

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

Feb. 16, 2022 / Adar 15, 5782 Volume 57, Issue 4



After overnight camps were canceled due to Covid in 2020, campers sported "We're Back" shirts at the 2021 Sephardic Adventure Camp.

Summer camp offers antidote to pandemic stress

BY DEBORAH MOON

For generations, children attending summer camp have discovered new passions, developed skills, gained confidence and created lifelong friendships. But camp has taken on an even more vital role in the lives of youth struggling under the weight of a two-year global pandemic.

"The pandemic has affected our children's view of the world, their relationships and how they navigate in their daily lives," says B'nai B'rith Camp Director Bette Amir-Brownstein.

Camp Keshet Director Meira Spivak adds, "Kids are in dire need of socialization in a safe and fun environment, and sleepaway camp is a great way to provide that."

"Last summer, camp was the antidote for kids to come out of the pandemic," says Camp Solomon Schechter Executive Director Zach Duitch, who adds that this summer will be just as crucial.

Sephardic Adventure Camp Marketing Manager Beth Jacoby says, "There has been no shortage of restrictions for kids ... restrictions that have cut into face-to-face social time."

See CAMPS' GIFTS, page 5

Portland's new security director an FBI veteran

BY DEBORAH MOON

Jessica Anderson, a 24-year-veteran of the FBI, is ready to be as effective as possible on day one when she becomes the Portland-area Director of Community Security on Feb. 21. She succeeds Gene Moss, who is moving into an expanded regional role with SCN, the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America.

Along with her law enforcement experience and connections, she has a deep connection with Portland, where she has lived since 2008, and with Jewish culture. When she retired from the FBI Feb. 8, she began attending trainings led by Moss and SCN nationally "to get a sneak peek at what people are receiving and to be a step ahead on the resources SCN can provide."

"This feels like the perfect continuation of the work I have been doing," she says, noting that for the past nine years, she has served as the Supervisory Special Agent, International Terrorism, FBI Portland. "In that position, I focused on incident response, community engagement, and education and mentorship."

Her efforts to get to know the people in and engage with the Muslim community "so they'd know what we (FBI) do and why we do it," led to her receiving the Friends of MET Award, in recognition of liaison with the Muslim Educational Trust, Tigard, in December 2019.

Her connection to Jewish culture and traditions are even deeper. The daughter of a Jewish mom and Methodist dad, she was raised Unitarian, but at home the family kept Jewish traditions and cultural activities. She calls Passover her favorite Jewish holiday.

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Healing a rift

BY DEBORAH MOON

Black-Jewish relations have frayed in the decades since the two communities marched arm-in-arm for civil rights. In honor of Black History Month, following is a brief look at some of the local efforts to heal that rift.

"This historic relationship through the Civil Rights Movement has lost its way a bit," says Beth Israel Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana. Cahana's father was a Houston rabbi deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement, and Rabbi Cahana has sought to continue that work here in Portland.

"Cross culturally, there are always divisions, breaches in relationships," says Pastor Emmet Wheatfall, who participated in a Black-Jewish dialogue group that has stayed in touch over the years. "Dialogue enables us to put stuff on the table and look at and discuss it, and, in the words of Stephen Covey, 'seek first to understand then to be understood.'"

During the BLM protests over the past two years, many members of the Jewish community, including rabbis, have joined the marches to call for racial justice.

"When dialogue happens, people become advocates," says the pastor. "We can become defenders of what is true."

Pastor Wheatfall has developed many close friendships with Jewish people, which have resulted in understanding and joint programming. His close friendship with Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Community Relations Director Bob Horenstein inspired the creation of United in Spirit. Originally a project of the JCRC, NAACP and Dialogues Unlimited, the group has expanded into a broad-based faith and cultural coalition, though the current NAACP leadership has not continued to participate.

"Recently, we have been meeting with the NAACP President to reset the relationship with the new leadership," says Horenstein. "It's been an opportunity to understand what our organizations work on and where

common ground might be."

Last year, United in Spirit hosted a series of webinars on the history of discrimination in Oregon, beginning with an exploration of anti-Black racism. The series culminated in a daylong virtual summit titled "Community Call to Confront Hate."

In April, local African-American and Jewish leaders will participate in an eye-opening Civil Rights Mission to Georgia and Alabama. The trip has been organized by JFGP and two mostly African-American churches, with about half of the 42 participants coming from each community, and with at least two Jews of Color who are part of both communities.

"We've had a series of Black-Jewish dialogue groups over the years, and we hope this trip will lead to another round of dialogues," says Horenstein.

Rabbi Cahana, who is also a member of the JCRC, adds that Jews are not immune to being racists, and Blacks are not immune to anti-Semitism. "The more we know about each other and have relationships and dialogue, the less these kinds of prejudices can exist."

When Rabbi Cahana moved to Portland 16 years ago, Pastor Matt Hennessee invited him to continue the longstanding participation of Rabbi Emanuel Rose, z"l, at the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, a historically African-American congregation. The relationship now includes an annual Martin Luther King Shabbat held at Congregation Beth Israel on the shabbat before MLK Day. The shabbat includes music from the Beth Israel choir and the NW Freedom Singers, a subset of a gospel choir that CBI congregant Ron Silver has sung in for many years. Silver and Cantor Ida Rae Cahana have worked together to "play a bit with the lyrics to make them appropriate to sing in synagogue but still really authentic gospel music."

"They lean into the common themes of redemption and moving from slavery to freedom and joyful appreciation,"



The Reverend Dr. Gerald Durley and Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana stand on the bimah during Congregation Beth Israel's 15th annual MLK Shabbat Jan. 14, which had to be switched to virtual as Omicron was surging. Rev. Dr. Durley spoke live via Zoom in Beth Israel's empty sanctuary. This year's music included videos of the gospel and Beth Israel choirs from previous years as well as several new songs the choirs recorded.

Black History Month videos & webinar

Jewish Federations of North America teamed up with OpenDor Media for Black History Month to create a four-part video series on the (up and down) relations and intersection between the Black and Jewish communities.

A Feb. 28 webinar will reflect on what this month means for the greater Jewish community. It will feature members of Congress, the creators of the series and Jewish communal leaders.

To see the videos or register for the webinar, visit jewishtgether.org/racialjustice.

says Rabbi Cahana.

In addition to its annual MLK Shabbat, Beth Israel has hosted a series of programs including a series on How to be an Antiracist. The Mittleman Jewish Community Center and the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education also have hosted programs based on the book *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

The OJMCHE also featured panels from one of its core exhibits in its ground floor expansion of windows during the pandemic closures and BLM protests. Museum Director Judy Margles says they chose the panels from the core exhibition, Discrimination and Resistance, An Oregon Primer, "as part of our contribution to the

conversation about racial injustice that has gripped Portland and the nation."

The six panels – Exclude, Persist, Dehumanize, Protest, Segregate and Create – explored the Tools of Discrimination and the Tools of Resistance.

"Blacks and Jews have to understand the ways we stand together against white supremacy," says Rabbi Cahana. "The ways we experience hatred are different, but we do have a commonality of white supremacists seeing us – Blacks, Jews, People of Color – as different."

"We all have to learn our histories, and we all have to work for a more free society where people are judged individually, not by ethnicity or racial stereotypes," concludes the rabbi.

Henk Pander, The Artist as Eyewitness to History

The Menashe Gallery at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education exhibition features four large-scale works painted by artist Henk Pander in response to Portland's 2020 protests for racial justice.

The police killing of George Floyd in May 2020 shocked many citizens in Portland – and around the country – into a long-delayed reckoning for equal justice under the law. In some respects, such an uprising had not been seen since the 1960s. When the neighborhood around the Justice Center in Portland became the site of intense demonstrations, it was no surprise to those who know his art that Henk Pander turned his artistic vision to this historic place and time.

Pander is no novice to making politically inspired paintings. His long career includes paintings depicting his childhood memories of Nazi-occupied Amsterdam; the fate of Europe's Jews; the Vietnam War; and Sept. 11,

2001. It also includes events in Oregon such as the 1948 Vanport flood and the 1999 sinking of the New Carissa, the freighter that grounded spilling oil in Coos Bay. Throughout his work, Pander has engaged the social world around him with a rare and remarkably moving moral passion.

Pander was born in 1937 in Haarlem, the Netherlands. His father was an artist who specialized in Bible illustrations. Pander studied at the Rijksacademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam. Pander exemplifies the best of representational realism – not surprising for an artist trained in the classical Dutch traditions of Rembrandt and Vermeer. He is also, as an American, an immigrant and product of the 1960s, a universalist. His art exemplifies the power of visual art to express human experience and emotion, a position appropriate for an artist who understands himself as a history painter even as he magnifies and heightens historical reality through the prism



One of four large-scale works painted by artist Henk Pander in response to Portland's 2020 protests for racial justice. The four paintings are on display at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education through May 15. ojmche.org

of his imaginative vision.

Pander takes nothing for granted. He keeps images alive in his mind's eye, polishing and refining their precision, producing a tableau of moments

almost too painful to take in. Henk Pander fulfills the duty of the artist to remind us, in the most vivid and sometimes disturbing ways, of the pressing issues in our world today.

Deadlines



Feb. 20: Young adults invited to apply for PDX Pathways

Applications are now being accepted for the sixth cohort of PDX Pathways, a mentoring and leadership program for Jewish young professionals ages 21 through 35(ish).

PDX Pathways is a project of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. It provides young adults with networking opportunities, exposure to meaningful Jewish experiences, and mentoring from prominent community and business leaders. Recognizing the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, this cohort will focus on community building within our group and engage in

small groups with mentors.

Applications are due by Feb. 20. Visit jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/young-adults/pdx-pathways for details and link to application. Interviews will take place in March. Sessions begin in April.

For details, contact facilitator Sonia Marie Leikam: soniamarie@jewishportland.org.

March 4: Rogoway Outstanding Professional nominations due

Nominations for the Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional award are due by noon, March 4. Created by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the annual award recognizes a current Jewish communal professional in Greater Portland. It is named in honor of Laurie Rogoway and her stellar 30+ year career in the local Jewish community.

Beyond the recognition, the award rewards the winning professional with up to \$1,800 to subsidize professional development.

Past honorees are Andy Gitelson, Jemi Kostiner Mansfield, Ben Winkleblack, Ben Charlton, Eve Levy, Sonia Marie Leikam and Rachel Nelson.

To nominate a Jewish professional, visit jewishportland.org/rogoway.

March 4: Celebrate Shabbat Across America at Home

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland will participate in the national Shabbat Across America at Home sponsored nationally by National Jewish Outreach Project March 4.

"Early in the pandemic, Federation hosted a number of well-received virtual shabbat candle lightings and a havdalah to both begin and end shabbat as community from our homes," says JFGP Director of Community Planning and Allocations Caron Blau Rothstein. "It was powerful and meaningful. The date NJOP has designated for this year's shabbat is nearly two years since the original lockdowns for Covid. It's a moment to mark ... once again as community."

The Greater Portland and Oregon Jewish community is invited to join a brief candle lighting on Zoom led by Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen to kick off at-home shabbat observance.

For more information on the national celebration, visit njop.org/shabbat/saa/.

Register at tinyurl.com/54aw3rsv.



"Nothing About Us Without Us"

BY JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

Sarit Cahana described herself as "passively disabled" until her junior year in a public high school. She had an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) until her academic success in school led administrators to determine she didn't need it anymore. Hard of hearing, Sarit had accommodations like priority seating at the front of the class removed; such an accommodation had allowed her to hear classroom lessons, fellow students and instructions.

She began "attending" classes sitting in the back, unable to hear clearly enough to understand lessons and conversations around her.

Journal in hand, she opened it and began writing, creating a proposal enumerating what the school should do differently to integrate her and students like her – and those with other disabilities – into the classroom.

She presented her thinking and her work to a school vice principal.

"She gave me a pat on the back and sent me on my way," Sarit, now 23, says. "That was the beginning of my advocacy work, and I've done it since then."

Sarit and Kiel JFCS Panel on Understanding Disability: Top, Shayna Sigman, left, and Sarit Cahana; and bottom, Kiel Moses.

shared their stories on a Zoom-based panel for Jewish professionals as part of national Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Acceptance and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). Jewish Family & Child Service and JPro PDX convened the panel, "Understanding Jewish Disabled Experiences," as an opportunity to raise awareness and learn about and from the lived experience of two members of our Jewish disabled community. JDAIM was established in February 2009 by the Jewish Special Education International Consortium.

Shayna Sigman, MSW, CSWA, manager of JFCS' Disability Support Services program, moderated the panel that included Q&A from the two dozen participants.

Sarit, who identifies as disabled, is JFCS's DSS administrator and is pursuing a master's in disability studies through City University of New York. She has served as an access consultant for organizations such as the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education and created all of the visual descriptions for an ongoing Washington, D.C.-based exhibit called FUTURES, mounted in a Smithsonian Museum called the Arts + Industries Building.

Kiel, 44, who identifies as an "empowered person with disabilities," is a disabilities advocate, activist, academic (with various master's

Disability Support Services at JFCS

Jewish Family & Child Service's Disability Support Services program provides advocacy, education, programming and resources in February and every month.

For more information, visit jfcs-portland.org/services/disability-support-services/ or contact Shayna Sigman: ssigman@jfcs-portland.org or 503-226-7079.

degrees) and also a first-degree black belt in two forms of martial arts. He founded Disability Leadership Academy, created its curriculum and tutors students.

Throughout the panel's hour, co-presenters Sarit and Kiel shared experiences from their past and today. They discussed how individuals and organizations can become

aware, change and improve themselves and their practices so people with disabilities always are integrated into school, work and society.

Both Sarit and Kiel emphasized the slogan "[Nothing About Us Without Us](#)," meaning that policies should only be decided with

the full and direct participation of members of the disabled community, estimated to be 10% of the general population. That means that here in Portland, home to roughly 35,000 Jews, it's likely that some 3,500 of those individuals have a disability of some kind.

Too often, being disabled equals being isolated. "I want people to understand that this community feels so left out, left behind, unconsidered," says Sarit.

Kiel, who has a number of disabilities including physical and visual disabilities, says that even an invitation to a group event is fraught. He must call the venue ahead. Is the lighting dim? If yes, Kiel can't attend. Is it accessible only via a narrow, poorly lit staircase? If yes, again, Kiel is out.

Often accommodations are made on a one-off basis, forcing disabled people to make their request again and again. It's exhausting, insulting and unnecessary.

Acknowledge us, Kiel says.

Put us on your boards, in leadership positions, on your staff and pay us equitably, Sarit says.

"Plan accessibility from the start, so it's not an afterthought," such as tacking on an "A" for "Accessibility" to your Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statements and policies, Sarit adds.

See ACCOMMODATIONS, next page



Krembo Wings is Israel's only youth group that integrates children with disabilities with their able-bodied peers.

Supporting inclusion in Israel

BY DEBORAH MOON

Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Acceptance and Inclusion Month has been observed in February since 2009. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has long promoted inclusion, both locally and in Israel.

For the 2021-22 fiscal year, the JFPG Overseas Special Projects Committee awarded \$12,000 to Krembo Wings to support the Lakiya chapter for Bedouin youth.

"We are so proud of our longstanding relationship with Krembo Wings, which is Israel's only all-inclusive youth movement for children with special needs, enabling children with severe psychological, motor and cognitive disabilities to enjoy the benefit of a structured social environment with their able-bodied peers," says JFPG Director of Community Relations and Public Affairs Bob Horenstein, who staffs the OSP committee. "It was important to our Overseas Special Projects committee that we help start a Krembo Wings chapter in Lakiya for Bedouin youth, because they are such an underserved population and the need is great."

The Overseas Special Projects Committee accepts proposals from Israeli nonprofits that help the country's most underserved, vulnerable or marginalized populations, among them victims of

See KREMBO WINGS, page 16

CAMPS' GIFTS (continued from page 1)

Duitch lists seven challenges the pandemic has imposed on youth: prolonged isolation, traumatic stress and loss, social and emotional disconnection, negative self-talk, reduced physical activity, unhealthy emotional regulation (the ability to exert control over your own emotional state) and diminished emotional resilience (the ability to adapt to a stressful situation or crisis).

“Camp combats those stresses and reminds campers what is like to be a kid, to be social, to be away from parents and be led by different role models,” says Duitch.

This year, BB Camp plans to focus on mitigating Covid-19 risks and rebuilding campers’ social skills, connections and communities.

Solomon Schechter uses “Camp Builders” to help campers work on self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills and responsibilities for decision making.

MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

A recent JCamp 180 survey of Jewish camping senior professionals found their top concerns for this summer are “high levels of anxiety and mental health challenges among campers” as well as among staff.

“Mental health issues have been growing at summer camps over the last number of years and completely accelerated during the Covid pandemic years,” JCamp 180 director Sarah Eisinger told eJewish Philanthropy for a Feb. 7 article by Ben Sales.

BB Camp has used resources from the Foundation for Jewish Camp and Blue Dove Foundation to tailor staff training to provide mental health first aid, universal design and other resources to help campers succeed. BB Camp also has a group of mental health professionals who volunteer at camp and serve on the Mental Emotional Social Health Committee.

Solomon Schechter reaches out to families year round to learn about any trauma or loss children have experienced, which gives staff a peek into the needs children might have at camp. The camp has camper care professionals who can come in for one-on-one time with kids needing additional support.

“We also hired a therapist to help when campers’ needs are beyond what counselors can cope with,” says Duitch. “That is where the industry (camping) is headed – to make sure we have the right support at camp.”

INCLUSION

All four Jewish overnight camps in the area (see pages 6-7) strive to be as inclusive as possible.

“We want to say yes more than no,” says Duitch of Solomon Schechter. “But we want to set up campers to succeed – to make sure we have great plans in place for success ... for the kid and the camp community.”

ACCOMMODATIONS (continued from previous page)

Kiel adds, “Most accommodations cost very little and are easy. You just have to be a little creative.”

Both panelists offered a litany of accommodations in various settings, such as better lighting; use of to-the-point language and visual cues; ridding vocabularies of insulting clichés like “falling on deaf ears” or “turning a blind eye”; providing printouts in advance of pertinent documents like sermons and meeting agendas; automatically turning on closed captioning; and making available see-through masks, called clear masks.

While many accommodations can be implemented without cost, others require hiring outside professionals. Examples are American Sign Language interpreters and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) that provides extremely accurate captioning. By contrast, live captions provided via artificial intelligence technology introduce myriad errors, especially with proper nouns or

“We try to accommodate as many campers as we can,” says Spivak of Camp Keshet. “This can play out with providing specialized meal plans as well as a large variety of activities for all types of campers.”

Despite being a small organization, Sephardic Adventure Camp has a very diverse camper base including neuro-diverse campers.

BB Camp is accessible to all children, regardless of abilities. The camp participated in and successfully completed the National Inclusion Project accreditation program in 2019.

Amir-Brownstein says the accreditation process recognizes and confirms that “our program is intentionally and successfully serving individuals with and without disabilities. Our focus is on allowing everyone to be part of the BB Camp community in the way that works best for them.”

“Success plans look different for all campers, and we establish accommodations with campers’ success in mind,” she adds. “We offer additional support through our Individualized Camper Plans, similar to a student’s IEP, setting up all campers for success.”

“Our commitment to inclusion is illustrated through our buildings, professional staff, staff development and programmatic accommodations,” she says. BB Camp’s Assistant Director of Community Care and Inclusion trains teams to understand camp’s community care philosophy, create camper accommodations and develop programming that welcomes all children. BB Camp also has rebuilt its campus with all camp buildings now ADA accessible and has designated sensory areas available for children throughout camp.

STAFF SHORTAGES

BB Camp reports that the tight domestic labor market and the challenge of securing visas for their visiting international staff have made summer camp seasonal staff recruitment more challenging than in years past. For more information on available positions, visit bbcamp.org/employment.

Solomon Schechter has focused on retention, competitive wages and ensuring staff understand the life skills they develop at camp – “the emotional paycheck.” In partnership with the Samis Foundation, this year the camp is offering signing, retention and referral bonuses to make jobs more attractive. Check out openings at campschechter.org/about/employment/.

Sephardic Adventure Camp is always competing with other programs for staff and invites those interested to check out sephardicadventurecamp.org/info/join-our-staff/.

Camp Keshet has not seen a staff shortage for this summer.

Duitch says he hopes that this summer will be easier on staff than last year. “Last year, we created a bubble and staff was not able to truly refresh and recharge. We hope with everyone fully vaccinated, staff will be able to go home on session breaks and refresh.”

when a person with accented English is speaking.

You can help observe JDAIM this month by joining JFCS and Congregation Shir Tikvah on Feb. 27 for a screening of the documentary “Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution.”

“My hope this month and beyond is to raise awareness and engender coalition-building,” says Sarit. “If you’re passionate, get in touch with JFCS and help make our community more accessible together.”

National Disability Resources

For more about Jews with disabilities on a national scale, read the November 2021 Jewish Funders Network presentation on Spotlight on Disability in the Jewish Workplace, respectability.org/2021/11/unprecedented-new-findings-jews-with-disabilities/. Another national resource is RespectAbility, respectability.org, which fights stigmas and advances opportunities.

Overnight Camps

Options abound for summer camp experience

Portland is lucky to have four Jewish overnight camps nearby. B'nai B'rith Camp turned 100 last year. Camp Solomon Schechter was founded by Portland Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, z"l, in 1954. Each year, Congregation Ahavath Achim encourages families to explore the Sephardic Adventure Camp, the only Sephardic camp in the country. Camp Keshet joined the local camp roster in 2019.

Two other camps attract many area youth:

- **URJ Camp Kalsman** is the Pacific Northwest residence camp affiliated with the Reform movement. Camp Kalsman's

300 beautiful acres offer a great balance of education and recreation. They incorporate Judaism into many different activities. Campers learn new skills and hone existing ones in athletic, aquatic, artistic and nature programs. campkalsman.org

- **Camp Miriam** on Gabriola Island in British Columbia is affiliated with Habonim Dror, a movement based on the pillars of progressive labor Zionism, Judaism, socialism, social justice and *hagshama* (actualization of values). campmiriam.org

Beyond the locally affiliated camps, the Foundation for Jewish Camp lists specialty

camps ranging from arts and aquatics to sports and wilderness skills. Search by interest, affiliation, region, grade, dietary restrictions and special needs at jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper/find-a-camp/. The site also includes information on One Happy Camper grants for first-time campers that are funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

Families also can offset camp costs with an interest-free loan from Jewish Free Loan sponsored by JFGP. For application and more information, visit jewishportland.org/Jewish-free-loan.



BB Campers sport stylish masks in summer 2021.

B'NAI B'RITH CAMP

bbcamp.org | 503-452-3443 | info@bbcamp.org

Campground: Devil's Lake, near Lincoln City, OR

Newly constructed ADA-accessible heated cabins (with bathrooms), lake activities, zipline, ball field, ropes course, newly constructed gym and amphitheater.

Program

For 100 summers, BB Camp has been a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community, creating immersive experiences for children of all ages and backgrounds. Our intentional programming provides each camper with formative experiences to build on as they develop their own personal Jewish identity. We celebrate our diverse community and work tirelessly to create a balanced schedule of cabin and group activities, daily elective offerings, alternative Shabbat programs and more to ensure that every child makes the most of their camp experience.

Dates/Ages/Cost

Sessions of one, two, three or four weeks run June 28 through Aug. 16, for rising 2nd to 11th graders. Fees range from \$950 to \$4,000 depending on session length or specialty program. Scholarships and financial aid available.

Covid Mitigation Measures

In alignment with the American Camp Association's Field Guide, Centers for Disease and Prevention and Oregon Health Authority's overnight camp guidance and to accommodate Covid-mitigating protocols, BB Camp will continue updating Covid protocols as needed. Protocols include the following: vaccinations will be mandatory for all eligible campers and staff based on the current, up-to-date vaccination recommendations; testing prior to and during camp may be required; nonpharmaceutical interventions will be upheld, including separation between cohorts of campers, as needed, increased time for transitions, frequent handwashing and continuous evaluation of symptoms.



Campers enjoy the private lake at Camp Solomon Schechter.

CAMP SOLOMON SCHECHTER

campschechter.org | 206-447-1967

info@campschechter.org

Campground: Tumwater, Wash.

Amenities: 170-acre facility, private lake with dock and aqua park, boat house, art shed, amphitheater, dining hall, infirmary, sports shed, bog and river, full sports fields and ball courts, climbing tower, challenge course, zipline, hiking trails and yurt village.

Program

Camp Solomon Schechter has a 68-year tradition of fun, friendship and Jewish experiential education in the Pacific Northwest. We create a unique, welcoming and spiritual Jewish environment

for youth of all denominations entering 1st-12th grades. A summer at CSS enables children to try new activities, improve social skills, gain self-confidence, make Jewish friends, become independent, and discover talents and abilities they never knew they had. These benefits last a lifetime. At CSS, we emphasize the values of integrity, *derech eretz* (respect) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). We do this through activities and *teva* (nature) to create our ideal Jewish community. At Schechter, Judaism and joy are truly one!

Dates/Ages/Cost

Sessions of one, two or three weeks run from June 26 through Aug. 10. Costs are \$1,420 for a one-week rookie session, \$2,845 for two weeks and \$3,620 for three-week sessions. The one-month Oded session for 11th graders is \$4,400.

Covid Mitigation Measures

At CSS, we are guided by Jewish values, including *Pikuach Nefesh*, to save a life. We take the health and safety of our entire community very seriously. As such, under the advisement of our medical committee and with the support of our Board of Directors, we have expanded our vaccination policy to include the Covid-19 vaccine. Starting in summer 2022, Camp Solomon Schechter will require up-to-date Covid-19 vaccination for all campers, staff and visitors. CSS will adjust our health protocols as we continue to review the latest data and guidance from the department of health. We're hoping that vaccinated camp communities have the flexibility of running a typical summer camp program without the mitigation tactics they were required to implement last summer. Camp Schechter is also following the American Camp Association's field guide to implement recommendations provided by the CDC to reduce potential exposures and the spread of Covid.



Campers make cheese boyko, a savory parmesan cookie, in a Sephardic baking class at Sephardic Adventure Camp last summer.

SEPHARDIC ADVENTURE CAMP

sephardicadventurecamp.org

office@sephardicadventurecamp.org

Campground: Cle Elum, WA

Heated pool, kayaking, basketball, hiking, color war, arts and crafts, Sephardic baking, lending library, mountain biking, Sephardic culture, GaGa, trout fishing, soccer and much more.

Program

SAC is a warm, welcoming, modern Orthodox summer camp program, rich in Sephardic culture and located just 75 minutes east of Seattle. We offer fun recreational programming, plus fun experiential Sephardic activities that are unique to our camp. We are open to campers entering 3rd to 11th grade. We feature a low camper-to-staff ratio, and our staff includes a certified medical team, outdoor specialists, Sephardic educators and community leaders. Our campers come from a diverse range of Jewish backgrounds and from locations across the nation and beyond.

Dates/Ages/Cost

One session June 22-July 11 for youth entering 3rd - 11th grade. Cost is \$2,200-2,800 (scholarship opportunities are available).

Covid Mitigation Measures

We will be announcing our Covid protocol in the next month or two. We ran a safe camp last year for 103 campers.



Campers gather at Camp Keshet, a program of NCSY.

CAMP KESHER

campkeshet.ncsy.org | 503-757-3037

meira@ncsy.org, oregonoffice@ncsy.org

Campground: Camas and Ocean Park, Wash.

Camp Keshet will be located at Camp Lacamas for one week. We will then spend a night of camping and water rafting and continue on to our second location in Ocean Park, Wash. The camp is 2.5 weeks long.

Program

Camp Keshet is an outdoor-focused camp that includes exciting trips and activities, fun Jewish programming and incredible campers. Kids have an amazing time, making friends for life and eventually going with those same friends on TJJ, The Jerusalem Journey, our signature travelling program in Israel. Campers can also return as staff as early as the summer after 10th grade. One doesn't have to have attended Keshet as a camper to participate as staff.

Dates/Ages

July 24-Aug. 10 (one session), current 3rd-7th graders are campers, current 8th-9th graders are teen campers, current 10th serve as specialty staff and current 11th and 12th serve as counselors.

Covid Mitigation Measures

We require vaccinations and testing beforehand (may be subject to change).

MARCH ISSUES: DAY SCHOOL AND DAY CAMP ROUNDUPS

Information on Portland's three Jewish day schools will be in the March 2 issue of the Jewish Review. (Deadline Feb. 23)

Information on day camps will be featured in the March 16 issue. (Deadline March 9)

People in the News

Moishe House hires director of advancement

Nicole Yarnold (she/her) joined Moishe House as the West Coast Director of Advancement in November 2021. Based in San Diego, Nicole secures local funding and resources to enable Moishe House's young leaders to build the Jewish communities of their dreams for themselves and their peers.

Originally from New York, Nicole earned her bachelor's in international relations from the University of Southern California. During her time at USC, she was president of Challah for Hunger and served on Hillel's student executive board. In a professional capacity, she has worked in development at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies and for Columbia University's School of Engineering and Applied Science. Recently, she earned a certificate in Professional Fundraising from Boston University.



The MJCC welcomes new day camp manager

Daylee Shaw has joined the Mittleman Jewish Community Center as day camp manager.

She is a recent graduate of the University of Oregon with a Bachelor of Science in environment and public policy.

Daylee became involved in camp programs during college and knew that working with children in camp settings and creating programming was something she wanted to continue in her career. Daylee has spent recent summers as both a camp counselor and teen leadership program coordinator at Camp Kesem in Eugene. She has an impressive background in planning, organization and communication as she served in a variety of leadership roles during her college career. Daylee is excited to begin working at MJCC Day Camp.



KairosPDX Board Chair Tiffani Penson will present the 2022 KairosPDX Ambassador Service Award to Wendy Weissman at the nonprofit's virtual gala Feb. 26.

Wendy Weissman wins award from KairosPDX

Wendy Weissman will receive the 2022 KairosPDX Ambassador Service Award at the organization's virtual gala later this month.

"Cultivating Confident, Creative, Compassionate Leaders" is KairosPDX, simply explained. Since 2012, KairosPDX has been bridging the gap that exists between education and marginalized communities in North Portland. Their mission is to erase racial achievement and opportunity gaps by creating stronger leaders in the Black community and beyond. Each year, KairosPDX honors two outstanding individuals who have shaped the KairosPDX community. This year they honor Betty Dorsey along with Weissman.

"This year we are honored to be standing on the shoulders of two phenomenal women who have influenced and supported Kairos PDX from the beginning," says KairosPDX CEO Marsha Williams.

The nonprofit's primary activities of KairosPDX include KairosPDX Learning Academy, KairosPDX Family Engagement and Early Learning Network, Education Policy and Advocacy, and KairosPDX Training Academy, all grounded in neuroscience and research.

A supporter of KairosPDX since before the organization was officially established, Wendy came to KairosPDX through Social Venture Partners Portland. She is originally from Palm Springs, Calif. After a successful career in the Pacific Northwest, Wendy has immersed herself in supporting organizations that she feels passionate about. Using her capacity-building skills, experience with strategic planning, and vision and mission development, she has supported KairosPDX for more than 10 years. Wendy and her husband, Michael Wall, are longtime members at Havurah Shalom. They both are happily retired and continue to focus on bettering the world together.

This year, the KairosPDX Spread the Love 2022 Virtual Gala will be held online and is presented by CBRE. The event takes place Feb. 26 at 6 pm with a preshow beginning at 5:30. To RSVP for the virtual gala, register at kairospdx.org/spread-the-love.

SECURITY DIRECTOR (from page 1)

"Passover is so family oriented, with the same deep traditions every year with the same people," she says.

Her son has been co-president of the JSU at his high school and last year traveled to Israel with NCSY, an experience "he really enjoyed."

In her new role, Anderson will coordinate with federal, state and local law enforcement, and nonprofit, public, private and other stakeholder organizations on community safety and security matters. In addition, she will serve as a liaison during crisis response and mitigation efforts.

This position is funded via a four-way partnership between SCN, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Endowment Fund and contributions from 17 different Jewish organizations across the region.

"The Jewish community is delighted to have Jessica join our team with her expertise in security and law enforcement," says JFGP President and CEO Marc N. Blattner. "We look forward to working with her as we strive to keep our Jewish community safe."

For more information, visit jewishportland.org/security.

Neveh Shalom hires education assistant director

Lani Raider joined the Congregation Neveh Shalom staff as Congregational Education Assistant Director on Feb. 7. Lani succeeds JoAnn Bezodis, who has become the CNS clergy assistant.

"We are all incredibly grateful to JoAnn Bezodis, who has been an amazing partner in our education program for the past 10 years," says Director of Congregational Learning Mel Berwin. "As our education programs for youth and adults continue to grow and evolve with the needs of our families, I believe Lani's fresh perspective, enthusiasm for community and years of education background will bring really valuable new energy to our entire education team and CNS staff."

Her parents met in Habonim (Zionist Labor Movement). So when Lani grew up in Los Angeles, she was naturally active in Habonim.

She has had a rich and varied background in the Jewish world and the culinary arts. She earned her BA in Modern Jewish History (with a focus on Jewish feminism) and her MA from Harvard University, researching food as a marker of identity, with a specific focus on Passover foodways throughout the Diaspora. Harvard then granted her a year of post graduate research in Israel to further investigate how Jews in the Diaspora found ways to retain traditions while creatively adapting to their new environments.

While in college, Lani taught in a Hebrew school and later worked for The Jewish



Lani Raider and her dog Toki.

Community Federation in the Bay Area coordinating and staging both the Israel 49 and Israel 50 Festivals.

Having lived on an organic farm and worked in acclaimed restaurants in the Bay Area (Chez Panisse and Greens Restaurant), Raider developed a deep passion for sustainability as a way to embrace *tikkun olam*. Her cooking, catering and teaching have been based in this concept of making

the world a better place. For 11 years, she was an associate professor at the Culinary Institute of America in the Hudson Valley, New York. She was also the co-chapter leader of Slow Food Hudson Valley for a decade, connecting students and community members with farmers, ranchers and other local eco-heroes.

After her move to Portland eight years ago, Lani became the founder and CEO of NOBULL Specialty Foods, an award-winning company that produced locally sourced, minimally processed, plant-based scratch starters (boullion reimaged). Once her business closed, she wanted to find work that was meaningful, impactful and inspiring.

"I see the world through a Jewish lens," says Lani. "I want to work in the Jewish community in this next chapter of my life. I haven't given up on food. I've been doing some private catering and running a little business ... but I also want to have a bigger impact."

She volunteers at Cedar Sinai Park where she co-leads a healing service once a month. Her love for teaching, learning and community brought her to Neveh to co-teach the seventh grade Tichon class this fall.

"When the assistant director position became available, I was immediately drawn to it," says Lani. "Mel Berwin has developed a great educational program and I knew I could contribute to its ongoing development."

CSP now has in-house trainer for Positive Approach to Care

Cedar Sinai Park staff who have a question about caring for residents with dementia need look no further than Heather Hess. The Sinai In-Home Client Care Coordinator is one of the only Positive Approach to Care Certified Independent Trainers in the Portland-area, having recently completed the intensive certification process.

"The certification courses were really kind of impressive because I got a true understanding of the brain and why dementia is happening," says Hess, 44, who joined Cedar Sinai nearly eight years ago as a caregiver in the Harold Schnitzer Center for Living. "You have pre-coursework before the certification classes, then the coursework, and finally lots of hands-on opportunities afterwards to put on a workshop for others about what you've learned. And I was working full-time on top of those responsibilities."

PAC is an organization founded by nationally recognized dementia expert Teepa Snow, who has developed a widely respected patient-centered and evidence-based philosophy designed to

support those living with brain change in a more positive and respectful way.

"To gain certification, I ended up training all of our caregivers for In-Home Care so now all of our staff has advanced training in dementia care, and they understand the expectations," says Hess. "Our caregivers now have a level of education in dementia care that sets us apart from everyone else in the local senior living industry."

"The knowledge and skills our staff have are challenging to learn, but they said they now feel like they have a toolbox to work from and can handle clients with Alzheimer's and behavioral issues much better. They get so excited and proud of themselves when the techniques they've learned work."

An estimated 6.2 million Americans aged 65 and older were living with Alzheimer's dementia in 2021 and that number was project to rise to almost 13 million by 2050. One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia — more than breast and prostate cancer combined.

"Learning how the brain works and advancing your knowledge as the disease advances is so critical," says Hess. "There is so much we still don't know. There are more than 250 types of dementia! We need to be prepared to manage the influx of people who will need care. I'm so excited that we now have a consistent tool for us to use."



Heather Hess

Two Oregonians tapped for Pardes alumni fellowship

Dr. Sharon Pollin of Portland and Emily Simon of Ashland are among 15 national fellows selected for the Pardes Alumni Leadership Cohort of the Mahloket Matters Fellowship.

Fellows will study Pardes' renowned Mahloket curriculum and then create a community engagement initiative for their home community. In this era of the collapse of civil discourse, Pardes North America has launched its second year of the fellowship. The fellowship is guided by the belief that Jewish texts and their diverse interpretations can empower us to engage more constructively in disagreements today.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to learn with this distinguished North American cohort that includes my fellow Oregonian, Emily Simon," says Pollin. "From squabbles amongst our closest friends and relatives and outward to countries on the brink of war, conflict is an unavoidable condition of our lives that often harms, yet has the potential to enrich. The Rabbinic model of *Mahloket L'Shem Shamayim*, disagreement for the sake of heaven, provides perspective, direction and skills to successfully engage with others in order to move forward and thrive in community, country and planet. I hope to share this outstanding Pardes curriculum – suitable for many ages and stages – broadly in our community."

Pollin is the education director of Congregation Shaarie Torah, co-chairs the Women's Giving Circle of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and serves as a mentor to other Jewish professionals. Before returning to her hometown of Portland, she successfully led the revitalization of the Jewish Community Day School of Greater New Orleans as head of school.

Emily Simon has been an attorney since 1979 and was a Juvenile Defender until 2019. She received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oregon Defense Lawyers Association in 2013. Currently, she runs a mentorship program for Federal Criminal Defenders and is a co-chair of Ashland Oregon's Social Equity and Racial Justice commission. She is active with Congregation Emek Shalom in Ashland, where she chairs the social action committee and teaches *b'nai mitzvah* students and adult education programs.



Emily Simon



Sharon Pollin

"I am honored and excited to be selected for this fellowship and look forward to working with Sharon Pollin and all the Pardes alumni in my cohort," says Simon. "I hope to learn constructive ways to help the Jewish community discuss disagreements in a manner that is for the sake of heaven. I think that this is crucial in order to form coalitions and bring us closer to the justice that we are commanded to pursue. I look forward to sharing the tools and the information I am learning with the greater Jewish community."

The fellowship features group study and individual mentorship from Pardes North America as they learn the Mahloket Matters curriculum. Fellows will become a critical voice in a movement to help foster respectful dialogue across North America. Each fellow will receive a stipend of \$500 for their time and participation.

Each fellow also will receive a \$500 community engagement grant to support the development of their own communal MM study groups and/or community engagement initiatives inspired by MM learning.

Life-cycle events

BIRTH



AHARON TZVI HARTFORD

Chaim Simcha and Shayna Aliza Hartford along with Eliana (6 years) and Moshe (20 months) welcomed son and baby brother, Aharon Tzvi, to their family on Jan. 6, 2022. The family are members of Congregation Kesser Israel. Rabbi Avrohom Harris of Seattle did the bris.

ORA, Neveh remember artist Ros Kane

Congregation Neveh Shalom and ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists will celebrate the life and work of Rosalind (Ros) Kane, z"l, the weekend of Feb. 18-20.

Rabbi Eve Posen will lead services and talk about Ros, ORA and Jewish art at Kabbalat Shabbat service at Neveh Shalom 6:15 pm, Feb. 18. Following the service, there will be time to schmooze and meet Rosalind's son, Daniel, and her daughter-in-law, Leslie, and enjoy Ros' beautiful work together.

Vaccinated and masked participants can join the service in the congregation's main sanctuary, or anyone can Zoom in (find the link at nevehshalom.org/events). After the service, a brief video will preview the artwork on display in the Neveh Shalom lobby and her artwork and art supplies that will be available for purchase on Feb. 20.

The art sale will be 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

on Sunday in the congregation's lobby. Daniel and Leslie have designated 50% of the proceeds to be donated to ORA to help

with scholarships, operation costs and to provide learning opportunities for members and the community. Some artwork will be available at the JAM art week at the MJCC March 6-11.

Ros passed away on Erev Shabbat, Oct. 22, 2021, at the age of 81. ORA's newsletter says of the longtime member: "Ros was a beloved and humble artist who expressed her talents and generosity in many ways,

sharing her creations with others at important life events. She excelled in a variety of media. Ros created beautifully detailed and precise watercolor paintings and stunning realistic drawings. She also enjoyed working with fabric and food. Ros made custom kippot for life-cycle events. She was a woman of valor."



Why post a salary? Because it promotes equity

When the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland launched a career hub on its website (jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs) earlier this month, organizations posting jobs were asked to include a salary range.

Now JPro Portland is hosting a program to explain that request. “Salary Range Transparency: What’s Equity Got to Do with It?” will be presented on Zoom at noon, Feb. 28. (To register, email JPro Co-Chairs Rachel Nelson rachel@jewishportland.org or Saul Korin, skorin@oregonjcc.org.)

“Mazal tov to the entire Portland Jewish community,” says Sara Shapiro-Plevan, who will present the program. “This is a giant step forward to helping folks find meaningful employment and helping to make matches between employers and prospective employees for our collective benefit.”

But she adds that job openings need to provide a salary range.

“When there’s no salary listed, women typically undervalue themselves,” says Shapiro-Plevan, founder and leader of the Gender Equity in Hiring Project. “A woman ... may underbid when asked for her salary expectations. This creates an ‘ask gap,’ widening the gender pay gap from the very first moment that a woman does not negotiate her first position.”

She adds that not listing a salary range perpetuates inequities at every level, for



Sara Shapiro-Plevan, founder and leader of the Gender Equity in Hiring Project.

people of every marginalized community – women, people of color, LGBTQ+ folks and a wide variety of other historically underrepresented groups.

“GEiHP was born out of the recognition that the gender leadership gap in the Jewish community was something we were only willing to discuss quietly,” she says. “Thanks to the generosity of our funders and our wide network of volunteers and advocates, we then got the chance to begin to make bias visible, redesigning hiring and employment, and considering how we might most effectively help to narrow this

gap, to envision a Jewish professional ecosystem where our talent can truly thrive.”

Shapiro-Plevan says there are endless painful personal stories of being held back and stories of failing forward.

“For me, much of this comes from an early experience being told by an older, male mentor that I’d never be able to work in the Jewish community because my Jewish girl hair was completely unacceptable, and that I needed to do something about it to make myself presentable,” she says. This “led me down the road to hair products and salons and 30 years of obsessive and unhealthy relationship with my hair. But professionally, I think I’m doing just fine.”

The ongoing pandemic has only worsened the gender gap. The most recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows one million fewer women are in the labor force in January 2022 compared to February 2020. Women are not being rehired at an equal rate during the hiring surge of recent months.

“One doesn’t need to be fully committed to the idea of equity in hiring, advancement or employment to be curious about how all this works,” says Shapiro-Plevan. “We invite everyone to join us, to ask questions and to be challenged by the ways in which we are striving to change ‘the way we’ve always done it’ and try something different that we believe will create a community filled with opportunity for all.”

Jobs board

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD SERVICE Intake and Emergency Aid Manager

Salary Range: \$45,000-\$50,000 (full time)

The primary role of this position is to facilitate client connection and intake with JFCS services and other community supports while simultaneously managing the Emergency Aid program. The provider will assess and complete emergency aid requests including case management and resource distribution. Other duties include assisting with administrative duties related to the Counseling department, including documentation and billing.

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL-EUGENE Executive Director

Compensation: \$68,000-\$72,000 plus benefits

The Executive Director serves to provide implementation of the strategic operational and financial vision for TBI and ensure the smooth operations of TBI with a commitment to embracing, upholding and modeling Jewish values. The successful candidate will have strong leadership, organizational and communications skills, fiscal stewardship, human resources management, a track record of innovative problem solving and the ability to collaborate well. Serves as senior administrator of the synagogue and center for Jewish life overseeing all personnel, financial and administrative functions of the synagogue, Talmud Torah and the TBI preschool. Submit cover letter and resume by March 15, 2022 to dbaxter@uoregon.edu. To begin by June 1, 2022.

B'NAI B'RITH CAMP Multiple openings

Annual Campaign Coordinator – full time, Portland
Associate Director – BB Day Camp Portland – full time, Portland
Assistant Food Services Director – full time, Otis
Wellness Center Manager (Summer Camp Nurse) – seasonal, Otis (housing included).

HAGGADOT.COM Community Manager

\$29-40/hour, part-time, REMOTE

Seeking mid-level professional passionate about creating community, connecting people with excellent content and at-home Jewish ritual. Haggadot.com is a project of the nonprofit design lab Custom & Craft Jewish Rituals. Starts in early March. Up to 20 hours/week with potential to grow to full time. See full job description at haggadot.com/blog/communitymanager.

Other openings recently listed on the local Jewish Career Hub include:

Director of Lifelong Learning, Temple Beth Shalom and Congregation Emanu-El in Spokane, \$75,000-80,000 plus benefits.

PreK Teacher, the Gan, Portland, \$18-22/hour DOE.

For more information on these and other jobs (excluding remote job above), visit jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs. Jewish organizations may post openings at the same link.

Published biweekly by
Jewish Federation of
Greater Portland
9900 SW Greenburg Road,
Suite 220

Tigard, OR 97223
503-245-6219

JewishPortland.org

facebook.com/JewishPDX

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

Editor

Deborah Moon

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

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
March 2	Feb. 24
March 16	March 10
March 30	March 24
April 13	April 7

Submit news, photos
and obituaries to
editor@jewishportland.org

Chaplain's Corner

Derech Eretz Can Save Us

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

The nation that we call the United States is based on ideas. We are only as strong as our ideas are sound.

We must accept the following:

- We can trust the results of our elections.
- The Supreme Court is not a political entity, but rather a legitimate part of our government's checks and balances.
- Our democratically elected officials represent the will of the people who voted for them.
- Democracy's genius is a peaceful transition of power.
- Our schools are safe places where teachers and administrators have their best interests in heart.

Part of me feels naïve or even Pollyannish writing these words. I never thought we would ever doubt these ideas, but here we are. How can we ensure that these straightforward ideas remain trustworthy?

Perhaps the greatest threat to these ideas is the fact that we are living in a time when, for various reasons, we feel a lack of control. We no longer feel in control of our safety and security; our ease of moving from place to place; the means we use to communicate; our trust in our fellow citizens; our financial future; our government; and the information the diverse media outlets provide. Perhaps the greatest trauma is our loss of control over our dreams and hopes for the future.

As a result, based on a range of emotions, too many of us are lashing out, whether with words or actions. This has led to hopelessness, cynicism and fatigue.

We have more control than we think. We have control over

our ability to be civil. Civility is beyond "good manners." Steven Carter, professor of law at Yale University, explains that civility is "the sum of the many sacrifices we are called to make for the sake of living together." (*Saying No and Letting Go*, by Rabbi Edwin Goldberg, page 98.)

With civility, we give people the benefit of the doubt and treat them with respect before we feel they have earned it. Civility is the glue that holds our nation and our democracy together. Judaism's version of civility is *derech eretz*, a sense of common decency.

Sadly, common decency has become a luxury for too many people. We are struggling and at times failing as a nation to navigate an incredibly stressful time. Too many of us see "the other" not as fellow citizens, but as "the enemy." We no longer recognize each other.

Let me share an anecdote about a patient I visited during my Clinical Pastoral Education residency in Barrington, Ill., an upscale suburb of Chicago. As I visited with the elderly gentleman, I learned that we had much in common, which included a love of the outdoors and of college football. He shared anecdotes of grilling steaks for his grandchildren, much like my father grilled for his children. But then the conversation turned to the political, and he shared his ideas about the Trump/Clinton presidential race. He praised Trump for his economic ideas and his "American-first" jingoism.

I was taken aback. I had made a genuine connection with him, but then felt blindsided by his political beliefs. That being



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

said, I did not change the subject or make up an excuse to leave the room. I did my best to stay present with him and listened. I tried to discover his back story to gain a better grasp of the full person.

Looking back, I embraced civility and practiced *derech eretz*, however difficult it may have been.

What is another way of being civil? We can look at a synonym of civility – courtesy. Rabbi Goldberg, in his book, calls on us to treat one another as if we are in court ... as if we are royalty.

Is that possible in 2022? Maybe, just maybe, if we treat one another with courtesy, that civility and courtesy will be reflected back to us.

With all of the divisiveness, anger and nastiness we witness in our world, I am sharing radical ideas by talking about civility and *derech eretz* as a solution. I am not saying this solution will be easy to implement. I am not saying that I am looking forward to polishing my civility skills.

But if we want to preserve the glue that holds our society together, what choice do we have?

In addition to the Chaplain's Corner, The Jewish Review offers space for a Rabbi's Corner each issue. Our community's rabbis are invited to share their thoughts on the week's parsha or current events. For more information or to schedule a column, email editor@jewishportland.org.

Searching for Light

Reflections on security, Aikido and music

Jathan Janove is an author, columnist, executive coach and organizational consultant. Throughout the pandemic, Jathan has been interviewing people about their lives, values and priorities in a quest to find light in dark times.

BY JATHAN JANOVE

Longtime Portland Jewish community member Aki Fleshler, 73, recently celebrated 50 years of training in and teaching the martial art Aikido.

“We had a 50/40/30 celebration on Jan. 15/16, 2020,” says Fleshler. “It also celebrated 30 years since the founding of my dojo (school) Multnomah Aikikai (multnomahaikikai.com) and 40 years of training and teaching by my successor, Suzane Van Amburgh.”

Created by Morihei Ueshiba in the early 1900s, Aikido departed from conventional martial arts. Ueshiba developed a defense system in which neither defender nor attacker gets hurt. Rather than block and strike, the defender engages, blends, flows and moves with the attacker, causing the attacker to expend energy and struggle for balance while the defender maintains hers. This enables the defender to move the attacker to a place where no one gets hurt. Aikido is known as the “Way of Harmony.”

Fleshler was initially drawn to Aikido as a musician. Trained as a classical pianist, he later added other types of music including jazz, rhythm and blues, funk, disco and klezmer. “The flowing, dynamic nature of Aikido was so complementary to the direction I was taking as a performer,” he says.

“But I didn’t anticipate how this path would intertwine with my development as a Jew,” Fleshler says. “I had tried various martial arts as well as boxing and wrestling. But they didn’t speak to me. To me, they emphasized egoistic domination, sometimes even brutally so. By contrast, Aikido’s philosophy, approach and ethical structure seemed much more compatible with my Jewish values.”

To elaborate on that, Fleshler cites Hillel’s famous questions:

If I am not for myself, who will be for me? To Fleshler, this means “to invest in the value and meaning of my own life.”

If I am not for others, what am I? This means “don’t be a monster, don’t deny the value of the other.”

If not now, when? This signifies “readiness to engage, to commit to action!”

Fleshler eventually achieved the rare distinction of a sixth-degree black belt as well as shihan (master teacher), both registered in Japan.

Currently, Fleshler is actively involved in Jewish community security. As director of security at Congregation Kesser Israel, he coordinates with various local and national entities to protect Jews and Jewish institutions against anti-Semitic violence.

“The challenge is to be vigilant and prepared, while at the same time welcoming and open. Again, this is an exact match to the philosophy of Aikido.” (For further information on community security, visit jewishportland.org/security.)



Aki Fleshler in his dojo (school) Multnomah Aikikai.

Aikido, community security & music come together

“On a winter night in 1989, my band was playing a Chanukah gig,” recalls Fleshler. “We were up on a stage while people danced on the floor below us.”

Suddenly a mentally disturbed young man jumped on the stage and began throwing the speakers down on the floor at the people dancing. He then confronted the clarinet player with swinging fists. “Of course, all the music and dancing stopped immediately.”

Fleshler got up from the keyboard, approached the man and skillfully brought him to the ground, held in a position where Fleshler could inflict great physical pain and damage if he chose.

“I’m your friend,” he told the disturbed man. “And if you don’t move, I will not have to hurt you.”

The man yelled, “You’re not my friend!”

Fleshler calmly replied, “OK, I’m not your friend. And if you don’t move, I won’t have to hurt you.”

Fleshler held the man in this position until the police arrived and took him away. He then shifted his attention to his somewhat traumatized bandmates and the audience. “We came to party – let’s have some fun”

The band played on, and thanks to the adrenaline release, “We were smoking.”

Fleshler sums up his experience as follows: “Fifty years of physical training and refinement is a waste of time unless it has meaning. The lifelong challenge is to be among the disciples of Aaron. An *ohev shalom* (a lover of peace) must become a *rodef shalom* (a pursuer of peace).”

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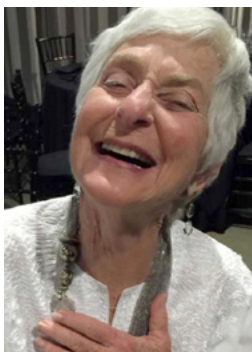
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GEREL BLAUER

Gerel Blauer, z"l, passed away Feb. 9, 2022, at age 91. She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry, in 2012 after 58 years of marriage. The couple raised four daughters, Janis, Shoshana, Shemaya and Karen. She is also survived by grandchildren, Chikodi Chima, Ejike Chima, Udie Chima, Kelechi David Chima, Evan Miller and Sam Miller; and great-grandsons, Teo Chima, Avi Chima and Wallace Chima.

Gerel Green was born Jan. 30, 1931. She attended B'nai B'rith Camp as a child. For most of her life, she was involved at Congregation Beth Israel, including taking an active role in the Temple Sisterhood. She also helped establish the Beth



Gerel Blauer.
Courtesy BB Camp

Israel archives. She was active at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and served a term on the Robison Jewish Home board. She spent 40 years as a tour guide for the Urban Tour Group, providing tours for school students designed to share the history, culture, architecture and resources of Portland. Gerel was an avid gardener and played tennis from her teens until her late 80s.

The family will have a private burial. A memorial service was held Feb. 13 at Congregation Beth Israel.

PAM (SAMI) FENTON

Pam (Sami) Fenton, z"l, passed away on Feb. 6, 2022, in Portland. She was the beloved niece of Lee Berne, mother of Abbie Fenton, sister of Scott and Carol Fenton and Cliff Feingold, and cousin of Keith and Rosalie Berne and Craig and Jan Berne.

Private arrangements are being made.

ROBIN JOY MESHER

Robin Joy (Vidgoff) Mesher died peacefully in her sleep at her home Feb. 3, 2022, at age 83, of complications related to kidney failure. She was surrounded by her entire family, and she was elegant and graceful until the very end. Robin is survived by her husband of 63 years, Robert "Bob" Mesher; children, Page (Lynn) Mesher and Tracy (Robert) Moir; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, Lauren (Alex) Robinson, Jacquelyn (Marcus) Lefton, Harrison Moir, Paige Claire "PC" Mesher, Sydney Mesher, and Finn and Tatum Robinson. Robin was preceded in death by her brother, Sheldon Vidgoff.

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She was born July 6, 1938, to Abe and Sally Vidgoff. She attended Catlin Gabel Grade School and Lincoln High School. She enrolled at the University of Washington, but left after one term to go to Eugene and the University of Oregon where she could be with a young man she was dating, Robert "Bob" Mesher. Bob and Robin were married in 1958 and raised two children.

In 1972, Robin combined her lifelong love of fashion and savvy business instincts and opened her first clothing store as a tee shirt and jeans retailer in Seaside called The Cover Up. She was a pioneer at the time – a woman small business owner – and she absolutely refused to be told that a man had to co-sign for any of her business contracts. Her retail career lasted until the early 1990s; she owned and operated 11 upscale women's clothing stores in Portland, Salem, Corvallis, Albany and Eugene.

Robin was a lover of music, from jazz and Broadway to Frank Sinatra and the Rolling Stones (who she saw in concert at age 81). She and Bob traveled the world together, but their favorite retreat was their beach house in Seaside. She was passionate in her dedication for children's charities, education and the arts, as she served on the boards of Young Audiences of Oregon, Boys & Girls Aid, Lincoln High School Alumni Association and Albertina Kerr.

The funeral was Feb. 6, 2022, at Congregation Beth Israel. Donations may be made to Young Audiences of Oregon or to the Robert & Robin Mesher Scholarship Fund at the University of Oregon.

JOAN MOSES

Joan Moses, z"l, passed away on Feb. 1, 2022, in New Jersey at the age of 85. She was the beloved sister of Dora (Jerry) Newman of Congregation Shaarie Torah.

She is survived by her sisters, Dora Newman, Rosalind Bialor and Anna Sanchez; her children, Scott, Ari and Betsy; and her seven grandchildren.

HENRY OLSHIN

Henry Olshin, z"l, passed away peacefully Friday, Jan. 28, 2022. Henry is survived by his brother, George Olshin; sons, Joshua and Andrew Olshin; their spouses, Sheryl Olshin and Rebecca Mischel; and three grandchildren, Emma, Solomon and Benjamin Olshin.

The youngest of three sons, Henry was born Feb. 12, 1933, in the Bronx to Rose and Jacob Olshin. He lived with vigor in the New York metropolitan area throughout his life.



Henry Olshin with grandson Solomon.

Yeshiva, NYC taxi driving ("school"), the U.S. Army, City College and a master's program in Hospital Administration at Columbia University prepared him for his life of engagement with and service to community, Judaism, his family and friends.

After raising two boys with her, Henry tenderly cared for his beloved wife, Sophie Marie Olshin, through seven years of cancer. Their love was rich and deep. He was lucky to enjoy both a long and loving marriage to Sophie and a loving partnership with Marsha Warshaw later in life.

A religious man who was often called on to lead services and make a minyan, Henry regularly welcomed non-Jewish friends to join the family's seder meals. A lover of klezmer music and Yiddish, he enjoyed building and displaying his Judaica collection.

Henry was proud to support Cascadia Clusters, a nonprofit founded by his son, Andy, that hires and trains houseless Portlanders in the construction trades to build housing and support structures for use at houseless villages. You can honor Henry with a donation to Cascadia Clusters cascadiacusters.org/support.

3-part series: Talking About Death Won't Kill You

This three-part series will explore how Judaism approaches the last phase of the life cycle. Tradition provides a path both for the person who is dying, and for those who love them. This free program is sponsored by the Oregon Board of Rabbis and Chevra Kavod HaMet (*Chevra Kadisha*, burial society).

Learn how you can be prepared to make practical and personal decisions about the time before death, the moment of passing, the ritual preparations for burial, the interment options, the stages of mourning and beliefs in the afterlife. Sign up for one or all three 60-minute Zoom 7 pm sessions:

- Feb. 24: Rituals of burial and modern eco-burial with Rabbi Ariel Stone, Shir Tikvah;
- March 10: Jewish rituals to help us prepare ourselves and our loved ones for death with Rabbi Barry Cohen, Community Chaplain;
- March 31: Jewish grieving & beliefs in the afterlife with Rabbi Eve Posen, Neveh Shalom.

Register at: forms.gle/kVLgwJAgBzPpKgX68

SANDY LEEDER

Sandy (Shmuel Lev) Leeder, z"l, passed away in early February in Israel. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Akiva and Amanda Leeder of Portland. Congregation Kesser Israel extends condolences to the family on the loss of Akiva's father.

ALLENE MENDELSON KLASS

Allene Mendelson Klass, a pioneer in the historic fight for reproductive rights, passed away Jan. 18, 2022. Allene is survived by her children, Gregory Klass, Daniel Klass, Kayla Reich and Leah Klass; her grandchildren, Kamen Klass, Marley Klass, Lila Reich, Leila Klass and Anisa Klass; and her brother, Robert Mendelson. She also leaves behind Honeybear, her rottweiler.

She was known by her family to have a vibrancy of spirit that spread into every aspect of her life. Outside of her family, her achievements and hard work echoed across the United States and touched countless lives. Allene founded Lovejoy Surgicenter in 1971, becoming Oregon's first independent abortion service provider. Allene was born Allene Rae Mendelson Oct. 7, 1938, in Portland to Al and Leona Mendelson. After completing high school, she attended the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Oregon to earn her Bachelor of Science and become a registered nurse. She met her future husband, Alvin Manly Klass, while in nursing school. After she finished college, she returned to her family business, a small rehabilitation hospital in Northwest Portland. Allene married Alvin Sept. 4, 1960, in Portland. The couple exchanged vows at Temple Beth Israel, and their wedding was officiated by Rabbi Emanuel Rose.

In 1971, she had the opportunity to provide life-changing care to women. Allene and her mother established the first freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Center that provided abortion services in Oregon, beginning a lifetime of hard work and paving the way for reproductive freedom and social justice. Lovejoy Surgicenter allowed patients to be seen with the same quality of care as major hospitals, but at a lower cost. This provided an ideal setting to make abortions more readily available, changing the accessibility of needed procedures. "I had no idea what a big, important thing I was doing," Allene said in 1998. "Even though I would never need an abortion, I felt very strongly that it was a woman's right." Against bomb threats, arson, daily harassment, anthrax scares, death threats and more, she persevered to maintain the rights of others. She continued this important work until she retired in 2021.

Allene traveled across Mexico, Israel, Italy, France, Egypt, the Dominican Republic and more. No one could deny her sense of fashion and how she carried herself with pride for her work and the life she had built. Allene had a bright smile that lit up any room and will always be remembered. She spent the last few years of her life living in Seaside, enjoying coastal living and sharing her home with friends and family. A Celebration of Life is to be held in Portland in spring of 2022.

Feb. 18: Culinary documentary opens in Portland

Beth Elise Hawk's Israeli culinary documentary "Breaking Bread" comes to Portland's Living Room 6 on Feb. 18.

"Breaking Bread" is a documentary set at the first food festival in which innovative Arab and Jewish chefs work in tandem to create mouth-watering dishes to foster social change. It is set in Haifa, a model of multicultural coexistence, during the annual A-Sham Arabic Food Festival, founded by microbiologist Dr. Nof Atamna-Ismaeel, the first Israeli-Arab to win Israel's reality show "Master-Chef." Each chef puts a personal spin on traditional recipes handed down over generations, transforming flavors while political and religious differences are set aside. A treat for the senses, this delectable showcase of culinary heritage gives hope to the idea that collaboration in the kitchen could be a bridge to mutual understanding and lasting peace.

Feb. 20: Pull up a Chair, OJMCHE's virtual gala

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education invites the community to its free virtual gala to support OJMCHE's exhibitions and programs that inspire action for hope and equality for all people.

This year's annual gala, Pull Up a Chair, will be Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, at 5:30 pm with video remarks by Special Guest Jake Tapper, CNN Anchor and Chief Washington Correspondent, State of the Union, The Lead with Jake Tapper and bestselling author.

Registration is required for the free event. Register at ojmche.org/annual-gala.

Feb. 20 & 24: CNSCOS vaccine clinics

Sunday, Feb. 20: Mittleman Jewish Community Center (SIGN-UP or DROP-IN) Adult, Booster and Pediatric doses from 10 am-2 pm. Please bring a photo ID to enter the building, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy. Sign up: signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4dafa92ba4f8c34-mittleman1

Thursday, Feb. 24: Eastside Jewish Commons (SIGN-UP or DROP-IN) Adult, Booster and Pediatric doses from 3:30-6:30 pm, 2420 NE Sandy Blvd. Sign up: signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4dafa92ba4f8c34-eastside

Feb. 24: PDX Hillel alumni panel with PSU President

"PSU Alumni changing the world: A conversation with the next generation of Jewish leaders" will be presented at 7 pm, Feb. 24, on Zoom. Portland State University President Dr. Stephen Percy will provide opening remarks about the importance of a thriving Jewish and pro-Israel community on campus.

PDX Hillel hosts this fascinating conversation with PSU CHAI (the Cultural and Historical Association for Israel) alumni, who will share the story of CHAI's establishment, the importance of an active pro-Israel community on college campuses and the challenges in building a safe space on campus. They will also share their unique experiences and how being a student leader affected their lives after graduation.

The alumni panel includes [Amy Albertson](http://AmyAlbertson.com), a Jewish advocate, educator and activist, who is changing the narrative around anti-Semitism and focusing on Jewish pride, as well as three other young alumni changing the world. After alumni panelists share their stories, the audience will be invited to participate in a Q&A. To register for the program, visit pdxhillel.org or contact Eden@pdxhillel.org for more information.

Feb. 27: MoHo PDX monthly film series

Did you know that most of the cast of "School of Rock" was Jewish? Have you ever made challah using Kronk's recipe? Even "Dirty Dancing" is based on Jewish screenwriter Eleanor Bergstein's own childhood! Check out the Moishe House calendar at linktr.ee/MoHoPDX for updates on location and which movie we will be screening and how to join us.

Each month, the Portland Moishe House hosts seven events for young adults such as Shabbat dinners, hikes and rock climbing, educational events and happy hours. Moishe House PDX is walking distance to countless bars, music venues and food spots. Come join us to become involved in the Jewish community, to meet others your age and to develop your Jewish identity. Our mission is to create a vibrant community filled with social gatherings, a comfortable Jewish environment and awesome programming.

Federation has grants, loans, scholarships for birth-college

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland offers several grant and scholarship opportunities for young people from preschoolers through college.

“Early experiences are pivotal in creating Jewish identity,” says Rachel Nelson, JFGP Director of Educational Initiatives & Associate Director of Community Relations. “We want to help foster those experiences. The Federation is proud to provide many different opportunities for engagement in programs for young families through college.”

Nelson manages the following programs and invites people to contact her with any questions at 503-892-7415 or rachel@jewishportland.org.

PJ Library, jewishportland.org/pjlibrary: The gift of high-quality Jewish children’s books and local area programs; as funding is available.

Jewish Right Start, jewishportland.org/rightstart: Funding to support families choosing Jewish preschool for the first time; as funding is available.

One Happy Camper, onehappycamper.org: Grants for first-time Jewish overnight campers; as funding is available.

Youth Group Convention Funding, jewishportland.org/youthgroups: Funding for Youth Group regional and national conventions; as funding is available.

Chai Israel, jewishportland.org/travelisrael: Two opportunities for grants for teens to travel to Israel – once for a high school experience and once for a gap year experience, March 1.

Sussman Fund, jewishportland.org/sussman: Scholarships for those attending a U.S.-based college, March 1.

In addition to grants and scholarships, Federation offers interest-free loans that can be used to offset costs of camps, schools, travel and more.

Jewish Free Loan, jewishportland.org/freeloan: Loans of up to \$5,000 to Jewish residents of Oregon and SW Washington. The interest-free loans require two cosigners with repayment over three years. Application-to-approval can take a few weeks. Loans up to \$1,000 for people directly impacted by Covid-19 do not require a cosigner, and take just one to a few days.



Krembo Wings Lakiya branch serves the region's Bedoin community with funding provided by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

KREMBO WINGS (continued from page 4)

sexual assault, Ethiopian Israelis, children with disabilities, LGBTQ people and Israeli Arab citizens.

For 20 years, Krembo Wings has opened doors to children with severe to moderate disabilities, who once had no place in Israel’s youth movement network. Krembo Wings operates 78 branches throughout Israel that each week welcome over 7,000 young people with and without disabilities ages 7-22 from all cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds, who often have no opportunity for social interaction outside of the formal education system.

Lakiya is a Bedouin-populated desert village located in the south of Israel with a population of 13,000. Krembo Wings launched the Lakiya branch in September 2020 in the midst of Israel’s second Covid lockdown.

In its mid-year report to the OSP, Krembo Wings reported that with Covid lockdowns, it was unable to provide computers to all participants, so most meetings were for peer counselors and coordinators. However, the branch returned to regular twice-weekly meetings in mid-March last year. In August, the branch’s

leading team and adult coordinator were trained, with peer counselors receiving training in early fall.

“We are also thrilled to share that the Lakiya branch currently has 102 participants, including 16 participants with disabilities who come from the neighboring village of Al Salam,” reads the mid-year report to the OSP. “We know that bringing our empowering activities to Israel’s peripheral populations provides an opportunity for the growth and change of entire communities.”

The funds necessary for the operations of the Krembo Wings Lakiya branch come largely from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the national government.

The report concludes: “On behalf of the Krembo Wings Lakiya branch participants, their families and the movement’s entire staff, we would like to thank the Jewish Federation of Portland for its continued contribution and support of the branch, which provides children and youth with and without disabilities empowering social and educational activities and offers surrounding communities a vision of true inclusion.”



Chabad families recharge to offer resources to Oregon, Washington communities

On Feb. 13, 15 Chabad families gathered at a park in Tigard for a day of strengthening each other and to discuss ways to continue to extend physical and spiritual goodness and kindness to the communities they live in. The families came from Chabad programs

including Ashland, Eugene, Bend, Salem, Hillsboro, Tigard, Portland Young Professionals, Everything Jewish, Southwest Portland, Northeast Portland, Southeast Portland, Lake Oswego, Gresham and Southwest Washington.