

# The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

Jan. 5, 2022 / Shevat 3, 5782 Volume 57, Issue 1

## Year-end snow causes closures

DEBORAH MOON

The Jewish community hunkered down under winter storm warnings the last week of 2021. Some synagogue and agency buildings were closed or had shortened hours for all or part of the week, but the virtual and remote world that has evolved during Covid allowed work and services to continue for many.

While snow ranged from just a dusting on the valley floor to a few inches in higher elevations around the city, it was relentless in its reappearance each morning. The Mittleman Jewish Community Center closed on Sunday and Tuesday and had late openings a couple of other days. At Jewish Family & Child Service, telehealth allowed most counseling sessions to continue, and the snow had minimal effect on Holocaust Survivor Services ability to care for its clients. Some congregations closed their



Cedar Sinai Park never closes since the residents always need care, but the Jewish senior campus does try to make snow days fun for staff. Yoga, or snowga, anyone?

buildings for part of the week.

"We know that we can basically manage the day-to-day running of the shul from home if need be, without having to brave the roads," says Shaarie Torah Executive Director Jemi

Mansfield. "We can essentially shift everything to virtual (services, classes, etc.) as needed, plus admin work is already achieved remotely on a regular basis."

See SNOW, page 12

## Learn & laugh at Weekend in Quest

BY DEBORAH MOON

If a laughter- and fact-packed phone interview is any indication, participants at this year's virtual Weekend in Quest are in for a treat in a program to explore "How the Soviet Jew Was Made" (see box page 8).

The weekend's scholar-in-residence Sasha Senderovich comes by his knowledge of the subject through both his personal and educational history. He was born in the Soviet Union, came to the United States as an exchange student at age 15 and moved here when his family immigrated when he was 16. His interest in literature

and culture, not necessarily Russian or Jewish, began when he was a comparative lit major in college. He has taught courses about Russian Jews for more than a decade, currently at the University of Washington.

"Getting sort of unsettled as a teenager can make you into a cynical but funny person," he says, adding "My talks and teaching are usually entertaining."

His humor will be particularly apparent in the first lecture on jokes by and about Soviet Jews. Sasha says that in the later Soviet years, the Soviet Jew in jokes became "a cipher for the

See SOVIET JEWS, page 8

## INSIDE

**Sourdough fed by Free Loan** – page 2

**Cancer awareness programs** – page 2

**Young adults invited to find Path** – page 4

**Common spaces open at Hillel House** – page 4

**Save recyclables for May event** – page 5

**Author series mix of Zoom & room** – page 6

**Locals pen books for children** – page 7

**Rohr tapped for Arts Commission** – page 7

**Burned holy books to get respectful burial** – page 8

**Events: Film, MLK Shabbat, sustainability, Tu B'Shevat** – page 9

**Mazel Tov: Northman-Marocco; Mansfield-Plunket de la Cruz; Zeff** – page 9

**JFCS: Shining light on mental health** – page 10

**Chaplain's Corner: Grieving** – page 11

**Petitions to prevent gun violence** – page 11

**Jobs Board: Maayan Torah, Neveh Shalom, OJMCHE** – page 12

**Obituary: Furman** – page 12



The book comes out in July, but WIQ offers preview in March.

# Free Loan feeds Kosher sourdough business

BY SARA SAFDIE

I first “met” Sara Levine in a weekly online update from the Hillsdale Farmers’ Market, where I learned about her kosher sourdough bread that’s baked right here in Portland. To be able to get the bread so close to my home sounded too good to be true. I soon found that her bread, and now her pastries and focaccia, are incredibly good.

After enjoying months of high-quality baked goods, I met with Sara at her parents’ home, where her oven is located.

Surprisingly, she actually doesn’t like sourdough.

“It took me a couple of years to start eating my own bread on a regular basis,” she says. She adds that her starter and dough “doesn’t feel as sour. It’s more of a sweet, milky flavor than a sour, vinegary flavor.”

The breads she bakes are more in the European than the American sourdough tradition. Sara says that her exploration of sourdough started as a “scientific pursuit on how to keep it (the starter) alive, keep it happy and make healthy bread for my kids to eat.”

Initially her business was an event company. She transitioned Baked by Sara to focus on bread because “it’s so miraculous that you could take ... the most basic ingredients in the world – water, flour and salt – (and) make something so beautiful and change someone’s day.”

Sara feels it makes her a part of someone’s life, almost sitting there at the dinner table and nourishing her community.

She took her bread to the next level when Covid hit, and her other jobs weren’t giving her “soul nourishment.” It gave her a chance to meet new people without worrying about physical contact, communicating through texts. It gave her a new life and mission. She decided to be kosher-certified to serve her immediate and broader community. Having a bakery is a marker for a flourishing community. She agrees it is “community-squared” from her original sense of baking.

She started baking with two Dutch ovens, producing 20 loaves a day, but it would take a full day to do so. For her birthday, friends bought her another Dutch oven, but even with the extra one, her husband pointed out that she was barely sleeping over two-day baking sessions because of the attention bread-making takes.

For various reasons, her father built a wood oven, which enabled her to bake 18 loaves per load. To bake 70 loaves took a full day, but her father had to wake up at 2 am to get the fire going. The temperatures were inconsistent inside, though she credits having the “best customers” who didn’t mind getting an extra-toasty loaf. Then, however, the oven started burning internally, her dreams literally going up in flames.

To continue baking, she turned her attention to relatively “affordable” deck ovens.

Then a friend told her about the Jewish Federation of Greater



Sara Levine takes a loaf of her sourdough bread out of the new deck oven she was able to purchase thanks to Jewish Free Loan of Greater Portland. You can view a video of Sara discussing that aid at [jewishportland.org/hereforsmallbiz](http://jewishportland.org/hereforsmallbiz).

Portland’s Jewish Free Loan program. The process was “really quick, really easy,” and the oven arrived relatively quickly thanks to the Federation’s help. Now she can “pull 240 loaves in the time it took to pull 70, with a lot less labor.” Sara added that “it’s been the biggest godsend.”

It’s clear that she needs a real bakery space and is working on it with a friend. They hope to open a bakery/pizza shop, one that will welcome the community to come and gather, with her father as its pâtissier. Sara would like to offer an organic line, but only if she can keep the costs down as she’s conscious of her customers’ budgets. The kashrut certification cost is low since her ingredients are so simple. As Sara put it, she’s a “bakery that happens to have kosher items.”

What advice does she have for future entrepreneurs? “If you feel you can do it, definitely do it ... but learn how to manage your time, preferably before you decide to commit,” she says.

It is clear Sara loves what she does. Check out her website at [bakedbysarapdx.com](http://bakedbysarapdx.com). For more information on Jewish Free Loan, visit [jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-free-loan](http://jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-free-loan).

*Sara Safdie retired from teaching college English and moved to Portland. She is a writer, copy editor and member of the Federation’s Climate Action Committee. On Jan. 16, she will talk about sustainability at Congregation Neveh Shalom.*

## Neveh Shalom partners with Sharsheret for two cancer awareness programs

One in eight women and one in 1,000 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, but for many that risk is even higher. One in 40 Ashkenazi Jews – men and women – are carriers of a BRCA gene mutation leading to a significantly increased risk for breast, ovarian, prostate, pancreatic, skin and male breast cancers.

Neveh Shalom Director of Congregant Connections Michelle Caplan was diagnosed in 2016. With support from her family and the Portland Jewish community, Michelle recovered and has taken an active role in spreading breast cancer awareness.

Now Congregation Neveh Shalom will

partner with Sharsheret, a cancer organization with a Jewish focus, for two programs.

Neveh Shalom is partnering with Sharsheret for a webinar at 10 am, Monday, Jan. 10, that will help integrate more healthful ingredients into our diets. “Sharsheret in the Kitchen” is presented by celebrity dietitian Rachel Beller, MS, RDN. Register at [link.sharsheret.org/rachelbeller](http://link.sharsheret.org/rachelbeller).

Neveh Shalom will also partner with Sharsheret for a “Pink Shabbat” on Feb. 11. Pink Shabbat will help educate about the increased risk of hereditary breast cancer among Jewish families, the impact of those cancers on the Jewish community, and

Sharsheret’s support programs for Jewish women and families.

Sharsheret is a national Jewish nonprofit that provides one-on-one mental health support for women and their families touched by breast and ovarian cancer, as well as those with increased genetic risk. All their services are free, confidential and available by phone. For many Oregonians touched by this issue, Sharsheret and other organizations have been a source of comfort, support and education during the pandemic.

Contact Sharsheret at [sharsheret.org](http://sharsheret.org) or 866-474-2774. A local resource is Breast Friends: [breastfriends.org](http://breastfriends.org) or 503-598-8048.





Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER PORTLAND



# Genetic Matchmaking

The double edge sword of the BRCA1 and BRCA 2 genes  
for Jews in relation to cancer

In Oregon, roughly 5% of unselected pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (the most frequent form of pancreatic cancer) harbor mutations in genes labeled BRCA1 and BRCA2, and this number is higher across ethnic populations (*e.g. can be double the amount in the Ashkenazi Jewish population*). These select patients who harbor BRCA1 and BRCA 2 mutations can be susceptible to cancers that arise in the breast, ovaries, and pancreas. The discussion will focus on where science and medicine is at with understanding, detecting and treating these people.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26th**

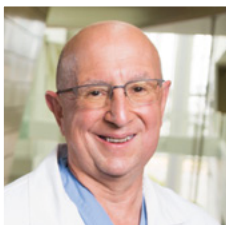
**7:00 p.m. Via Zoom**

## Speakers:



### Dr. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

Dr. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Family Medicine at OHSU. She has served as the State Senator for Northwest Portland and Beaverton since 2012. She is a Senate Co-Chair of the Full Ways & Means Committee, which oversees Oregon's state budget.



### Dr. Brett Sheppard

Dr. Brett Sheppard is a Professor of Surgery, Division of Gastrointestinal and General Surgery; the William E. Colson Chair of Pancreatic Disease Research; and the Vice Chair for Quality and Clinical Operations at OHSU.



### Dr. Jonathan Brody

Dr. Jonathan Brody is the Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Surgery and is the Associate Director of Translational Research of the Brenden-Colson Pancreatic Center for Patient Care.

Register at [jewishportland.org/genetic-matchmaking](https://jewishportland.org/genetic-matchmaking)

# Young adults invited to apply for Pathways

BY DEBORAH MOON

Applications are now being accepted for the sixth cohort of PDX Pathways, a mentoring and leadership program for Jewish young professionals ages 21 through 35ish. In hopes of returning to an in-person format, the launch of the sixth cohort of PDX Pathways will be later this spring.

Pathways is a project of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, which has contracted with Sonia Marie Leikam to facilitate the program. She encourages young adults who are interested in self-growth through a Jewish lens to apply for the program.

"Pathways is an incredible entry point for Jewish young adults to get more involved in our Jewish community," says JFGP President and CEO Marc N. Blattner. "The incredible relationships and mentorships developed during the program can last a lifetime. We look forward to the program leadership of Sonia Marie Leikam and the tremendous skills and talents these young people will bring to our Jewish community and its organizations."

The application is available on the JFGP website at [tinyurl.com/pathwaysPDX6](https://tinyurl.com/pathwaysPDX6). Applications will be due in mid-February with interviews to be completed by mid-March, with the cohort likely convening in April. Leikam will match those accepted with a mentor. If large group gatherings are



*"I would like the experience to be a connection, and I think connection is best in person."*

~ Sonia Marie Leikam,  
PDX Pathways facilitator

still limited by Covid, she said triads of a mentor and two mentees should be able to meet for in-person connections.

"I would like the experience to be a connection, and I think connection is best in person," says Leikam of the delayed start (typically the program runs January-May). "I do think that there is a longing right now for connection and community."

She says the pandemic has changed how we interact with community and how we want to engage.

"We have new questions and new ways of doing things," she says. "Now that we have this knowledge, now that we've lived through this space and place, I want to explore: How do you as an individual want to engage with this Jewish community? What do you need from the community? And what can you give to the community? Those are really the core questions that I would like to have folks work on."

Leikam was executive director of the Or-

egon Holocaust Resource Center before it merged with the Oregon Jewish Museum. In 2015, she joined the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation to work with teens and young adults. She recently became director of development for Kairos PDX, a nonprofit in northeast Portland whose mission is to close the achievement gap for kids of color. In addition to facilitating Pathways, Leikam is a PJ library parent ambassador.

The two part-time roles with Federation "are a way for me to continue to connect and be a part of the Jewish community, since I'm not working professionally full time in the community anymore," she says.

"Pathways is an opportunity for folks in that age range to explore their Jewish values in relation to leadership and how they want to show up," she says. "The last piece is really to connect into the organizations and Jewish life here and help find a space that feels rewarding – whatever that might look like."

## Oregon Hillel House reopens common spaces

BY DEBORAH MOON

Oregon Hillel has reopened the Hillel House at the University of Oregon for students from 9 am-5 pm Monday through Thursday and will host *tefillah* services and Shabbat dinners on Fridays. To-go dinners will continue to be available for students who prefer that option.

For the winter term that began Jan. 3, UO requires all students, faculty and staff to receive a Covid-19 booster shot as soon as they are eligible. For fall term, UO required students to be fully vaccinated for Covid-19; exemptions are available, but more than 95% of students, faculty and staff are vaccinated.

"We feel very good about the vaccination rates," says Oregon Hillel Foundation Executive Director Andy Gitelson. "So, with the caveat that we're still watching what's going on with Omicron, we are officially reopening Oregon Hillel's space to all students for studying, wellness and small programs."

Hillel is redesigning three of the common areas. A seldom-used upstairs library will be revamped as more of a "wellness space and study space – a space where students

can kind of decompress a little bit." Two downstairs spaces will be a more social – spaces where students can put on small programs or socialize.

"We know that there are students who live on our end of campus that would really like to have a quiet place to study," says Gitelson. "Masks will still be required in the building at all times regardless of vaccination status, and we will still continue to check vaccines and now boosters to ensure that the people who are coming to our space are fully compliant with university rules."

Hillel staff have worked with student groups to redesign the areas and devise a wish list of items to make the spaces more "habitable, more mellow."

"There's things like some small chairs and some nice rope lighting and beanbag type things that are easily disinfected," says Gitelson. The aim is to create a space "where they can come and read a book, and if students want to do yoga together, they can."

Even with the house reopening, Gitelson says Oregon Hillel will continue the programming and outreach on campus that was so successful in the fall. The team will continue to have a big presence on both the

UO and Oregon State University campuses.

"We want to continue to be there – that was working really well in fall term," he says. "We've already seen as many students at UO and OSU as we did the entire year last (school) year; we're only about 30 students away on each campus from our best year of engagement ever. We're seeing a lot more students than we've ever seen, and we're connecting a lot more students with each other."

But while continuing that successful presence on the campuses, Hillel again will provide space for "those students who really would like to have actual physical space in the Hillel building to be able to connect and have meetings and group workshops and projects."

Though the space opened Jan. 3, Gitelson says the wish list students have created is still relevant.

"This is a work in progress ... and we may be adding to that wish list over the term as we hear more from students as they start using our space," says Gitelson.

To help Oregon Hillel refurbish the common areas, visit [mailchi.mp/oregonhillel/redesigning-a-space-for-community](https://mailchi.mp/oregonhillel/redesigning-a-space-for-community).



# Start saving recyclables for May collection

BY BONNIE NEWMAN

When Adam was told by G-d to “tend and guard” the Garden of Eden, the world was a simpler place. Adam didn’t have plastics or electronics to dispose of or rules about curbside bins to decipher. But as the world has become more complex, so has the process of disposing of waste.

Two organizations will help ease the recycling task for community members this spring by hosting a collection of some hard-to-recycle items. The James Recycling Drop Off Event will be held at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center on Sunday, May 15, from 10 am until 12:30 pm.

The event is a project of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland’s Climate Action Committee, which is part of the Jewish Community Relations Council. Encouraging recycling dovetails with the Climate Action Committee’s mission to help preserve our irreplaceable planet. Joining in the effort, Portland Jewish Academy students will collect items for recycling over the next several months.

Everything must be clean, dry and sorted according to instructions in this video: [jshrecycling.com/recycling-drop-off-event/](https://jshrecycling.com/recycling-drop-off-event/). Each type of item must be in a separate bag. Items that will be accepted are:

- Plastics #1 PET clamshells and other clear, #1 plastic items
- Plastics #2, 4, 5, 6
- Styrofoam blocks or sheets, including packing peanuts, cups, meat trays and egg cartons
- Plastic utensils, straws and bread clips
- Plastic screw-on caps
- CD and cassette tape cases
- Empty contact lens blister packs (foil removed)
- Empty tape dispensers
- Small appliances of less than 30 pounds
- Laptops, desk towers, cell phones and other small electronic items
- Power cords
- Holiday/string lights



James Harris, right, at a James Recycling Event.

- Cell phones, battery chargers, batteries and other accessories.

Items that can be put into curbside recycling bins will not be accepted. In addition, the community is asked not to bring squishy foam, pet food bags, #5 bags or cellophane-type bags. Also, no TVs, microwaves, computer monitors, printers or vacuum cleaners.

The cost to recycle each grocery bag or 5-gallon container of sorted plastics is \$3; recycling Styrofoam costs \$3 per 39-gallon garbage bag. Payments will be accepted in cash or through the James Recycling website [jshrecycling.com](https://jshrecycling.com).

Two local, eco-friendly companies also will be on hand. Simple Sundries offers cleaning and personal care products packaged in reclaimed and refillable containers. The company also will be collecting used plastic pumps. Oki Doki creates bags made from used billboard materials.

The event will be managed by James Harris, 24, and his mom, Kathi Goldman. With help from Denton Plastics, Agilyx Corp., a Metro grant and a crew of volunteers and staff, the duo have been in the recycling business for seven years. Not only does James Recycling of-

## Un-numbered Plastic Items

These are the only un-numbered rigid plastics we will accept. **Please group together as follows;**



James Recycling provides a visual list of items accepted at recycling events such as the upcoming May 15 event with the JCRC’s Climate Action Committee. This image of unnumbered plastics is one of three pages. See the full list at [jshrecycling.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Event-List-Updated-June-2021.pdf](https://jshrecycling.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Event-List-Updated-June-2021.pdf)

## Know your recyclables before you go

To help curb confusion about recycling and prepare for the James Recycling Event on May 15, James Recycling features several resources on its website [jshrecycling.com](https://jshrecycling.com). Find which items can go in curbside recycling at [jshrecycling.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/curbside.pdf](https://jshrecycling.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/curbside.pdf). Items that can be recycled curbside will not be accepted at the event. A video of how to sort items for the James Recycling Event can be seen at [jshrecycling.com/recycling-drop-off-event/](https://jshrecycling.com/recycling-drop-off-event/). In addition, Metro, [oregonmetro.gov](https://oregonmetro.gov), offers many resources. Metro Central Transfer Station and Metro South Transfer Station accept many items not taken at curbside, e.g., batteries, hazardous waste (including paint) and motor oil. There is a charge to accept some items. Metro’s Find a Recycler search tool [oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling/find-a-recycler](https://oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling/find-a-recycler) and [oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling/ask-expert](https://oregonmetro.gov/tools-living/garbage-and-recycling/ask-expert) inform the community how to dispose of all sorts of waste – from printer cartridges to unwanted vehicles. Metro’s website also includes an extensive list of local sites that accept various materials.

for monthly drop-off events, the company also provides a weekly pick-up service that complements curbside recycling in some Portland neighborhoods. Goldman says the enterprise has been growing.

It has become “more than a full-time job,” she says. But that doesn’t stop her or her son, who has Asperger’s syndrome, from wanting their operation to continue to expand – both in staff and service area. Goldman says their goal is to put more

people with disabilities to work doing good for the planet.

*Bonnie Newman is a newcomer to Portland and the Jewish Federation’s Climate Action Committee. She will be leading the new community engagement subcommittee of the Climate Action Committee. Previously, she has worked as a freelance writer, copy editor for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and copy and section editor of the Austin American-Statesman.*

# Author Series mixes virtual, real worlds

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center will bring at least six authors to Portland (in person, on Zoom or both) for this year's Author Series. For now, the program includes one hybrid and four virtual programs as well as one in-person event with a post-talk event (see box at right).

The authors are selected from about 250 authors in the annual guide of authors on tour curated by the Jewish Book Council, of which the MJCC is a member. Virtual and hybrid programs will be available on both Zoom and Facebook Live. Each event will include a presentation by the author, a moderated conversation with the presenter and a Q&A session with the audience.

"We consciously left the schedule open so we have the opportunity to bring in more authors in person in late spring or early summer as the world, hopefully, opens back up," says MJCC Arts & Culture Manager Lenny Steinberg.

"It feels like a grand reopening," says Lenny. "We are figuring out what people want – what gets people out to an (in-person) event and what they are willing to sit on Zoom for. As the JCC, we are committed to providing arts and culture programs for the community."

The first two programs in the Author Series this year are partnerships, another area the J hopes to expand.

On Jan. 13, the J will partner with Israel360 and Congregation Neveh Shalom for a 6:30 pm Zoom event with Daniel Sokatch, author of *Can We Talk About Israel? A Guide for the Curious, Confused and Conflicted*. The program also partners with PDX Hillel and the Portland State University Judaic Studies Department to provide free registration for students. Students can register at [oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events/authorseries/sokatch](https://oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events/authorseries/sokatch).

On Jan. 20, the MJCC will present Catherine Ehrlich, author of *Irma's Passport*, in a hybrid program in partnership with Eastside Jewish Commons. Ehrlich will speak at the EJC at 6:30 pm. Those not comfortable with attending in person can participate on Zoom or Facebook Live. Part personal memoir, part historical drama, *Irma's Passport* is narrated alternately by Irma's granddaughter, Catherine, and Irma herself. You can read about it in the [Sept. 30, 2021, Jewish Review](https://www.jewishreview.com/sept-30-2021-jewish-review).

Lenny is particularly excited by the May program, which he hopes will mark the return of the popular mahjong tournament the J launched in 2019. The tournament was "wildly successful," and the center planned to make it an annual event until Covid intervened the next year. The author portion of the May 22 event will feature *Mahjong* author Annelise Heinz, an assistant professor of history at the University of Oregon. Her book explores the American history of the Chinese parlor game mahjong in the first half of the 20th century.

"We will host her in the ballroom for a typical author talk and hope to follow that with a mahjong tournament and lunch, pandemic permitting," says Lenny. "If a tourney is not feasible, we may offer an open play mahjong experience instead."

"This is another effort to bring back to the community events that were successful before the pandemic and that people have asked for," he adds.

Lenny encourages people to contact him with program ideas and suggestions. He can be reached at 503-535-3555 or [Lenny@oregonjcc.org](mailto:Lenny@oregonjcc.org). For more information on the Author Series and other in-person and virtual arts and culture programs, contact Lenny or visit [oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events](https://oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events).



MJCC Arts & Culture Manager Lenny Steinberg stands before a display of the six author talks he has curated so far for this year's Author Series.

## MJCC 2022 Author Series

**Daniel Sokatch**, author of *Can We Talk About Israel?* 6:30 pm, Jan. 13, virtual

**Catherine Ehrlich**, author of *Irma's Passport*, 6:30 pm, Jan. 20, hybrid: Eastside Jewish Commons, 2420 NE Sandy, Portland, and virtual

**Raffi Berg**, author of *Red Sea Spies*, 11 am, Jan. 23, virtual

**Cindy Rizzom**, author of *The Paper Cutter*, 6:30 pm, Feb. 10, virtual

**Ben Freeman**, author of *Jewish Pride: Rebuilding a People*, 6:30 pm, March 24, virtual

**Annelise Heinz**, author of *Mahjong: A Chinese Game and the Making of Modern American Culture*, 11 am, May 22, at the MJCC, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland; followed by mahjong play or tournament

Tickets for each program are \$5. Information and registration: [oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events/authorseries](https://oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events/authorseries).



Janie Frost

## MJCC hires new fitness program manager

Jaynie Frost is the new fitness program manager at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Jaynie has an extensive background in fitness, health and wellness, leadership, people management and customer service. She has a bachelor's in psychology and is certified through the National Academy of Sports Medicine as a senior fitness specialist.

Jaynie is very excited to join the MJCC team and to work with Head Trainer Joe Seitz as the MJCC continues to expand and grow its fitness offerings.

The J's announcement notes, "Jaynie and Joe will make a dynamic team, as they both have extremely

positive energy, a sense of humor and a genuine desire to help others. The MJCC is thrilled to have this fitness team in place to kick off 2022."

Jaynie has worked within the field of health and wellness since 1997 in a variety of positions. She has worked in health rehabilitation centers, assisted-living facilities and with integrative fitness programs. Jaynie has an extensive background in managing teams and expanding programs. Her most recent roles have included health and wellness director, executive director and personal trainer/exercise specialist.



# New children's books from local Jewish women



Chari Smith wrote *The Piano*, illustrated by daughter, Elle.

## Author Chari Smith & illustrator Elle Smith

A new children's book, *The Piano*, by Portland writer and pianist Chari Smith is scheduled for release by [Black Rose Writing](#) on Feb. 3. She is a member of Havurah Shalom.

*The Piano* shows that learning to play an instrument is more than practicing and performing – it's a lifelong friendship. From the first time they meet, young Katie and the Piano become best friends. But one day, Katie leaves for college leaving the Piano behind. What happens next brings their kindred friendship full circle.

Chari studied at Berklee College of Music and has been a writer/composer/pianist most of her life. She is also a published playwright – *Extraordinary Women from U.S. History: Readers Theatre for Grades 4-8* (Teacher Ideas Press/Libraries Unlimited, 2003) and *Little Plays for Little People* (Teacher Ideas Press/Libraries Unlimited, 1996). She is currently working on a musical, *Freedom*, based on the life of Moses.

*The Piano* is illustrated by Chari's daughter, Elle, who participated in the ORA Jewish Art Fair for two years. A high school senior, Elle plans to attend art school in the fall. Elle became a bat mitzvah at Havurah Shalom in 2017.

The duo started working together on this story when Covid-19 hit, channeling their creative energy into something positive during a difficult time.

Thinker Toys of Portland has called the book, "a sweet melodic story celebrating growth, dedication and love."

Portland Youth Jazz Orchestra Director Ben Medler says it is "a captivating story for young readers from start to finish."

*The Piano* will be available at major booksellers, including Black Rose Writing, Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



## Marje Jacobson

Marje Jacobson, a member of Congregation Shaarie Torah, has written a new book for children ages 3 to 5.

*Grandma's Birthday Balloon* is a story of how a birthday balloon given by friends helped a grandma to cope with Covid-19 and being isolated. It's based on the author's real experience.

Marje, 81, is a Portland native who married her high school sweetheart, Myron Jacobson, z"l, after graduating from college with a bachelor's degree in speech and drama and a minor in English from Mills College. She earned a master's in educational administration from Portland State University. She worked as a teacher including at Jefferson High School and Hillel Academy, the precursor of Portland Jewish Academy.

*Grandma's Birthday Balloon* is her first published book, but she did write a play about Sean McCool and the Giant while running a children's theater school for Actor's Ring Theater in the 1960s. Covid inspired her to try her hand at writing again.

"My parents (Herb and Hannah Feves Cole) taught me that G-d never gives you a hardship without also giving you a new joy," she says. "My 80th birthday celebration was canceled due to the pandemic, but my dear friends brought me gifts for my birthday. Although I was afraid to let them in, they sang and left me two balloons."



When she tried to untangle the ribbons to bring the balloons in the next day, one flew away.

"I caught the other and brought it inside, where it developed a magical life of its own," she says. "It kept me company while I was isolated."

The balloon fully deflated nearly five months later. "To keep from getting depressed that the pandemic was not over, I decided to write about it so I would have something to leave to my grandchildren that they could use to tell them about their great-grandma," Marje says.

The book is illustrated by Youki Iimouri, the grandson of Marje's good friend, Rae Goldenberg. It was published by Dorrance Publishing Company.

"Although the book is called a children's book, it is also intended for anyone who is or has ever felt isolated," says Marje. "The message is simple: if you have friends and family and a little faith in the unknown, you'll never be truly alone."

## Sarah Rohr appointed to Beaverton Arts Commission

Sarah Rohr, a multidisciplinary artist and active member of the local Jewish community, starts a three-year term as a Beaverton Arts Commissioner this month.

"Trained in painting, stone sculpting, poetry, songwriting and playwrighting, my work is focused on the preservation, cultivation and reclamation of human dignity," says Sarah.

She is an at-large member of the Jewish Community Relations Council, where she serves as vice-chair of the Climate Action Committee and is an active member of legislative advocacy committee. She has served as a mikvah guide for more than 35 girls and women ages 12-94 using the Rachel's Well community mikvah, which is owned and operated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

At Congregation Neveh Shalom, Sarah is the sixth-grade Judaic studies teacher and leads Kiddush Club services for kindergarten through fifth grade. She attends Neveh Shalom's virtual morning minyan almost daily and participates in two Torah study groups. She also studies the art of writing *d'verei Torah* with Rabbi David

Kosak and poet Merridawn Duckler.

"My interest in serving on the Beaverton Arts Commission was sparked by working with a group of parents at Portland Jewish Academy for the school's community-wide art project," says Sarah. "The synergy between the group members was energizing. Our serious and detailed conversations about public art was personally instructive about an area where a confluence of passions coalesced."

The commission's mission is to enhance, unite and celebrate our diverse community through art. The BAC does this by advocating for the arts; supporting city arts events and programs; spreading the mission of the BAC at outside events and gatherings; and advising staff and city council on arts-related issues.



# Burned books to get respectful burial

When the Chabad House on SW Vermont Street was destroyed by fire in August 2020, about 2,000 holy books were ruined.

Holy books, papers and ritual objects dealing with sacred subjects are traditionally stored in a genizah, storage area, until they can be buried in a Jewish cemetery as a sign of reverence and respect.

"It is respectful to put the burned books into boxes and bury them in a cemetery," says Chabad of Oregon Rabbi Moshe Wilhelm.

Now Chabad of Oregon has arranged with Riverview Cemetery to create a burial plot in the Jewish section of the cemetery for the holy books. Chabad of Oregon has begun to gather the books damaged in the fire and will bury them in a public ceremony once a concrete box with a removable lid is built in the plot. The removable lid will enable more damaged holy books to be added in the future as needed.

Community members can contribute to the creation of the book burial plot at [chabadoforegon.raisegiving.com](http://chabadoforegon.raisegiving.com).



Rabbi Moshe Wilhelm holds some of the holy books damaged by two fires at the Oregon Chabad House in August 2020.

## SOVIET JEWS (continued from page 1)

different sort of failures of the Soviet experiment. Soviet jokes from the 1970s and '80s were often about commodity shortages."

He shares one joke he calls a perfect example of that: A long line of people are in line in the middle of the night because a rumor has gone around that there will be meat at the butcher shop in the morning. About midnight, the butcher comes out and says the party called and there won't be enough meat for everyone, so the Jews should all go home. Then at 7 am, the butcher comes out and says the party called and no meat is coming. Those still in line complain "Why did the Jews find out first? Why did they get to go home early?"

The final talk of the weekend, which focuses on American Jews' views of Soviet Jews and vice versa, will not be a lecture. "I will talk about writing by some American Jewish writers during the Cold War and then by some contemporary writers who emigrated from the Soviet Union as children."



Professor Sasha Senderovich

Sasha already has a connection with Portland. Bob, Jack and Dan Heims and Joan Heims Witcher are cousins he met for the first time last June in a lull between pandemic waves. The four are the grandchildren of Misha Zugman, the older brother of Sacha's great-grandmother, Mira Zugman. Misha and one brother emigrated in the 1910s and ended up in Portland, while the other six siblings remained in what would later become part of the Soviet Union. The different branches of the family lost all contact

**WEEKEND IN QUEST 2022**  
*How the Soviet Jew Was Made: Literature, Culture, Humor*  
Sponsored by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education  
**LECTURES**  
Hammer & Pickle: How Soviet Jews Joked – and Were Joked About  
Rooted and Rootless: History, Memory and Cultural Mythology  
Scenes of Encounter: How American Jews Imagined Soviet Jews – and Vice Versa  
**SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE**  
Sasha Senderovich is an assistant professor in the department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, and a faculty member at the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, at the University of Washington, Seattle. His field of study is Soviet Jewish culture. His first book, *How the Soviet Jew Was Made: Culture and Mobility after the Revolution*, will be published in July.  
**WHEN/WHERE:** March 4-6, 2022, on Zoom  
**COST:** \$18 per household  
**REGISTER:** [ojmche.org/events/weekend-in-quest-2022-how-the-soviet-jew-was-made-literature-culture-humor/](http://ojmche.org/events/weekend-in-quest-2022-how-the-soviet-jew-was-made-literature-culture-humor/)

during the Soviet years but re-established contact in the 1980s, before Sasha's family immigrated to Boston in the 1990s.

"So, I have this strange connection to Portland, because this is where, in some alternative life, some version of me might have been born," he says.



# Happenings

## Jan. 13, 7 pm: Sephardic Film “Romaniotēs”

The 15th Annual Sephardic Winter Film Series continues with the documentary “Romaniotēs” at 7 pm, Jan. 13, at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 6686 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland.

Films are shown the second week of each month (Wednesday or Thursday) through April 2022 at 7 pm. Admission is free and open to all (proof of vaccination and masks required). Films are followed by a guest speaker and Sephardic desserts.

The English-language film “Romaniotēs” explores the distinct Greek-Jewish community of the city of Ioannina, with customs and traditions different from the Sephardi and Ashkenazi. For more than 1,000 years, from the Byzantine era through today, the Jewish community has been an integral part of the multicultural mosaic of the city of Ioannina. Discussion after the film will be led by Marcia Haddad Ikononopoulos, director of Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum, and Ethan Marcus, director of the Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood Foundation. [RSVPs](mailto:RSVPs@ahavathachim.com) are required. RSVP to [info@ahavathachim.com](mailto:info@ahavathachim.com). For more information, contact Ron Sidis 503-750-0888.

## Jan. 14, 6-8 pm: MLK Jr. Shabbat

A particularly joyous Congregation Beth Israel tradition is our annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat Service, where leaders of the Civil Rights Movement (previous speakers include Congressman John Lewis, activist and journalist Myrlie Evers-Williams and acclaimed public interest lawyer Bryan Stevenson) speak, and our choir joins with the NW Gospel Choir to honor Dr. King’s memory, work and enduring legacy.

The year 2022 sees this service resume in person (though all are welcome to gather with us online, as well) and will feature remarks from guest speaker Reverend Dr. Gerald Durley.

All attendees will be required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.

Congregation Beth Israel, 1972 NW Flanders St., Portland, OR 97209. [bethisrael-pdx.org/mlk/](http://bethisrael-pdx.org/mlk/)

## Jan. 16, noon: Living a Sustainable Life

What is sustainability? Does it connect to climate change? Join the Neveh Shalom Sisterhood for this talk about sustainability, presented by CNS member Sara Safdie, a professor of English.

How does farming, both of fruits and vegetables as well as raising animals, affect the health of the Earth and its people? When many of us think of sustainability, we tend to think of recycling or biking instead of going someplace in our cars. But it’s much more than that, and there’s plenty we can do, individually, to ensure that the Earth will continue to sustain us in the future. For information, visit [nevehshalom.org/event/sustainability-program-presented-by-sara-safdie/](http://nevehshalom.org/event/sustainability-program-presented-by-sara-safdie/)

## Jan. 17: Tu B’Shevat

Tu B’Shevat, the Jewish new year for trees, is often called the Jewish Earth Day. In 2022, the holiday begins at sundown Jan. 16 and ends at sundown Jan. 17.

PJ Library notes, “According to Jewish tradition, all trees share the same birthday on [Tu B’Shevat](http://Tu B'Shevat). Although it’s a lesser known holiday, observance of Tu B’Shevat is growing due to the rising importance of Earth stewardship.”

You can read more about the holiday, its ancient Jewish connection to contemporary ecological issues and the seder that has gained popularity in recent decades at [myjewishlearning.com/article/tu-bshevat-2022/](http://myjewishlearning.com/article/tu-bshevat-2022/) and [tabletmag.com/sections/holidays/tu-bshevat](http://tabletmag.com/sections/holidays/tu-bshevat).

# Life-cycle events

Submit life-cycle news and photos to [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

## ENGAGEMENTS

### Eitan Northman-Simone Marocco

Ms. Holly Litwin and Mr. Tod Northman of Shaker Heights, Ohio, are thrilled to announce the engagement of their son, Eitan Northman to Simone Marocco.

Eitan is a junior at Yeshiva University. He enjoyed a wonderful childhood in Portland surrounded by the love and support of the Jewish community at Maimonides Jewish Day School and Congregation Kesser Israel. The Litwin-Northman family lived in Portland from 1994 to 2011.

Simone attends Yeshiva University’s Stern College For Women. She is the daughter of Mrs. Karen and Dr. Avi Marocco of Beachwood, Ohio. Eitan and Simone met when they became classmates in sixth grade at the Fuchs Mizrahi School. They plan to marry on Sunday, June 12, 2022, in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.



### Alex Mansfield-Shani Plunkett-de la Cruz



Greg and Jemi Kostiner Mansfield are thrilled about the engagement of their older son, Alex, to Shani Plunkett-de la Cruz, daughter of Celeste de la Cruz. Kvelling grandparents are Tony and Priscilla Kostiner.

Alex is a member of the Life Enrichment team at Cedar Sinai Park and teaches Hebrew and Jewish studies at multiple congregations in town.

Shani works with Providence Healthcare in insurance verification.

They will be married at 2:22 p.m. on Feb. 22, 2022, at Congregation Beth Israel.

## MAZEL TOV

### Aliza Zeff

Aliza Zeff, daughter of Laurie and George Fendel of Portland, is the incoming Director of Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim. TRY is a spring semester study abroad program for high school students, located in Jerusalem.

Aliza is a graduate of Wilson (now Ida B. Wells) High School in Portland, the American Jewish University and Bank Street College of Education.

In addition to working for many summers at Camp Ramah in the Poconos, Aliza served as TRY’s interim Director of Academics in 2019 before taking on the position permanently. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband and four children.

For more information, contact Aliza at [alizaz@ramah.co.il](mailto:alizaz@ramah.co.il) or read about the program at [try.ramah.org.il](http://try.ramah.org.il).



# Agency Column: JFCS

## Shining a spotlight on mental health

*The Jewish Review has offered the 18 organizations that receive allocations from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland the opportunity to write a column during the coming year. The following column is from Jewish Family & Child Service.*

**BY RUTH SCOTT**

As the pandemic continues, so does the challenge of prolonged social isolation.

At the beginning of Covid, Jewish Family & Child Service's Counseling program introduced a weekly group called Community Connections. Conducted via Zoom with very experienced licensed clinical social workers – Douglass Ruth and Missy Fry, with input from Caitlin DeBoer – the group continues to meet the needs of so many throughout Portland's Jewish and greater communities.

What made it so successful?

The answer is benefits such as very low boundaries for attendance, engaging with others during each guided hour and learning how to support peers while receiving support for oneself.

This month, JFCS introduces Mental Health Spotlight. It is an addition to JFCS' expanding Counseling offerings.

It shines a light on areas where all people – children through older adults, including members of our community with a self-identified disability – struggle and can seek help. Spotlight sessions will highlight, for instance, social skills and navigating group dynamics, and resiliency against loneliness and isolation. Some of our new workshop-style groups also are curated for those wanting to learn how to help their friends and loved ones through challenging times.

Mental Health Spotlight provides group sessions and workshop options in the style of both Community Connections and our recent debut and very popular grief-processing group, Walking Beside You. That 12-person group quickly filled and will be offered again this spring. You can read about the group on page 8 of the [Sept. 15, 2021, Jewish Review](#).

Also well-attended since the pandemic began is Coming Together, a bi-weekly online support group for parents of adults and children with disabilities; the group is facilitated by Shayna Sigman, CSWA.

I believe many of us can agree that the social-interaction muscle has atrophied in our collective experience of social isolation. By contrast, our Spotlight group sessions inherently exercise social muscles.

JFCS' new Mental Health Spotlight differs from one-on-one therapy sessions in a few key ways. For example, our practitioners do not diagnose in this format, nor do the sessions mean one has to "out" themselves with their personal struggle. Rather, you can attend simply to be in communi-



*Ruth Scott has been JFCS Executive Director since August 2020, after more than two years as interim executive director. Ruth came to JFCS from Lift Urban Portland, where she stabilized and nearly doubled its revenue stream, and before that from the Oregon Energy Fund (formerly HEAT Oregon), where she helped assess and restructure the organization.*

ty, dabble to see if this format works for you and gain access to JFCS' robust resources list, all in a safe online space.

In keeping with JFCS' focus on inclusion, Mental Health Spotlight also provides access to a therapist on a sliding scale, as well as resources one may need outside JFCS' areas of expertise.

JFCS is engaged with B'nai B'rith Camp about shining a spotlight specifically on children and their increased mental health needs during the pandemic. Both organizations have seen an increase in anxiety and a need to support children in processing these changing times.

In partnership with the Eastside Jewish Commons, JFCS is planning a Mental Health Spotlight hybrid option for an in-person experience with separate engagement opportunities for children.

But until the time comes where society opens up a little more, I invite our community to log in and lean on Mental Health Spotlight sessions and workshops to acquaint – or reacquaint – yourself with Jewish Family & Child Service by visiting [jfcs-portland.org](http://jfcs-portland.org).

Our expanded mental health services may do wonders for your own mental health or for that of your loved ones. May 2022 bring you, Portland's Jewish community, the best of physical and mental health.

Published biweekly by  
Jewish Federation of  
Greater Portland  
9900 SW Greenburg Road,  
Suite 220  
Tigard, OR 97223  
503-245-6219

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

[facebook.com/JewishPDX](https://facebook.com/JewishPDX)

[instagram.com/  
jewishfederationpdx/](https://instagram.com/jewishfederationpdx/)

### Editor

Deborah Moon

[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

503-892-7404 (message)

### Circulation

To receive the Jewish  
Review in your email inbox,  
email your name and email  
address to

[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

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

## Next issues

Issue date	Deadline
Jan. 19	Jan. 13
Feb. 2	Jan. 27
Feb. 16	Feb. 10
March 2	Feb. 24

Submit news, photos  
and obituaries to

[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

10 Jewish Review Jan. 5, 2022



# Chaplain's Corner

## The Holistic Process of Grieving

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

As we continue to struggle with the pain of grief and the challenges of the grieving process, this time of year is especially hard. I imagine we all have plenty of memories of New Year's reunions with family and friends, whether at private homes, restaurants, hotels or public spaces. Our observance of New Year's 2022 was most likely very different than in years past, and did not meet our expectations, hopes and dreams.

Our brains are not hardwired to live in a near constant state of uncertainty, stress and even fear. These past nearly two years have taken a toll on us psychologically, physically and spiritually. Our grief has been amplified, and our grieving process has been disrupted.

But this is part of the human condition. The more we understand the relationship among grief, grieving, the brain and the body, the easier navigating our world will become.

I recently read a fascinating article on the NPR website, "How your brain copes with grief, and why it takes time to heal," by Berly McCoy. The author captured the work that Mary Frances O'Connor has done to understand what happens in our brains when we experience grief. O'Connor, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Arizona, will soon release her findings in her book, *The Grieving Brain*. She argues that grieving is a form of learning how to exist in a world in the aftermath of the death of a loved one. This learning literally changes the wiring in our brains.

One of her findings is that the relationships we have with others are encoded in our brains. Therefore, it makes perfect sense when grieving to say, "I feel like I've lost part of myself." In our brains, part of us is not "me," but "we" – the relationship we have with others. When a loved one dies, part of our brain-encoded sense of self must be reprogrammed.

Grieving is an aspect of that reprogramming. O'Connor learned through brain-imaging studies that in the midst of this process, our minds and bodies are affected. Our ability to recall memories, to empathize, to regulate our heart rate, and to experience pain and suffering are affected.

As we go through this painful, disorienting and stressful process, O'Connor explains that some of us may experience prolonged grief disorder. After six months or a year, we may feel locked in place. We struggle to run errands, prepare dinner or engage in activities that once gave us pleasure or a sense of escape. Of note, prolonged grief disorder was previously called complicated grief.

O'Connor shares one example of how the grieving reprogramming process can become unhealthily complicated: When recalling the death of our loved ones, many of us engage in "would've, should've, could've." We repeat over and over what we could have done or should have done to reduce the pain of our loved ones



*Rabbi Barry Cohen is the Jewish community chaplain of the Greater Portland area. He can be reached at [chaplain@jewishportland.org](mailto:chaplain@jewishportland.org).*

***The more we understand the relationship among grief, grieving, the brain and the body, the easier navigating our world will become.***

or even prevent their deaths. O'Connor explains that engaging in these "counterfactuals" only denies the harsh reality that our loved one has died.

Fortunately, as we go through this process of reprogramming, we can remain hopeful. Part of remaining hopeful is understanding that it takes time and patience for the brain to reprogram – to heal – after we have suffered the traumatic loss of a loved one. In addition, we can understand that Covid has disrupted and delayed the grieving process. Arguably, this process now takes twice as long.

As our family and friends continue to grieve, and as we continue to grieve, O'Connor encourages us not to devise ways to wave a magic wand to make the pain go away. Instead, we can create opportunities to listen to each other and be with each other, regardless of what we may be thinking or feeling.

O'Connor adds that one of the complications of our grieving reprogramming is struggling with the fact that hospital restrictions prevented us from being by our loved ones' side during their time of death. We were deprived of witnessing the decline of our loved ones, which would have better prepared us psychologically for their death. In addition, some of us are saddled with guilt that they died alone.

O'Connor argues that we should offer praise to family and friends who made the sacrifice of not being with their loved ones in their final moments. This sacrifice helped prevent the spread of the disease. This sacrifice kept those who survived safe and increased the safety of everyone around us. Recognizing the selflessness of this sacrifice can soften the reprogramming process and facilitate healing.

Let us all remember that grieving is a holistic process involving brain, body and spirit. And let us remain hopeful that healing will occur ... we only need time, patience and understanding.

## Rabbi Michael Cahana leads petition effort to prevent gun violence

Congregation Beth Israel Senior Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana is one of three chief petitioners on two gun violence prevention initiative petitions that are circulating for possible inclusion on Oregon's November 2022 State Ballot.

The effort is being led by "Lift Every Voice Oregon," an interfaith grassroots organization that Rabbi Cahana helped launch.

"CBI's Social Action Committee, under Sally Rosenfeld's leadership, is training volunteer signature gatherers, and they are collecting signatures," says Rabbi Cahana. "This is happening in various organizations, including houses of worship, around the state. We also have a number of teen leaders who trained to be circulators."

Rabbi Cahana encourages others in the Jewish community to sign up to circulate petitions IP 17 and IP 18. To appear on the ballot, the petitions need about 140,000 signatures from registered Oregon voters by July 2022.

These measures will (1) ban manufacture, sales, imports and transfers of semiautomatic assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in Oregon; and (2) require a background check and safety training to be completed before a permit is issued to purchase a gun.

For more information, including the complete text of the initiatives and information for circulators, visit [lifteveryvoiceoregon.com](http://lifteveryvoiceoregon.com).

# Jobs board

## CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM Education Assistant Director

Salary: \$50,000 and benefits; full time

Do you have a background in Jewish education? Do you have strong communication and administrative skills? We are looking for an experienced, organized and caring leader to join our dedicated educational team and vibrant, inclusive community. The Congregational Education Assistant Director works collaboratively with the Director of Congregational Learning, other CNS staff and clergy, and our 30 teachers to develop plans for our K-12 and Adult Education programs, which serve more than 200 students. For full job description or to apply, email Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning, at [mberwin@nevehshalom.org](mailto:mberwin@nevehshalom.org)

## MAAYAN TORAH DAY SCHOOL Interim Preschool Director

Pay is \$25-35/hour; DOE

Maayan Torah seeks an interim preschool director through April 2022. Join a tight-knit community of teachers and families who are committed to whole-child learning and excellence in Judaic instruction. Qualifications include minimum of three years teaching experience and one year management/supervisory experience; knowledge of early childhood development; and openness to Orthodox Jewish culture and traditions. Send resume to: [lvoorhees@maayanpdx.org](mailto:lvoorhees@maayanpdx.org). For full job description: [maayanpdx.org](http://maayanpdx.org).

## OJMCHE

### Guest Services Manager

\$18.75/hr PT, 10:50 am-4:10 pm, Wed.-Sat.

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education seeks a motivated, outgoing, personable and organized individual as Guest Services Manager. For full job description, visit [ojmche.org/jobs](http://ojmche.org/jobs). Please send cover letter and resume by Jan. 21, 2022, to [jobsearch@ojmche.org](mailto:jobsearch@ojmche.org).

# Obituary

## ROBERT FURMAN

Robert Furman, z"l, died at the hospital Dec. 21, 2021, surrounded by his wife, Nannette; his sons, Ben and Jake; and daughter-in-law, Brooke.

Bob was a member of Congregation Kol Ami in Vancouver, Wash. He was related to many in the congregation, and so Kol Ami sends condolences not just to his wife and sons, but also to his brothers and sisters-in-law and nephews and grand-nieces, who are also in mourning.

Funeral services took place Dec. 23 at 1 pm at Kol Ami's Kehillat Olam cemetery at Northwood Park in Ridgefield.

12 Jewish Review Jan. 5, 2022

# SNOW (continued from page 1)

Neveh Shalom Director of Congregational Relations Michelle Caplan has a similar view: "We did close the building due to unsafe winter conditions, including snow and ice in the CNS parking lot, (so) the building was closed Monday and Tuesday. Staff worked remotely from home. I think the ability for us to pivot in a weather situation like this feels very seamless, but because there is not very much happening this week, it also made it easier."

For those serving the seniors who live at Cedar Sinai Park, it was business as usual with a little extra fun thrown in.

"Cedar Sinai Park is like a hospital – we never close," says CSP CEO Kimberly Fuson. "We try to keep as light as we can, keep it fun. We give people rides and have slumber parties. We set up suites in the nursing home and assisted living if people need to stay. We try to make it fun."

If employees don't have transportation through the snow, the senior living campus has dispatchers and drivers ready to pick them up. "And the CEO has four-wheel drive," Fuson adds with a chuckle.

CSP's adult day services (ADS) did, however, close for part of the week.

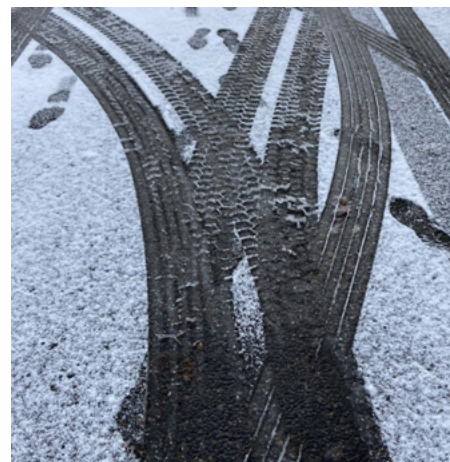
"Last evening, I contacted ADS families that would've attended today to find out their interest and ability to get to ADS today," said ADS Director Nancy Heckler on Dec. 27. "Families indicated that they would not get out in the snow/ice and were very 'relieved' to hear we'd cancelled by 7 am."

The MJCC closed on Sunday, but the J and Portland Jewish Academy did open vacation camp and the early childhood program on Monday. Then on Tuesday, the campus closed again.

"This is consistent with other programs in the area – most early childhood centers closed today, as did vacation camps and other community facilities (libraries, recreation centers, etc.)," said MJCC/PJA Executive Director Steve Albert on Dec. 28. "Hopefully, the road conditions will improve enough by tomorrow that we can reopen. That said, with more snow and freezing temperatures in the forecast for the remainder of the week, it's very hard to know what it will be possible for us to do safely."

The MJCC, like many synagogues and businesses, updated its website daily on what was open and when.

"Our top priority in determining whether the Mittleman Jewish Community Center can be open is the safety of our staff and members," says Albert. "Whenever the roads are hazardous, we implement delayed openings, early closings, and/



Fresh snow each morning the last week of December made for slippery roads.

or closures to ensure that staff members can travel safely and are not put in danger. Likewise, at Portland Jewish Academy, such decisions are based on prioritizing the safety of faculty, staff and students."

The snow can create a particular hardship for observant women needing to observe the laws of family purity, where immersion in the mikvah is time bound by *halacha* (Jewish law).

"*Halacha* requires immersing after nightfall on a certain day in woman's cycle," says Rachel's Well Mikvah Manager Caron Blau Rothstein. "For those users, inclement weather that limits access is a challenge that impacts the family... We are responsible not just to the ritual but to the safety of our guests and guides – who are all volunteers."

Unfortunately, Rachel's Well Community Mikvah sits at the bottom of a steep driveway on the Schnitzer Family Campus.

"They close the driveway when it's icy," says Rothstein. "When the building is open, the mikvah can be accessed through the main building with exiting at the bottom of the driveway. ... When the MJCC is closed due to inclement weather, there's no access to mikvah."

Fortunately, Mikvah Shoshana Women's Mikvah sits on flat, accessible property owned by Chabad of Oregon and remains open during most inclement weather.

"We really appreciate when they can accommodate women who need to fulfill this time-bound mitzvah," says Rothstein.

Further to the south, Ashland was hit by a lot of snow. Havurah Shir Hadash is normally closed on Mondays, but Ayala Zonnenschein said on Dec. 27 that she didn't know if staff could make it into the building on subsequent days. However, she said, "being able to use Zoom has allowed our classes and services to continue despite the very challenging weather."