Jewish Review publishes job openings from local Jewish agencies and congregations. Job information will be shortened to fit available space, with a link to the full job description. Submit job openings to: editor@jewishportland.org

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Executive Assistant

As an Executive Assistant, you will support the clergy (senior rabbi, senior cantor, associate rabbi, cantor) and occasionally, the executive director and other departments, with business duties. Your responsibilities will include organizing the clergy's calendars, scheduling meetings, organizing mailings, and communicating with congregants and community members on behalf of the clergy. Must be flexible and able to manage projects, as well as maintain confidentiality and a high level of service. Technical skills are required, including facility with spreadsheets and databases, experience with Microsoft Office, familiarity with Zoom, and willingness to learn these programs and other programs at a high level of aptitude. Growth in this role looks like taking on additional duties and growing responsibilities. Organization and flexibility are key!

Full-time Regular, \$20-24/hour DOE. As a Congregation Beth Israel full-time employee, you will be part of the CBI benefit package. CBI contributes all or most of your medical insurance premiums at the individual level, depending on which plan you choose. Voluntary plans include Dental. In addition, as a FT employee, you will receive a free membership to CBI.

Find the full job description at bethisrael-pdx.org/about/employment-opportunities.

Interviews begin soon. Send cover letter and resume to Executive Director Josh Kashinsky at josh@bethisrael-pdx.org.

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL (Eugene) Preschool Director

This position will include responsibility for the overall daily operation of the TBI Preschool, the educational policies and procedures, supervision of all school staff and students, and school finance and operations.

Following a period of closure due to COVID, we are eager to reopen our top-quality early childhood program. We are looking for an innovative, flexible leader to develop the program, guide Oregon licensing, shape curriculum, market to and communicate with potential families, and hire teachers. We serve toddler and preschool-age children, with partial and extended day options.

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Our facility, located in the TBI building, is spacious, light filled, and designed for optimal learning, play and safety. TBI is the largest Jewish community in Central Oregon with approximately 400 member households. TBI is an inclusive, diverse congregation affiliated with Reconstructing Judaism.

Salary is in the \$50,000 range with a generous benefits package. Director to start part-time in the spring of 2021 to assist with reopening, licensing and registration. The position will increase to full-time upon reopening and no later than September 2021. Salary range posted is for full-time employment.

Send cover letter and resume to info@tbieugene.org.

The full job listing can be seen on the congregation's home page at tbieugene.org.

COMMUNITY WAREHOUSE

Accounting Office Administrator

Community Warehouse is a nonprofit furniture bank that collects and redistributes donated furniture and household goods to neighbors in need. Community Warehouse traces its origins to Jewish Family & Child Service efforts to assist Jews resettled here from the former Soviet Union. JFCS created the Portland Community Warehouse under then volunteer coordinator Roz Babener to collect donated furnishings for the refugee families.

30 hours/week; \$24/hour.

The ideal candidate is a detail-oriented professional with excellent written and verbal communication skills and a heart for nonprofit work. You are a team player and a natural problem-solver. You value working in a multicultural, inclusive, equity-focused environment.

Responsibilities:

This position will play a role in improving and maintaining the business office systems and ensuring business and financials are functioning smoothly. This position is the connection point between Program, Enterprise, Development, and Business offices for daily business needs.

The Accounting Office Administrator provides direct support to the Operations Director and the Executive Director and acts as the liaison between CW and our contracted bookkeeping & accounting services. The administrator also provides support to other directors as needed.

For the full job listing, visit <https://jobs.macslis.org/job/wuu3pl/accounting-office-administrator/portland/or>. For more information, email Danit Rothstein at danit@communitywarehouse.org.

Lifecycle

Please submit news of births, b'nai mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and landmark birthdays to editor@jewishportland.org

Birth

GABRIEL & BENNET WEINER

Congregation Neveh Shalom members Marla and Bob Weiner announce the birth of twin grandbabies, Gabriel and Bennett, born on Jan. 16, 2021. The parents are Matt and Mairin Weiner, the big sisters are Natalie and Sarah, and the big brother is Ryan. Other grandparents are Mike and Pam McCarthy of Livermore, Ca.

Obituaries

TIMOFEY L. GITLIN

Timofey L. Gitlin, z"l, passed away on Jan. 26, 2021, at the age of 93. Timofey was born in Kiev, Ukraine in October 1927. He is loved and remembered by his dear wife, Inna; his children, Irina (Alex Berkovich) Gitlin and Leonora Gitlin; Irina's ex-husband, Alex (Zhenya Dashevsky) Berenbeym; and three grandchildren.

In compliance with the governor's directive, a private interment was scheduled.

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

RHODA WINTERS

Rhoda Winters, z"l, passed away on July 14, 2020, at the age of 88 from lung and pancreatic cancer.

Rhoda was the beloved mother of Shari Winters-Simon-Anderson and Charles Anderson, Mark and Stacie Winters, and Scott and Laura Winters; and grandmother of 14 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

She was the beloved wife of Arnold Winters, z"l.

She was a member of Congregation Shaarie Torah.

Submit obituaries to
editor@jewishportland.org