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Sharaka panelists share their experiences and goals with attendees at their presentation Monday, Jan. 22 at Congregation Neveh Shalom. The group hopes to build on the success of the Abraham Accords to create a peaceful, prosperous Middle East. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

'Somebody has to start'

Sharaka seeks to build on push for peace in Middle East

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

"You all know the joke: An Orthodox Jew, a Christian and three Arabs walk into a *shul*," Dan Feferman, executive director of Sharaka started his remarks at Congregation Neveh Shalom with. "We're the punch line."

The five panelists on Neveh Shalom's bimah Monday, Jan. 22, fit the description Feferman provided, but their work is anything but a joke – it's hope for a peaceful, harmonious future in the Middle East.

All five are affiliated with Sharaka, a non-governmental organization whose name means "partnership" in Arabic and whose

mission is to promote the Abraham Accords, normalizing diplomatic relations between Israel and a number of Arab states.

Feferman, a policy expert and former security adviser for the Israel Defense Forces, started the story of how he found his way to the organization by illustrating the situation before the Abraham Accords were signed.

"Imagine if we told you here in Oregon, 'Guess what? You can't talk to Canadians. They're off limits. They're forbidden,'" Feferman said. "What happens after seven decades of being off limits from your neighbors is they demonize you, you demonize them."

See **SHARAKA**, page 10



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2024 Rogoway nominations now open

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award, presented by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

Named for the former Federation Executive Vice President, the Rogoway award recognizes an early- or mid-career professional in the Jewish community with at least three years of service in Portland and a commitment to Jewish professional leadership.

“One of the goals of this award is to give recognition and that bit of encouragement that people need to stay in the field,” Rogoway Committee Chair and Federation Board Member Jodi Fried said. “We want to recognize people who have the potential to be in the field off Jewish professional leadership as a long term career.”

Beyond the recognition, the award recipient receives an \$1,800 stipend to fund professional development. Missy Fry, a clinician with Jewish Family & Child Service and the 2022 Rogoway recipient, used her stipend to train in clinical leadership at Smith College as well as studying grant writing to further JFCS’s reach.

“Many Jewish organizations are stretched; we try to do so much with as little funding as possible,” Fried said. “To offer this opportunity to grow and to learn and to meet other Jewish professionals, that can also give the boost that someone might need to stay in the field.”

Other past Rogoway honorees include 2023 winner and Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education Director of Collections and Exhibitions Alisha Babbstein, as well as former Oregon Hillel Executive Director Andy Gitelson, Con-



Alisha Babbstein, center, is recognized at the 2023 Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award recipient at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's annual meeting Tuesday, June 6, 2023. (Jewish Review file photo)

gregation Shaarie Torah Executive Director Jemi Kostiner Mansfield, Federation Chief Financial Officer Ben Winkleblack, former B’nai B’rith Camp Chief Program Officer Ben Charlton, former Portland Kollel Director of Women’s Programming Eve Levy, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Director of Outreach Sonia Marie Leikam and Federation Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations Rachel Nelson.

“It’s such an honor to be able to see everything that is going on in Portland and to get a taste of what all these amazing Jewish professionals are doing in our community,” Fried said of the nominating process. “To play a role in helping to strengthen that and helping to keep the field going and keeping the excitement around Jewish communal work alive

is awesome.”

Fried emphasized that the award committee relies on nominations sent in by community members to keep them up to date on every corner of Portland’s diverse Jewish community.

“We need to hear about all the amazing work that’s going on in the Portland community. It’s up to everybody to nominate the people who have made a difference for them,” she said. “When somebody is nominated for the award, we notify them that they’ve been nominated, so even just the nomination in itself is a big honor for somebody working in this field. It helps them to see that, ‘Oh my gosh, people are actually thinking about me. People do appreciate what I do.’”

Nominations are open through Friday, Mar. 8 at noon. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit jewish-portland.org/rogoway.



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Jewish Federation
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www.jewishportland.org/rogoway

The Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland in recognition of Laurie Rogoway, a pillar of Jewish leadership for over 30 years in Portland.

Solomon lecture to explore attitudes toward Israel

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

“Will Zion be Redeemed by Justice?” the 19th Annual Gus and Libby Solomon Memorial Lecture, will be delivered by David N. Myers at University Place Hotel in Portland Thursday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 pm.

Nearing its second decade, the lecture was inaugurated by Dick Solomon to honor his parents. Judge Gus Solomon served 38 years on the US District Court for Oregon, 13 of those as the district’s Chief Judge. Libby Solomon was instrumental in the founding of the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at Portland State University, which organizes the annual lecture.

“We try to invite speakers who can speak to a broad audience, not just academics who are going to talk about their latest book, but leaders in various ways, whether it’s journalists, rabbis, politicians or thought leaders of some kind,” explained Natan Meir, the Lorry I. Lokey Chair in Judaic Studies at

PSU. “People who will be able to speak to a topic that’s relevant at that particular moment.”

Myers is Distinguished Professor of History and holds the Sady and Ludwig Kahn Chair in Jewish History at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he serves as the director of the Luskin Center for History and Policy. He also directs the UCLA Initiative to Study Hate. Myers’ work examines ideological and generational fault-lines that have emerged in recent decades among Jews in the United States toward Israel. His lecture will assess the impact of Oct. 7 on those divisions and ask whether a new era in American Jewish attitudes toward Israel has begun.

Meir said that, with rising antisemitism on campuses, particularly at PSU, Myers’ topic is a particularly timely subject to examine and an opportunity not only to celebrate Judaic Studies as an academic pursuit, but to connect more broadly.

“I think this is one of our central op-

portunities to connect with the larger community, especially the Jewish community, which is really built into our mission as a Judaic studies program because we were in part established by the local Jewish community,” Meir said. “We feel a sense of responsibility to serve the community in the ways that make sense for a Jewish studies program to do and one of those is providing programs like these.”

The Gus and Libby Solomon Memorial Lecture is presented by the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at Portland State University. Sponsored by Richard B. Solomon and Alyce Flitcraft. Cosponsors include the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, PDX Hillel, PSU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and PSU Department of History.

The lecture is free, though space is limited. For more information or to register, visit pdx.edu/judaic-studies/annual-gus-and-libby-solomon-memorial-lecture-2024.

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dignitygrows
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland
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NextGen Giving Circle launches with Feb. 22 lunch at Federation

The Jewish Review staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Oregon Jewish Community Foundation are excited to announce the launch of the NextGen Giving Circle, a unique pilot project for young adults to engage in collaborative philanthropy and make a positive impact on the community.

The four-session program aims to empower participants to maximize the impact of their charitable contributions, gain insights into giving opportunities and community needs, forge connections with like-minded individuals, enhance leadership skills, and actively participate in volunteerism for meaningful community projects.

Participants will experience the power of collective giving with other community-minded young adults and make a

difference by supporting non-profit organizations addressing issues that matter most to the community.

The circle will meet four times between February and May 2024 for enriching two-hour sessions. The first session will be a hosted lunch on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 11 am-1 pm at the Federation’s office in Tigard. Future meeting dates, times, and locations will be decided by the group.

A suggested minimum donation of \$90 is requested to be a part of this pilot project.

Reserve your spot by Monday, Feb. 12th, to ensure participation by contacting co-facilitator Laura Jeser at lauraj@jewishportland.org or 503-892-7413, of co-facilitator Susan Berniker at susanb@ojcf.org or 503-248-9328.

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NCSY's "The Q" draws packed house

A capacity crowd filled the Mittleman Jewish Community Center ballroom to try their hand at Jewish (and non-Jewish) trivia in NCSY's annual fundraiser dinner and quiz night, "The Q," Saturday, Jan. 27. Contestants worked in teams to answer five rounds of questions, emceed by Portland Kollel Rosh Kollel Rabbi Chanan Spivak. The winning teams, on account of a tie, received commemorative sweatshirts, Israeli-made Sodastreams and, of course, "bragging rights." (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



JNF hosts Valentine's dessert for ADI Negev

The Jewish Review staff

This Valentine's Day, the Jewish National Fund is sharing the love for Israel with a special event.

JNF will host "For the Love of Israel" Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7 pm in Portland, featuring Elie Klein, the development director of ADI Negev.

ADI Negev operates the Nahalat Eran Rehabilitation Village in southern Israel, a singular rehabilitation village for special needs children and their families. Named for the autistic son of founders, Israel Defense Forces Maj. Gen. Doron Almog and his wife, Didi Almog, the campus served more than 300 individuals with all manner of complex medical and developmental challenges.

"What's kind of amazing," explained JNF's Pacific Northwest Director Saul Korin, "is that on Oct. 7, for some unknown reason, the terrorists basically attacked the army base on one side and the kibbutz on the other side but did not attack Adi Negev."

Portland Jewish Academy eighth-grader Sarina Oller is currently working on a capstone project to support ADI Negev and its ongoing work. ADI Negev is also a JNF-affiliated program – Korin explained that supporting special needs populations in Israel is an essential pillar of JNF's work.

Dessert will be served. The event location will be provided upon registration, which is free. To learn more or register, visit events.jnf.org/e/loveilior.

Partnerships benefit Dignity Grows

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Dignity Grows provides menstrual health supplies and other personal hygiene products to those who need them most. But they don't do it alone.

Dignity Grows relies on a network of partner agencies throughout the community that meet those in need where they are throughout the metro area. Current partners include:

- Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, providing affordable, quality health care to individuals in Washington and Yamhill Counties.
- Transition Projects, a Portland non-profit helping homeless people move to permanent, stable housing.
- Divine Threads, which supports traumatized women in the Portland area with a variety of services.
- Self Enhancement, Inc., a youth and family focused social service non-profit in Portland.
- A Safe Place Family Justice Center, supporting those affected by domestic violence in Clackamas County.

"It's valuable for us," Bonnie Newman of Dignity Grows explained. "We're not having to go out and identify who the people are and distribute a thousand totes, somebody's doing that work for us."

At the same time, seeing the work of Dignity Grows' partners firsthand takes the impact of packing supplies into totes out of the abstract and makes it real.

"For me, the relationships that we've forged in going



Shalom Dinberg, left, and Deanna Cohen load supplies into tote bags at Congregation Neveh Shalom during Dignity Grows' packing party Sunday, Aug. 27. A group of over 50 volunteers packed 589 tote bags with menstrual and basic hygiene supplies in under a half hour. The group's next packing event is set for Feb. 25 at the Eastside Jewish Commons. (Jewish Review file photo)

to visit them and seeing their services really helps me understand the impact that we're having," Newman said. "I can feel the impact we're having."

Newman also pointed out that Maimonides' ranks anonymous giving as one of the highest forms of *tzedakah*. (charity)

"That way that recipient doesn't feel obligated to thank you or feel like they owe you anything, because they don't know who you are," Newman said.

The partner agencies are also appreciative of the help. Emily Coleman, Transition Projects Volunteer Program Supervisor, said that Dignity Grows approached Transition Projects just as many of the programs they had worked with through area high schools were evaporating because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It just kind of happened to be this sort of perfect, stars-aligning moment when they reached out," Coleman said, "because we had, for the first time in some years, been struggling to meet the

feminine hygiene needs of our clients."

"It's only gotten better from there," Coleman shared. Not only has Dignity Grows' work enabled Transition Projects to stretch the financial donations they receive even farther, but the Dignity Grows team has, through Transition Projects, connected even more strongly with the work they're doing.

"Several members of the leadership team came in this year to tour our programs and see the people in the programs that their work is impacting," she said. "It's awesome that they're that involved, that they want to understand the ground level, the people that they're supporting."

Dignity Grows next packing party will be Sunday, Feb. 25 from 1:30-3:30 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons in Portland. Registration is required online at jewishportland.org/packingevent.

Cousins relaunch west side Moishe Pod

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

For those who were missing Moishe Pod West PDX after the departure of Owen Broder and Shelly Zeiser last summer, the Pod is back!

Cousins David Stein and Sam Greene have taken over the Pod, located in West Portland, and are already making their mark with monthly Shabbat dinners and more.

“It kind of seemed like it was too good to be true because the timing of when we were considering wanting to do this,” Stein said.

Stein has previously lived at the Moishe House in Southeast Portland. His sister recommended the experience when he came to the area to pursue his career as an arborist. Greene, who was living in Florida, came to visit during that time, getting a taste of the Moishe house experience as well. Stein left after 18 months for an around-the-world travel experience but remained in contact with Greene. When Stein returned to Portland, the opportunity was there for the taking.

We were talking about it and when the opportunity to actually do this together presented itself, we just kind of jumped,” Greene explained.

Stein recently established his own arborist firm, Tranquility Tree Care, while Greene works as a jet engineer with Cyient, where he had been working in Florida.

“When I moved, my company was willing to pay to keep me,” Greene said. “So, I was very fortunate.”

The pair has started their programming with a monthly Shabbat dinner, with support from OneTable. Even with 30 or more attendees, they’ve ensured that everyone is able to sit at a single, large table to foster a sense of connection and give attendees an opportunity to share the highlight of their week, a practice Stein borrows from Shabbat dinners he attended at Chabad on the campus of Western Washington



Cousins and Moishe Pod West PDX co-leaders David Stein, left, and Sam Greene, pictured at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's office in Tigard Thursday, Jan. 11. The two have kicked off their programming with monthly Shabbat dinners and Havdalah services and have more in store. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

University as a student.

“[OneTable’s support] has been huge because food is expensive and when you’re cooking for 30 people, it can add up,” Stein said. “I really don’t know if we would be able to pull off the Shabbat dinners the way we do if it weren’t for OneTable.”

“I think we’ve done a really good job creating that type of environment where people feel open to actually talk about themselves and just be who they are,” Greene said. “I think that sometimes can be hard to find.”

The pair grew up together in Florida until Stein’s family relocated to Spokane, Wash. when he was nine.

“I’d say Judaism has always played a very big role in my life,” Stein said.

Greene experienced a different journey – he became a bar mitzvah in Florida, but a speech impediment that he said made speaking Hebrew “nearly impossible” made him feel alienated from his Jewish heritage. As he’s aged, however, Green has found ways to

reconnect with Judaism and make it a part of his identity.

“I’ve realized the importance of the tradition and culture,” he said, “and I’ve tried to make it more a part of my life.”

The cousins are excited to share this part of their lives with others – at their monthly Shabbats, monthly Havdalah services and other events they’re putting together. They’ve taken over the Pod’s social media accounts – @moishepodwestpdx on Instagram – and have a Google calendar on their website, moishehouse.org/find-a-house/portland-west-pod.

“We are also always looking at other opportunities to connect with the greater community and forms of volunteering to come along,” Stein added. “So if there’s someone out there and they have an organization that is open to taking a group of volunteers, we also would be thrilled if they were to reach out to us and we can work on collaborating down the road.”

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Early Childhood Education Roundup

The Jewish Review staff

Portland's metro area will welcome its seventh Jewish early childhood program with the opening of Congregation Beth Israel's Jennifer Barnum Luria Early Childhood Center next month. While each of the region's preschools offers its own particular program and environment, they all serve as a foundational aspect of a Jewish upbringing.

"Jewish early childhood is so important in guiding children from the youngest ages to incorporate Jewish values such as community, *tzedakah* (charity), kindness, and *tikkun olam*, (repairing the world)," Bailey Brandt, director of CBI's program said. "Jewish early learning provides opportunities for these values to be modeled and taught in ways that become intrinsic for each child."

These benefits go beyond just the students, as Chaya Citron of Portland's The Gan Preschool explained.

"Jewish early childhood experiences are so valuable for

the child and family. For the child, it creates a lifelong joy and love for Judaism and being Jewish," she said. "Our families create a community with like-minded friends and have created lifelong friendships with their children's classmates. Families are included in Jewish holidays, bringing Judaism into their homes."

"One of the things I enjoy seeing is when families bring their young children into our program and re-engage or explore their Jewish identity, customs, values and practices," Erika Saiers of Portland Jewish Academy added.

THE GAN PRESCHOOL

Chaya Citron, Center Director

503-977-7850 | Office@PortlandJewishPreschool.com | PortlandJewishPreschool.com

6612 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland, OR 97239

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Open enrollment as space allows.

ACCREDITATION: Member CECE Preschool Network

COST: Based on schedule. Posted on the school website. Financial aid is available.

AGES: 12 months-5 years old

HOURS: Base hours are 8:30 am-3:30 pm. Extended care is available beginning at 8 am and until 5 pm.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY: Children develop in a loving, nurturing and stimulating setting. We offer a creative, progressive, Jewish environment inspired by the Reggio and Montessori philosophies. We believe that children learn best through teacher-supported play and creative open-ended activities. Children are encouraged to explore their world in a thoughtfully planned setting and in a natural and aesthetically pleasing environment. Children practice skills of collaboration, communication and cooperation. Children are exposed to Hebrew language, music, ballet and yoga.

kindness, compassion, confidence and curiosity.

The children are viewed as competent, unique and creative and are encouraged to be our collaborators. We promote an environment where children can develop not only their thinking and problem-solving skills, but also their emotional awareness and regulation.

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Bailey Brandt, Early Childhood Education Director

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COST: \$1675-2150 per month; Sibling discount available

AGES: 6 Weeks-5 Years. Initial classrooms for infants through age 2; classrooms for older children opening later

HOURS: Monday through Friday, 8 am-5 pm

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY: At the Jennie we are guided by a child-led, and play-based, philosophy. We utilize child observation and teacher reflection to shape curriculum that serves our children as individuals and the class as a whole. Teachers foster secure attachments through responsive caregiving, understanding that optimal learning and growth comes only when children feel safe and secure. Children build foundational academic and life skills through play and interacting with

See **PRESCHOOL**, page 14

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PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY: Our Jewish values drive the curriculum, environment and school culture. We model and encourage

Hebrew teacher training comes to Portland

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Among the many connecting threads through Jewish history is the Hebrew language. Passing that language – and everything that goes with it – along makes Hebrew teachers in Jewish schools an essential link in the chain of the transmission of Jewish culture. Those teachers need professional support and development to stay at the top of their game, and teachers at Portland's day schools recently had that opportunity specially delivered.

Hebrew At The Center, a national nonprofit dedicated to Hebrew language education, hosted a professional development day for Portland Jewish day school Hebrew instructors Tuesday, Dec. 23 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. It's the latest step in Hebrew At The Center's initiative to support Hebrew educators in the Pacific Northwest.

That initiative started three years ago, Hebrew At The Center CEO Rabbi Andrew Ergas explained, as HATC was working to make Hebrew education support available to communities like those in the Pacific Northwest where there's a vibrant interest in Hebrew language education but a geographic isolation from the resources to support that work, much of which are based in the Northeast or in major cities like Chicago or Los Angeles.

"I heard that same concern in Portland and Seattle and in Vancouver (British Columbia), that Hebrew could be stronger, but the teachers needed some help," Rabbi Ergas said. "What if we brought in some of the expertise locally?"

While Hebrew teachers are undoubtedly enthusiastic about their subject matter, few have degrees in Hebrew education or second language acquisition.

Rabbi Ergas explained, "In the same way that I have teeth, but I'm not a dentist, there are many Hebrew teachers who are very passionate but have not yet learned the science, the research, the practice and the tools to maximize the time that's dedicated to Hebrew language learning."

HATC organized a conference for area teachers in October and put on learning days for teachers in Seattle



Hebrew At The Center Senior Educational Consultant Dr. Carmit Burstyn, top left, works with Hebrew teachers from around Portland at a professional development day Tuesday, Jan. 23 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. The program was part of a larger initiative to support day school Hebrew teachers throughout the Pacific Northwest. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

and Vancouver in recent days as well. Portland's day of learning was supported financially by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation.

"The Federation and the Foundation really embraced this idea," Rabbi Ergas said. "We see this as a model that we hope we can bring to other communities where schools working together can both build a community of practice and have the competencies and the tools to be more successful and to strengthen student outcomes."

It's also popular with teachers. Shahar Eden is a Hebrew teacher at Portland Jewish Academy. Like many Hebrew teachers, he is Israeli and a native Hebrew speaker.

"It gives me a little bit of validation that what I do is something that is agreed on by somebody that knows a little bit more about the pedagogy of the things than I do," he said. "It also gives me things that I can take and improve so that I can become a better educator, and my students will become better learners."

"It's very important and positive for us to have time to talk to each other about what we're doing and to meet with people from other schools," added PJA's

Jana Hopfinger. "It was fantastic when we went to Seattle and we were there with people from Seattle and from here and Vancouver, BC. That's very exciting because we're very isolated."

The skills of teaching Hebrew as a second language are very different from teaching Hebrew as a first language in an environment of Hebrew immersion.

"Most of us are coming as Israelis. It's a natural language. To do the switch of teaching to someone who it's not their native language, it's something that we had to learn how to do," PJA Hebrew Teacher Larisa Lerner said. "We need those skills to understand how to do it. That's crucial for us."

Even when the language isn't spoken in everyday life, Hebrew is still an essential connection to Judaism, which is what makes this work so important for both teachers and for people like Rabbi Ergas.

"Humans make meaning out of language. Jews make meaning out of Hebrew," the Rabbi said. "Even as we may have different traditions about what we eat or what we do on Shabbat, Hebrew is something that transcends those ideological and geographic and theological boundaries."

Learn more about HATC's work at hebrewatthecenter.org.



Above: From left, Ahmed Khuzaie, Fatima Al Harbi, Youssef Elazhari, Naveen Elias, and Dan Feferman from Sharaka speak at Congregation Neveh Shalom Monday, Jan. 22, in a panel discussion moderated by Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Director of Community Relations Bob Horenstein. Next page: Elazhari answers an audience question later in the evening. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

SHARAKA (continued from page 1)

Feferman was able to travel to Dubai shortly after normalization, using his American passport to reach the United Arab Emirates before many of his Israeli friends. He found a diversity of thought and opinion on all manner of subjects, something he did not expect after the decades of isolation between Israel and these countries. He made new friends, who invited him to join Sharaka months later.

Feferman explained that while the diplomatic agreements are on paper, the reality of progress toward a harmonious, prosperous region are forged in interpersonal connection.

“The connectivity is the collaborations, the conversations, the energy,” he said. “That’s what inspired me and many of my friends and the people who started Sharaka to join on this crazy journey. Let’s take these peace agreements on paper, let’s make them real and let’s try to popularize that across the region.”

That idea, put simply, is Sharaka’s slogan – “Shaping a new Middle East, together.”

-

Sometimes, the ideas that lead toward those goals come from unexpected sources.

Naveen Elias, the Christian on the panel, is an Aramean Israeli citizen from an Arab community in Northern Israel. She recalls when her child asked a teacher about the sirens he heard outside the school. He didn’t get an answer from the teacher, and Elias didn’t know what it was. Her son did his own research and found the sirens were for the national moment of silence on Yom HaZikaron – Israel’s Memorial Day. The next year, he stood in class when the siren sounded on Yom HaZikaron.

The teacher said, ‘You cannot stand. It’s a bad day for us,’” Elias recalled. “He said, ‘No, I am an Israeli citizen. I will stand.’”

He was thrown out of the school. The incident inspired Elias to take up her own study of the region’s history, both the Jewish people’s historical connection to the land and the massacre of more than 500 Maronite Christian civilians by the Palestinian Liberation Organization in Damour, Lebanon in 1976. At age 39, Elias joined the IDF. Her brother is also serving.

“We are very proud about that.”

-

While Elias got to know Israel better from within, Youssef Elazhari took another path.

Elazhari, a Moroccan, comes from one of the few places in the Arab world that still has a sizable Jewish community. He joked that the primary differentiation between Jews and Muslims in Moroccan society is that you don’t see Jews out on Friday nights – they’re at home observing Shabbat. But he had still absorbed anti-Israeli and antisemitic propaganda from elsewhere in the Middle East.

“A lot of things changed when I went to Israel. I went with a lot of misconceptions,” Elazhari explained. “I think I was hugged in Israel more than I was getting in Morocco. You see the warmth. You see the love. You see how people are very inclusive. I felt like I’m home.”

Like Elias, there were consequences from his embrace of the Jewish state. He had started a company with a colleague who was pro-Hamas and opposed to any engagement with Israel; the co-founder pulled out of the business rather than continue to work with Elazhari.

Still, Elazhari sticks to the wisdom that his parents gave him.

“Whenever you go to a foreign place and you don’t find a Muslim family, go to a Jewish family. At least the food is halal,” he jokingly shared from his parents’ wisdom. “But at the same time, they know that they will take care of me. These are the values I want to share.”

Elazhari continues to work in marketing, and sees cultural exchange as the key to opening relations between Israel and its neighbors.

“I think that cinema is very important, culture in general is very important,” he said. “I can’t recall anyone hating Gal Gadot.”

-

Fatima Al Harbi also had a surprising experience her first time in Israel. She visited from Bahrain shortly after the accords were signed, wearing a black abaya as is traditional

continued on next page

continued from previous page

for Muslim women from Bahrain and other societies around the Persian Gulf. The group of women she was with, all similarly dressed, was stopped in the street by a man who wanted to ask a question. Al Harbi agreed, though she was nervous. The man asked if they were from Bahrain. When they replied they were, he welcomed them.

“We’ve been waiting to have peace with Arabs for a long time,” she recalled the man saying. “I never dreamed that I would be welcomed this way in Israel. I’ve never thought that people would be opening their arms and being so friendly. I was invited to so many Shabbats by strangers the moment they saw me.”

She had been told she might be assaulted if she went to pray at the Al-Asqa mosque – she came and went without incident. The real issues came when she started posting on social media about her experience.

“People started attacking me,” Al Harbi said. “They wanted to silence me, they wanted to hack my account. They didn’t like the narrative that Israel is a beautiful country, and Israelis are amazing.”

Al Harbi was labeled a traitor. One commentator hoped for her plane to crash when she returned. Another told her to take off her abaya, saying she was no longer Muslim.

“Even my mom and my sister back home in Bahrain received so much hate because of my trip,” she said. “I went to Israel with the goal of curiosity. I wanted to meet people and see the country. But I left Israel with a special agenda of advocating for peace. I want to build bridges. I want people to see the reality of the people of Israel.”

Ahmed Khuzaie is a Bahraini political consultant who also got quite the surprise when he visited Israel for the first time.

“I thought I was well versed in my field and what I do,” he explained. “Having lots of Jewish friends, I thought I knew all about Israel. I can’t deny that I was a little bit scared. Just like Fatima mentioned before, they hate us. They don’t like us.”

What surprised Khuzaie on arrival was the street signs. Israeli street signs are all trilingual, printed in Hebrew, English and – to Khuzaie’s surprise – Arabic.

“We were taught that Israel is an apartheid state,” he said. “How would an apartheid state recognize the language

of those people who it cleanses?”

Khuzaie said from the perspective of much of the Arab world, Israel has been “a ghost,” for all 75 years of its modern existence – existing but not existing. The beauty of the Abraham Accords is that they represent a new way of doing things after three-quarters of a century of the old way that didn’t work.

“Wouldn’t it be stupid to try that all over again and expect different results out of that?” he said. “Let’s try it over a Shabbat dinner where the Bahraini could gain five pounds because his friend is a good cook.”

He paused to let the moment of levity sink in, and added, “true story, by the way.”



An Orthodox Jew, a Christian, and three Arabs – but no Palestinians. There’s a reason for that, Al Harbi explained, and it’s not that they aren’t interested in working with Sharaka.

It’s because openly doing so would put their lives in danger. An Israeli Arab from a Palestinian family had his car burnt because he was working with Israelis. An Iraqi activist wanted to work with Sharaka, but the organization had to turn him down because working with Israelis would get an Iraqi killed almost assuredly.

“We have a few Palestinians that work with us, but behind the scenes,” she explained. “We don’t want them to endanger themselves.”

And while the Abraham Accords do not include the Palestinians, the subject of Israel’s relationship with the Palestinian people naturally comes up in discussions of Israel’s diplomacy. It’s been widely conjectured that part of Hamas’ motivation for the attacks of Oct. 7 was to disrupt Israel’s progress toward diplomatic normalization in the broader region.

Feferman lives an hour away from the Gaza border in southern Israel. He put Hamas’ attack in stark terms.

“This is a full-frontal attack on the

modern countries of the region,” he said.

Feferman continued that the success of the Abraham Accords has added diplomatic relations with Israel to the list of criteria that differentiates successful, modern, future-oriented nations in the region from their neighbors; a reality Hamas has a natural interest in disrupting.

“Peace with Israel is the biggest sign that you are a forward-looking country that wants your country to prosper,” Feferman said. “Look at all the countries that have either signed or are looking to sign and look at all the countries that haven’t.”

While Arab communities in some countries – including people in Bahrain, as Al Harbi pointed out – were cheering Hamas’ terrorists on, the tide of public opinion has started to shift. Elazhari said that while there were, and are, Hamas supporters in Morocco, the experience of Oct. 7 was eye-opening for a lot of people in the country.

“It really changed how they see the region,” he said. “What we are used to is that Israel is the bad guy according to the misinformation they have everyday. Right now, we see that Hamas is killing innocent people. That was new to them.”

“I knew immediately at that day, that what will happen next to Palestinians, that innocent people would die because of the acts of Hamas that they did towards Israel,” Al Harbi said. “Three days later, people started crying over the Palestinians.”

She had posted on social media in solidarity with Israel, and “when I shared also that I grieve for the Palestinian innocent life, they called me ‘double standards,’ because they want me to choose a side.”

Media outlets in the Arab world, and elsewhere, have provided a slanted view of events.

“They have portrayed Hamas as the victims,” Khuzaie said. “They have been portraying Israelis as the reason why all that happened. Which makes no sense, but that’s reality.”

“Our effort today is to change that narrative,” he continued. “It’s not easy. It’s just few of us. But it takes a lot of time, lots of courage from these young people here to face their communities. It’s not easy to hear all those slurs or to receive death threats on an almost daily basis. But somebody has to start.”

Find more information online at sharakango.com.

Chaplain's Corner

Too many questions, too few answers

By RABBI BARRY COHEN

Let's talk about Amalek, the prototypical enemy of the Jewish people. We meet his tribe for the first time in this week's Torah portion, *B'shalach*. In this portion, we cross the Sea of Reeds and obtain our first taste of freedom. But then the grumbling begins. The freed slaves and the mixed multitude quickly grow nostalgic of the routine in Egypt, despite how terrible that day-to-day experience must have been. And for the first time, we learn about the importance of Shabbat, a day we are to devote to rest.

And then – the arrival of Amalek. This tribe attacks our rear guard (as described later in Deuteronomy, chapter 25), where we are the weakest. Since that initial attack after our Exodus from Egypt, the Jewish people have repeatedly compared nearly all our enemies to Amalek. With this long historical memory, we can easily call Hamas the modern-day Amalekites for how they attacked vulnerable Israelis on Oct. 7, murdered innocents and carried others into captivity.

And yet, look at how quickly local, national and world opinion has turned against the Israelis. In the eyes of too many people, the Israelis have become Amalekites. The oppressed has become the oppressor – even to the extent of charges of genocide against the Palestinians.

How can we wrap our minds around such accusations? For me, this does not compute. The world has turned upside down. I continue to be shocked and dismayed that too many people around the world are not comfortable when Jews (in this case Israelis) at last have power and decide to use it. Granted, we can discuss the nature or to what extent Israel needs to use its power ... but equating current military actions to genocide? That's going too far.

Let's return to how the Jewish people have viewed the Amalekites through the centuries. Since they were our first enemy after liberation from Egyptian slavery, they are stamped in our collective memory as the prototype of those who want to destroy us. For example, in the story of Purim, Haman, who wanted to exterminate the Persian Jews, is described as a descendant of Agag, king of Amalek. The story of Purim is most likely pure fiction. Documented as sinister, cold-hearted fact are the horrific events of the Holocaust. For this reason, we view the Nazis and their perpetrators as modern-day Amalekites.



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

The Rabbis teach that through the centuries, Amalek's attacks against the Jewish people have inspired others to attack us. Part of their evil is how those committed to our destruction are talented at drawing others into their fight. For this reason, not only Israel but the Jewish people collectively must be vigilant about how isolated incidents and localized conflicts can spiral out of control.

These ancient lessons are still true today. Locally, isolated incidents of Jewish students being bullied can easily inspire others to do the same. Regionally, Hamas' Oct. 7 attack has already inspired other terrorist groups and nations to attack Israel and Americans stationed in the region. A grave concern is whether on multiple levels this violence will intensify and spread.

During these challenging and emotionally draining days, I am filled with more questions than answers. How can we best respond to charges that we are no better than the Amalekites and that Israel is the real oppressor? How will this continue to affect our youth in school? How do we best prepare ourselves for the repercussions when we take a stand to defend Israel? At the same time, what about those who fervently believe that Israel's response has been effective enough and that her leaders should devote their energies to negotiations to free those still held hostage? Are the families and friends of the hostages receiving the support they deserve, considering how much they are suffering day after day? In many ways, we continue to swim in a sea of gray, tossed and turned by nuance, subtlety and context. How are we doing emotionally? Are we becoming numb out of necessity for self-protection? Or do we continue to feel low level anger, frustration and powerlessness?

As we struggle with these questions, let us all continue to turn to each other for a listening ear, for support, for hope and for love.

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NEXT ISSUES

Issue date Deadline

FEB 14 FEB 8

FEB 28 FEB 22

MAR 13 MAR 7

EJC screens 'Breaking the News'

Eastside Jewish Commons

"Breaking the News," the acclaimed documentary from PBS Independent Lens, will screen Thursday, Feb. 15 at 7 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons.

Who decides which stories get told? A scrappy group of women and LGBTQ+ journalists buck the white, male-dominated status quo, banding together to launch *The 19th**, a digital news startup aiming to combat misinformation. A story of an America in flux, and the voices often left out of the narrative, the documentary "Breaking the News" shows change doesn't come easy.

A post-screening panel discussion will feature Oregon Public Broadcasting reporters Jenn Chavez, Anna Griffin and Alex Zielinski.

This screening is made possible with the support of the Regional Arts + Culture Council, ITVS and SE Uplift

Indie Lens Pop-Up is a community series that brings people together for film screenings and conversations. Featuring documentaries seen on PBS's Independent Lens, Indie Lens Pop-Up draws local residents, leaders, and organizations to discuss what matters most.

More information available online at ejcpdx.org/events.

OJCF opens scholarship applications, extends Community Endowment Fund proposal deadline to Mar. 1

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation is pleased to offer scholarships for the pursuit of formal education and Jewish overnight camps. Eligible applicants must be Jewish residents of Oregon (some programs open to residents of Southwest Washington) and demonstrate financial need. Applicants for college scholarships must also demonstrate merit.

The Albert J. Kailes Memorial Scholarship offers need-based support for Oregon youth and teens to attend Jewish overnight camps in the United States.

The Julie Diamond Memorial Scholarship honors an extraordinary leader who guided OJCF and our community for nearly 20 years with great passion and uncompromised integrity. The scholarship benefits academic and vocational post-secondary education students from Oregon and SW Washington. Preference is given to applicants with a connection to OJCF or the Jewish community.

The Rebecca and Sada Tarshis Memorial Scholarship was established in 2002 through a legacy gift from the Tarshis sisters to provide tuition assistance to Jewish students for higher education at accredited colleges, universities, and graduate schools.

The Gus and Lola Rosenblatt Memorial Scholarship was created through the estate of Lola Rosenblatt. Scholarships are available to males from Oregon attending school within Oregon.

The Lester & Annette Goldschmidt Hillel Scholarship was established by the Goldschmidts' children. To be eligible for one of these two \$1,800 scholarships, a student must be a Jewish resident of Oregon, attend the University of Oregon, and demonstrate both financial need and merit.

The Arthur P. Krichevsky Memorial Scholarship was established through a bequest from Mr. Krichevsky for the benefit of students pursuing post-high school Jewish education through qualified programs at ac-

credited educational institutions in the United States, including rabbinical schools. Yeshiva programs are not eligible. The fund in Mr. Krichevsky's name also supports the Oregon Board of Rabbis' Teen Israel Experience scholarships. These scholarships are available to teens actively engaged in synagogue-based Hebrew High programs. Interested students should speak directly to their rabbi. Additionally, this fund provides scholarship support directly to day schools for the benefit of students in grades 1 – 8.

The Michael Simon Scholarship Fund supports academic or vocational post-secondary education at accredited institutions and supports children to attend Jewish overnight camps in Oregon and SW Washington.

The Jerome M. Reich Memorial Scholarship Fund supports undergraduate and graduate Jewish education at accredited institutions, including rabbinical

See OJCF, page 14

Feldman to visit Jewish Oasis Feb. 12

The Jewish Oasis

The Jewish Oasis presents "Connecting to the Power of your Jewish Soul through Somatic Healing" an event for women Monday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 pm at the Jewish Oasis in Downtown Portland.

A humorous, entertaining & inspiring evening for women, as we unleash the power of our Unleash souls through somatic healing. The theme of the workshop is how Somatic Healing is expressed in the 3 most important mitzvahs of women: challah, candle lighting and mikvah.

Miriam Racquel Feldman is a Somatic Healer, Marriage Coach, Anxiety & Trauma Specialist and Award-Winning Author. She empowers women to trust the wisdom of their bodies and intuition to achieve amazing results for their health, relationships and careers. Emotional/physical pain relief, trauma and anxiety release, marriage repair, dating help, Borderline/Narcissist relationship detox, and career clarity are done over the phone to achieve permanent life-changing shifts. Her Award-Winning memoir, "God Said What?!" #MyOrthodoxLife" was a #1 New Release in Kabbalah & Mysticism and a #1 Best Seller in Women & Judaism. Visit MiriamRacquel.com and YourMarriageMagic.com.

Food and wine will be offered. RSVP online at JewishOasis.com/women

rss.com/podcasts/jewishreviewpdx

OJCF

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schools. Yeshiva programs are not eligible. This fund also supports children to attend Jewish overnight camps.

Applications are due by March 29, 2024. Details are available <https://ojcf.org/grants-and-scholarships/receive-a-scholarship>

OJCF has extended the deadline for Community Endowment Fund requests for proposals through March 1, 2024. With CEF grants, OJCF intends to seed innovative and collaborative organizations and programs in Oregon and SW Washington that remove or lower one or more of the four main barriers to Jewish participation identified in the community study commissioned by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland: programming, geography, cost, and “feeling Jewish enough.” For more information or questions please contact Noah Rosenberg, Director of Community Relations and Operations, noahr@ojcf.org, (503) 248-9328.

Now in its 21st year, the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation is a teen-led organization that empowers high school students to take action that aligns with their Jewish values through fundraising and granting money to Jewish and secular nonprofit organizations.

Qualified applicants include Jewish and general nonprofit organizations in Oregon or Southwest Washington. OJCF's request for proposals closes February 20, 2024. For more information or questions please contact Susan Berniker, Collaborative Giving Director, susanb@ojcf.org, (503) 248-9328.

PRESCHOOL

their environment. Art and creativity are a daily practice, and the children have opportunities to create their own art and explore external creations. We strive to bring together the best practices in many developmental and educational philosophies, including the teachings of Maria Montessori, the principles of RIE - developed by Magda Gerber, and the warm nurturing environments found in Waldorf and Reggio Emilia programs.

MAAYAN TORAH DAY SCHOOL

Angela Singrey, ECE Director

971-335-4914 | asingrey@maayanpdx.org | maayanpdx.org

2 Touchstone Dr., Lake Oswego, OR 97035

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR FALL: June 1, 2023

A licensed child-care facility

COST: \$1,300-1,600 a month varying by age

AGES: 12 months-5 years

HOURS: 8:30 am-3:30 pm; Extended care options available

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY: Maayan Early Childhood Program offers a nurturing and stimulating environment where students learn through explorative play, social experiences and hands-on learning, providing students with a comprehensive and joyful Jewish experience.

Every child deserves a warm and nurturing atmosphere that fosters curiosity, social/emotional well-being and a love for learning. Children are natural scientists eager to learn about the world and experiment. Every child can succeed when given ample opportunities

(continued from page 11)

to explore and learn.

MAIMONIDES JEWISH PRESCHOOL

Mushka Wilhelm, Director
971-302-9395 | mwilhelm@portlandjewish-school.com | www.portlandjewishschool.com

4635 NE 9th Ave., Portland, OR 97211

COST: \$1,310 per month. Financial aid is available.

AGES: 18 months-5 years

HOURS: 8:30 am-3:40 pm; Extended care available upon request

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY: Maimonides Jewish Preschool is a warm and joyful space where children develop in a warm, loving, nurturing and Jewish environment. We are a mix of Reggio/Montessori infused with Judaism. We provide experiential and intentional learning that encourages the children to explore and express themselves through art, music, movement, drawing, natural materials and play. Our staff and teachers are warm and nurturing.

NEVEH SHALOM FOUNDATION SCHOOL

Cory Willson, Director | 503-293-7302 | foundationschoolpdx.org

2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland, OR 97239

Registration for new families opens Feb. 1, 2024

COST: Please inquire for more information; financial aid is available;

AGES: 12 months to 5 years

HOURS: 8 am-5 pm

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY: We value play as a child's natural way of learning and view each child as a competent, unique learner. Our qualified and experienced

staff encourages the growth of the whole child – intellectual, social, emotional, physical and spiritual. We encourage the development of each child's creativity, curiosity and character through respectful and age-appropriate practices alongside an emergent curriculum that is inspired by the Reggio Emilia educational philosophy. We pride ourselves on building a strong and connected community.

PORTLAND JEWISH ACADEMY

Erika Saiers, Director of Early Childhood Education
503-535-3536 | esaiers@pjaproud.org | www.pjaproud.org

6651 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Open Enrollment year round

ACCREDITATION: NWAIS

COST: \$740-2278 per month; Financial aid is available

AGES: 6 weeks-6 years

HOURS: 8:00 am-5:00 pm

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY: We believe that children learn best through meaningful play, exploration and an inquiry-based approach to learning. Our child-centered program integrates social and emotional development, cognitive skills, language and literacy, mathematical and scientific exploration, Hebrew language and Jewish life, art and music, and fine and gross motor development. Children are viewed as thinkers, reflecting on their world, and as empathetic individuals who care for, engage with their peers, and contribute to the community.

Events

More upcoming community events online at jewishportland.org/community-calendar

Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, events calendar listings have been condensed. More information about these events is available through the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's online Community Calendar at jewishportland.org/community-calendar. Have an event you want to see here? Submit it to our calendar listings and JFGP's Community Calendar in one easy step at jewishportland.org/community-calendar/submit.

Jan. 31: The Mainstreaming of Antisemitism in America

Presentation by JFGP's Bob Horenstein at Congregation Neveh Shalom Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 2 pm. RSVP at members.nevehshalom.org/event/WJBH24.

Jan. 31: Israel360 presents "One Woman, Two Wars"

Ana Sazonov presents on discovering her Ukrainian Jewish identity, making *aliyah* and responding to conflict in her birth and adoptive countries at Congregation Neveh Shalom Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 7 pm. Register at members.nevehshalom.org/event/I360AnaS.

Life cycle

Submit births, b'nai mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and landmark birthdays to The Jewish Review's new online portal at form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-life-cycle

Feb. 1: Cafe Shalom Israeli Folk Dancing

Weekly open Israeli dance session Thursdays, 8-10 pm at CHCC, 8936 SW 17th Ave in Portland. All experience levels and ages welcome. \$7. For more information, contact Allison Victor at al-lisuev@gmail.com.

Feb. 2: Monthly Sephardic Community Shabbat Dinner

Kabbalat Shabbat service and Sephardic dinner on the First Friday of each month at 6:30 pm at Congregation Ahavath Achim. \$20 per person, family rates and financial assistance available. For more information, email info@ahavathachim.com.

Feb. 3: CBI Mini Mensches Tot Shabbat

Children's Shabbat program at Congregation Beth Israel for children age 0-5 and families Saturday, Feb. 3 at 9 am. For more information, visit bethisrael-pdx.org/community/mini-mensches.

Feb. 3: PJC Party of 8

Young adult small group dinner hosted by Portland Jewish Connection Saturday, Feb. 3 at 7 pm. Location revealed upon registration. Register at forms.gle/vX-mZFPZSc5hXfCAU6.

Feb. 4: Israeli Folk Dance at SWCC

Beginner's class and open dancing at the Southwest Community Center each Sunday through Feb. 11. Class from 1:30-2:30 pm, open dancing from 2:30 to 4 pm. \$6, \$5 seniors. For more details visit sites.google.com/site/pifdnews.

Feb. 4: Paint Your Own Judaica

Learn about and paint your own Jewish ritual objects with Congregation P'nai Or Sunday, Feb. 4, from 3-5 pm at pottery painting studio Butterfly Effect, 7829 SW Capitol Hwy. For more information, email admin@pnaiorpdx.org.

Feb. 6: Yoga for Renewal with Sido Sirkus

Gentle yoga class Tuesdays, 10-11 am at the Eastside Jewish Commons. Appropriate for beginners and seasoned yogis. \$10. For more information or to register, visit ejcpdx.org/events.

Feb. 8: Tuning in to Nature's Conversation

Second of a three-part class with Rabbi Devin Villareal hosted by Co/Lab at the Eastside Jewish Commons Thursday, Feb. 8 at 6:30 pm.

Clergy Corner

In addition to the Chaplain's Corner, *The Jewish Review* offers space for the community's professional clergy to share their thoughts on the week's parsha or current events. Rabbis are invited to schedule a date to submit a 500- to 600-word piece. For more information or to request a date, email editor@jewishportland.org.

For more information or to register, visit colabpdx.org.

Feb. 10: The Jennie Open House

Open House for new Jewish preschool at Congregation Beth Israel Saturday, Feb. 10 from 2-5 pm. For more information or to RSVP, email the-jennie@bethisrael-pdx.org.

Feb. 11: Super Bowl Sunday at EJC

Free, family-friendly Super Bowl watch party at Eastside Jewish Commons Sunday, Feb. 11 from 3-8 pm. Pre-registration requested at ejcpdx.org/events.

Feb. 14: For the Love of Israel

Jewish National Fund event to support ADI Negev Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7 pm. See story, page 6.

Feb. 15: Will Zion Be Redeemed by Justice?

Annual Solomon Memorial Lecture at University Place Hotel Thursday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 pm. See story, page 4.

Feb. 15: Breaking The News

Documentary film screening and panel discussion at 7 pm Thursday, Feb. 15 at Eastside Jewish Commons. See story, page 13.

Jobs Board

See the latest Jewish jobs at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs

GARY TEASDALE

Kehillah Shir Tikvah mourns the death of our beloved member Gary Teasdale, z"l, beloved husband of Nehama Bennet-Teasdale, grandfather of Shir Tikvah community members Chason, Aurora, Eowyn, Karys and Renly, and father and grandfather to many others.

Tzedakah in Gary's memory can be sent to Congregation Shir Tikvah.

RAY DANIEL

With great sadness, Congregation Ahavath Achim announces the passing of Ray Daniel, z"l, father of Pamela (Ronald) Sidis and Sharon, Linda and Theresa. He is survived by five grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. He passed away Friday, Jan. 12.

MARLENE RUDEN

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Marlene Diane Ruden, who passed away on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024.

Marlene is survived by her husband, Edward Ruden, son Seth Ruden, daughter Lila Klein, daughter-in-law Jennifer Ruden, and grandchildren Eliana Ruden, Will Ruden, Elijah Klein, and Shayna Klein.

DONALD EPSTEIN

With great sadness, Chabad Southwest Portland announces the passing of Dr. Donald Epstein, z"l, Tuesday, Jan. 16.

The funeral was held Monday, Jan. 22, at Riverview Cemetery.

For nearly four decades Dr. Epstein took a leadership role in the development of Chabad and in particular its shul. He chaired the committee to purchase Chabad's first Torah, led the *brachos* at the morning service and led by example through contributing towards every phase of development.

JANET MENASHE

With great sadness, Congregation Ahavath Achim, Congregation Neveh Shalom and Jewish Family & Child Service announce the passing of Janet Menashe, z"l. She is lovingly remembered by her husband Jerome Menashe, her daughter Erika Menashe, and her siblings Diane (John Baringer) Lefkowitz, Michael Lefkowitz, Joe (Joanne) Menashe, and Denise Menashe. She passed suddenly on Sunday, Jan. 21.

Janet worked for JFCS as a tireless disabilities advocate, joining the staff in 2015, serving the community until 2022. Janet continued to keep in touch with former clients – and them with her – after her retirement. She found her way into this work primarily because of her wonderful daughter, Erika. Janet once shared with a colleague in an interview, "I love my daughter so much, and she's my passion to do this work."

Janet never said no to a client, providing them with crucial counsel on complex topics like Social Security benefits, as well as driving them to and from events and appointments; running errands for them; and taking calls at all hours, to offer support and sometimes just a supportive ear.

A mother of a JFCS client with disabilities once shared: "Janet was such a wealth of information, she had a broad-based knowledge of disability rights. Most of all she answered many of my questions clearly and that helped me to

lower my stress about these issues. She did an excellent job and let me know I could call her any time. I really appreciate Janet and the job that she did to help me with my child's disability issues. She is an invaluable resource. I feel so fortunate to have her guidance."

ALAN TEMPLER

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Alan Templer, z"l, who passed away Saturday, Jan. 20, at the age of 79.

Alan is survived by his Wife Lea, Daughters Barbra (Adam) and Pam (Mike), Grandchildren Hannah, Abigail, Theodor, Audrey and Isabel, Sister Bev (Jerry).

Donations in Alan's memory can be made to NA'AMAT USA or the Alzheimer's Association.

VERN BECK

Congregation Neveh Shalom is sorry to announce the passing of Vern Beck, z"l, on Monday, Jan. 22. He is lovingly remembered by his children Laura (Rabbi David) Kosak, and Eric (Trish) Beck, and grandchildren Shayah and Amitai Kosak, and Maddox and Dane Beck.

FRIEDA COHEN

It is with deep sadness that Congregation Shaarie Torah announces the passing of Frieda Gass Cohen, z"l, Beloved mother of Richard (Ellen) Cohen and Susan Branch. Frieda died Wednesday, Jan. 24. She was 103 years old.

She is survived by her children, Rick (Ellen) Cohen and Susan Branch; grandchildren Jason (Tara) Altman, Anthony Altman, Joseph Altman, Michael Altman, Rebecca Berman and Anissa Cohen; great-grandchildren Lio Aguilera, Zachary (Zoe) Altman and Lauren Altman; and great-great-grandson Jackson Altman. She was predeceased by husband Benjamin Cohen, z"l.

The funeral was held Sunday, Jan. 28, at Shaarie Torah Cemetery

Donations in Frieda's memory may be made to the Shaarie Torah General Fund. It would also be very meaningful to order extra Hamentaschen this year to honor her untiring dedication to CST Sisterhood's annual project.

Burial Societies

Portland has two holy societies of volunteers who prepare the deceased for burial according to Jewish tradition: Chevra Kavod haMet and the Portland Hevra Kaddisha.

For questions about end of life, death and mourning, email chevrakavodhamet@gmail.com, visit ChevraKavodHaMet.org, or contact Michael Rosenberg at the Portland Hevra Kaddisha at michael@cashcolan.com or 503-519-2454.



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