

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

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UKRAINE

Read update on the efforts to protect and safeguard Ukraine's Jewish community.
~ page 5

Ukraine's Jews need support

Concerns about the well-being of the Jewish community in Ukraine have accelerated since Russia invaded. The Ukrainian Jewish community needs our support now. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is participating in a continental special campaign effort to assist Jews in the region. So far, JFGP has raised \$85,000 to be allocated through JAFI, JDC, World ORT and others on the ground.

One hundred percent of your donation goes to those in need. Donate at jewishportland.org/ukraine-crisis.

Russia's war on Ukraine explained

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland invites you to learn more about the situation in Ukraine at 4-5 pm, March 2, on Zoom.

Professor Natan Meir will provide historical and geopolitical context for Russia's attack on Ukraine. He'll discuss the complex relationship between the two countries, the ethnic and linguistic makeup of Ukrainian society, and Ukraine's Jewish community.

Register for the Zoom link at tinyurl.com/2p98kurx.



Hand in Hand has seven multi-cultural schools in Israel.

Hand in Hand wins Global Pluralism Award

BY DEBORAH MOON

Hand in Hand, a network of integrated schools in Israel co-founded by Portlander Lee Gordon, won the 2021 Global Pluralism Award for its work promoting a more inclusive and pluralistic society in Israel. The award was presented Feb. 23, 2022, in a virtual ceremony. (Program on Hand in Hand March 13 – see page 10).

Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel, Namati Kenya and Professor Puja Kapai from Hong Kong received the third biennial award from the Global Centre for Pluralism. Nearly 500 organizations and individuals from 70 nations were nominated for the award. Other finalists include a global LGBT+ movement and groups from Afghanistan, Dominican Republic, Kosovo, India, Canada and Malawi. The three winners each received a grant of \$50,000 (Canadian) to further their work for pluralism.

"This award reflects pluralism in action," says former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark, the chair of the Global Pluralism Award Jury. He added the winners "demonstrate the power of working cooperatively to effect change."

Award jury member Bishop Precious Omuku praised the tenacity and vision of all the finalists. "Ordinary people can affect the world. These finalists have made a remarkable contribution to society."

Meredith Preston McGhie, the Secretary General of the Global Center of Pluralism, hosted the award presentation, which was held virtually for the first time. She noted that during the pandemic, pluralism has been increasingly under threat around the world.

Before the winners were announced on the livestream on Facebook, Gordon said, "I feel proud that Hand in Hand has been selected as a finalist for the Global Pluralism Award, sponsored by the Global Centre of Pluralism in Ottawa, Canada. In the midst of what seems like a never-ending conflict, Hand in Hand's Jewish and Arab students, parents, teachers and community leaders

See PLURALISM, page 10

INSIDE

Kollel grows – page 2

Community Shabbat at home – page 2

Book lover revamps RSM library – page 4

Jobs board – page 5

Portland's three day schools – pages 6-7

People: BB Camp's Koplan feted, new ZoomCare CMO, MJCC departure and more – pages 8-9

Briefs: Covid tests, emergency loans, OJCYP grant, BBYO, spring break camps – pages 10-11

Engagement: Singer-Siegel – page 11

Purim hamentashen, parties, spiels and other fun – page 12

Events: OJMCHE look at Ukraine & Russia, films, art fest, JAM returns to J – page 13

Chaplain: Wired to be hopeful – page 14

Column: Don't let Whoopi Goldberg or anyone pigeonhole Jews – page 15

Sign gun violence prevention petitions at home – page 16

Obituaries: Bernstein, Rosenberg, Rostamian, Buchwalter, Johnston, Horwitz – page 16

Portland Kollel's Beit Knesset has expanded space for the library, which Rabbi Akiva O'Connor has been working to organize. "A major goal of the Kollel is to be welcoming," says Rabbi O'Connor. So he has arranged books so people can come in and study on their own. "They can pull a book off the shelf, study a little Torah and get on with their day."



Kollel grows space, programs, staff

BY DEBORAH MOON

Portland Kollel 2.0 is poised to launch more programs and resources for the community as soon as the world reopens.

Last year, Portland Kollel added staff (see page 8 in the [Oct. 27, 2021 Jewish Review](#)). Now the outreach and education nonprofit has added space – from 1,400 square feet to nearly 5,000, including about 2,000 square feet of common area it plans to offer at an affordable price for small events, pop-up businesses, and study and work rooms. The common area also includes a barista-style kitchenette and a media room to create podcasts, etc. The common area will be overseen by the Kollel.

Portland Kollel is in the same building on Capitol Highway between Hillsdale and Multnomah Village, but has moved into most of the space formerly occupied by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. With the help of contractor and developer Jeffrey Weitz, the Kollel is creating a space where people can find meaningful connections to Judaism.

"Jeff and I are dreaming," says Kollel CEO Rabbi Chanan Spivak, noting plans for the common areas are still in flux, though the media room is already fully equipped and in use. He hopes the common space also will be used for young adult meeting space.

"We have a lot of concepts, but nothing is solidified," says Weitz, who has been involved with Kollel since its founding 16 years ago. "We are trying to expand common space (available in the community)."

Weitz is the contractor for the project and is coordinating the design work. He also worked on the Eastside Jewish Commons and Rachel's Well Community Mikvah with Federation.

He calls the coming year "a new era for the Kollel."

The Kollel is already using about 2,300 square feet of the new space for Kollel and NCSY offices and classrooms. The books for the Beit Knesset (house of study) are still mainly in boxes. Restrooms and a small lunch area take up another 480 square feet of space that will also be open to the common area.

Director of Communications Rabbi Akiva O'Connor says he became the de facto librarian



Rabbi Chanan Spivak, right, and Rabbi Boruch Dov Diskind in one of the new Kollel offices.

because he had a vision for how the books should be displayed.

"Covid has hampered in-person events, but the Kollel is rebooting as Kollel 2.0, so when the world opens up, we will have new offices, classrooms and meeting space ready for enhanced programming for the community," says Rabbi Spivak. "The point is to be full force as an event space as soon as the world opens up."

Kollel Director of Administration and Programming Rabbi Boruch Dov Diskind says the Kollel has used Zoom, one-on-one study and small group classes to serve the community during the pandemic. He compares participation in the year before Covid began to the past two years. In 2019 until pandemic closures began in March 2020, the Kollel had 27 adult events with 1,470 participants, nine children's events with 481 children, 372 classes and 329 private sessions. During Covid, they have had few in-person events, but a lot more one-on-one and Zoom events – they offered 54,353 minutes of programming on Zoom from March 2020 through February 2021.

"People ask for Zoom," says Rabbi Diskind. "We will offer hybrid programs for the foreseeable future."

But Rabbi Spivak says the Zoom experience is qualitatively different than in-person interaction on the impact it has, and he hopes to "push Zoom out once everything is open."

A grand opening is being planned May 19, including a Lag B'Omer celebration.

For more information, visit portlandkollel.org or call 503-245-5420.

Kick off Shabbat with community candle lighting

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

With this Shabbat, we celebrate in solidarity with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and offer a prayer for their safety and security.

"Taking part in Shabbat Across America is an antidote to Covid fatigue," says Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen. "Though some restrictions have been lifted, many of us are still nervous about getting together in person. A virtual connection is better than no connection."

Join NJOP, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the greater Portland Jewish community for a virtual Shabbat candle lighting at 5:30 pm, March 4.

"This is a chance to mark two years of the pandemic as a community and shine a light and bring hope for the future going forward," says JFGP Director of Community Planning and Allocations Caron Blau Rothstein. "We very much hope that people will join us to kick off their observance in community, albeit virtually."

Rabbi Cohen will lead a brief 18-minute reflection on the past two years of the pandemic and conclude with candle lighting to take us into a restorative at-home Shabbat practice.

"Lighting the Shabbat candles is a simple way to create a transformative experience," says Rabbi Cohen. "For me, the highlight is seeing all the faces, calling people out by name and sharing texts. When we gather, we prove how resilient we are as a community. We will not allow Covid to detract from the simple holiday that has connected and protected us for generations."

To receive free Shabbat materials, visit njop.org/shabbat/saa/.

Details at jewishportland.org/community-calendar/shabbat-across-america. Register to join at tinyurl.com/54aw3rsy.



March 4th ★ 5:30 pm

Let's come together virtually to start our observance with a brief community candle lighting and reflection led by Rabbi Barry Cohen, Community Chaplain.

Register to join us for the communal virtual candle lighting:

tinyurl.com/54aw3rsv

Register with NJOP to receive free Shabbat Across America Materials:

njop.org/shabbat/saa



Lifelong book lover revamps RSM library

BY SYDNEY CLEVENGER

Growing up in a housing project in Minneapolis, Fran Gardner used to escape to the library.

"There was a library about two blocks away," says Gardner, 72, who moved into Rose Schnitzer Manor two years ago. "I just loved going there after school. This was when I was between the ages of 6 and 9; I would show my little sister the picture books and just find so much stuff to read. It was a beautiful library, with oak paneling and built-in oak bookshelves."

So when Gardner moved into Rose Schnitzer and found the Marjorie and Jack Saltzman Library needing a little love, she knew she had found a passion project.

For the past 18 months, Gardner has single-handedly cataloged online all 2,665 books by 1,730 authors in the library. She has thinned the collection – there were multiple copies of some recent fiction and many outdated books. With a few occasional helpers, she reorganized books and shelves and added new sections like self-help, romance and Yiddish. A favorite new category is "sweetness and light," books like the Chicken Soup series that "some may find inspiring while others roll their eyes at the perceived insipidness."

"This is a deep collection," says Gardner. "There's a lot of really good literature. I get comments from people that you can always find something to read here."

"You have done such a beautiful job!" says a resident, passing through the library as Gardner is sharing the progress of her work.

"Thank you," says Gardner with her trademark self-deprecation and directness. "You know, it's all done, except for I'm adding new books and trying to keep the ones straightened up that are here. I need help with straightening up because it's hard for me to do. You need to move the books to the front of the shelf and even them out, so they don't push back against the back of the shelf where they can't be reached."

The business of "library-ing" has long been in Gardner's blood. When she was 12, living in Bloomington, Minn., Gardner would show up unannounced at the library of her own accord, volunteering to reshelve books. At 14, in Sioux Falls, S.D., when she wasn't allowed access to the adult library books, Gardner's mother handed her the card she used to check out books, to the amusement of the librarians. During her undergraduate years at the University of California, Berkeley, Gardner worked in the Undergraduate, Music and Math-Stat libraries as she was pursuing a bachelor's degree in English with an emphasis on Victorian literature.

"If I had not gotten a job with my local paper (in Tulare, Calif.) as a Saturday proofreader when I was in high school, I probably would have pursued library science in college," says Gardner. "I knew a lot about the library."

What's Gardner's favorite book?

"My favorite is whatever I'm reading now, which is *God and the Big Bang*. It's absolutely life-changing."

"My current favorite author is a young adult writer named Maggie Stiefvater. She's so wonderful, I can only read a few pages at a time. Every couple of years, I reread *Pattern Recognition* by William Gibson. Don't know why. And the Harry Potters of my childhood were the Narnia series by C.S. Lewis. I was so in love with those books. I remember being surprised in junior high to discover they were allegories. I just read them for the plot."



Fran Gardner has breathed new life into Rose Schnitzer Manor's library, where she has added new sections to help residents easily find a book to enjoy.

Gardner, whose maiden name is Pollak, met her first husband, Mark Gardner, working on Berkeley's *The Daily Californian*. The two moved to Medford, where Fran Gardner was a reporter for the *Ashland Daily Tidings*, and then to Portland where she worked at a suburban paper before being hired at *The Oregonian*. Gardner was an editor, copy editor, reporter and opinion writer at the *The Oregonian* for 34 years, retiring in 2008 during a buyout.

She and Mark had two daughters, Lyza Danger Gardner, a programmer who lives in rural Vermont, and Maggie Gardner, who is a professor at Cornell Law School. Gardner has two grandchildren.

Gardner became interested in computer programming in the early 1980s. That interest paved the way for the kind of technical prowess needed for library cataloging, which she completed on a free internet site called librarything.com.

In 2004, Gardner married Robert Jaffe, a retired professor of both philosophy and electrical engineering, and the couple lived in southeast Portland. Health troubles (she has a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis) led Gardner to an assisted-living community near their home, which she says provided no stimulation with a "library" of about 15 books and no lectures or music.

Just before the pandemic, Gardner moved to Rose Schnitzer and took a ground floor room with a view of a giant cedar.

"When I originally saw the space," says Gardner, "I thought nobody would ever take that place because it's so dark because of the big old cedar. I love that cedar, and it called to me and told me I was going to live there. So, I do."

"This is a very interesting and diverse group of people who are intellectually curious well into their 90s," she says of RSM's residents. "My husband is Jewish, but I am not, and about one-quarter of the people here are not Jewish, and we all get along just fine. I like kosher food because I appreciate the humane slaughter of animals, so that was a plus for me," she says.

"The place is well-constructed with a brilliant layout," she adds. "The grounds and the greenery and the nature path are marvelous."

Gardner is a leader in the community. She chairs the Resident Council and sits on the board of Cedar Sinai Park. She writes frequently for Cedar Sinai's "Our Stories" feature series. She is on the Rose Schnitzer Manor Food Committee and Cedar Sinai Park's Development Committee. And then there's the library.

"I have a rich life," says Gardner. "I quilt a lot and do a lot of handwork including knitting and embroidery. I play the violin. I like to sit and meditate. I am busy in so many different ways than before. And of course, I read."

Jewish response to unimaginable war

BY DEBORAH MOON

"Today we focus on saving Jewish lives when the whole of Ukraine is under attack," said Roman Polonsky of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's Jewish community is also helping the general Ukrainian population. JDC's *Hesed* Centers have shared medical equipment and supplies with the hospitals treating victims of what was once an unthinkable war.

Polonsky said that 10 years ago he would have thought a Martian invasion of Earth was more likely than a war between Russia and the Ukraine, but now "the unthinkable is happening in the middle of Europe."

Polonsky was one of several Federation partners from JAFI, the Joint Distribution Committee and World ORT, who spoke to a March 1 national briefing for Jewish Federations of North America. JFNA has launched a \$20 million emergency campaign (see page 1) to "meet the extraordinary needs that demand immediate attention," said JFNA chair Mark Wilf.



Eli Buzunov, a JDC coordinator in Kyiv, Ukraine, posted updates from Kyiv on Feb. 25. Here he is in front of an apartment building hit by a Russian Missile. He also posted a YouTube video, youtube.com/watch?v=3T2g53iOjTY, in which he was carrying water to a local shelter but was interrupted by an air raid siren and ran home to take his mother to a shelter.

Danielle Mor, who works with JAFI in Warsaw, added, "At the border, I saw things I could not imagine would exist in Europe in 2022."

During a Russian attack on a television tower in Kyiv March 1, the bombs also struck the Babi Yar memorial, which rests on a mass grave containing 34,000 Jews who were slaughtered there in 1941 when the city was under Nazi occupa-

tion. The massacre was carried out by SS troops along with local collaborators.

"To the world: what is the point of saying 'never again' for 80 years, if the world stays silent when a bomb drops on the same site of Babi Yar? At least 5 killed. History repeating..." tweeted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who is Jewish and had family members die in the Holocaust.

Mark Levin of the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry, said, "Now is the time to stand on the right side of history."

Stefan Oscar of JDC in Odessa spoke of the brutal war where hundreds of people are dying "in a war that was unimaginable just a few days ago." Adding that things are getting worse, he said the JDC is focused on four areas: staying in communication with staff and those receiving services; continuing social services (including home care to the country's 16,000 Holocaust survivors, most of whom are homebound and unable to get to shelters); delivering food, medicine and basic supplies; and evacuation (which has become increasingly risky) and support for those refugees who make it over the border.

"Despite the situation in these tragic moments, soon I hope we will be able to meet and discuss recovery and help this thriving Jewish community thrive in the future," said Oscar.

Donate at jewishportland.org/ukraine-crisis.

Jobs board

TIVNU: Building Justice Gap Year Resident Advisor

Stipend of \$1,500/month plus room, meals, utilities
Commitment: mid-August 2022-May 2023

Tivnu: Building Justice is looking for two caring, organized and dedicated individuals to complete our Jewish social justice gap year staff team for 2022-23. The Tivnu Gap Year Resident Advisors will live on site in Portland with Gap Year participants (ages 17-20), mentor program participants in formal and informal settings, contribute to creating an atmosphere of personal and communal growth, and perform a variety of organizational support tasks. For full job description, see tivnu.org/careers/.

JEWISH CAREER HUB

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has launched a career hub on its website – essentially a job board for the ongoing listing of job opportunities across the greater Portland Jewish community.

Jewish agencies and organizations are invited to submit their listings at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs

New openings recently posted on the Career Hub:

Summer Camp Director, Camp Solomon Schechter, Seattle, full time, \$80,000-\$120,000 plus benefits.

Summer Program Preschool Teacher, The Gan Preschool, Portland, \$18-22/hour DOE.

To see these and other job listings, visit jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs.



Ahavath Achim gifts piano to Neveh Shalom

Congregation Ahavath Achim has donated a beautiful baby grand piano to Congregation Neveh Shalom.

"Almost three years ago, Ron Sidis and Michael Allen Harrison obtained the brand new piano for their congregation," says Neveh Shalom Cantor Eyal Bitton. "The pandemic began shortly after, and the piano was never used. Now, because Ahavath Achim is vacating their Barbur location and has no room for the piano at their Hillsdale location, the synagogue decided to donate the piano to us."

Ron Sidis reached out to Cantor Bitton and not only donated the piano, but he also delivered it to Neveh Shalom.

"We extend our sincere thanks to Ron Sidis and the entire Ahavath Achim board for thinking of us and for their generosity," says the cantor. "The new piano will undoubtedly enrich the spiritual and communal life for our congregation and the community at large."

Day Schools

Three day schools enrich Portland community

The Portland area is fortunate to have three Jewish day schools serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Maayan Torah Day School, Maimonides Jewish Day School and Portland Jewish Academy offer excellent general and Jewish studies programs that incorporate Jewish values to create well-rounded graduates.

This roundup focuses on elementary and middle school programs. Preschools will be featured in a later issue. PJA and Maayan both offer preschool/early childhood programs, while Maimonides shares its campus with The Gan Preschool.

Some parents may feel Jewish day schools are out of reach due to cost, but all three schools offer generous tuition assistance in an effort to ensure that all Jewish children can receive a Jewish education.

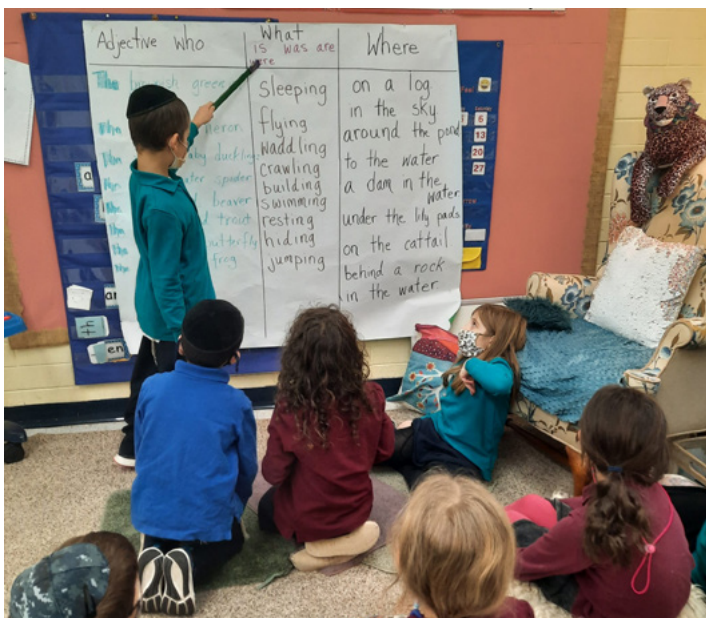
Asked to describe their programs in one sentence, the schools shared the following:

Welcoming families of all backgrounds, PJA's hands-on interdisciplinary curriculum emphasizes collaborative learning, critical thinking and joyful participation in Jewish life.

Maimonides Jewish Day School is an accredited, kindergarten through eighth grade school committed to teaching the whole child, inspiring lifelong learning, and providing personalized, meaningful, and empowering Judaic and General Studies education for a diverse community of Jewish children.

Maayan offers a balance of warmth, nurturing, rigorous academic experience and love of Judaism.

Following are more details on all three schools.



Maayan Torah Day School students build sentences.



Lower elementary students at Maimonides Jewish Day School sample Israeli treats and learn to pronounce and write the Hebrew words for sweet, salty, bitter and other tastes.

MAAYAN TORAH DAY SCHOOL

Principal: Rabbi Yerachmiel Kalter

ykalter@maayanpdx.org

503-245-5568 | maayanpdx.org

2 Touchstone Dr., Lake Oswego OR 97035

ACCREDITATION: AdvancEd, Cognia

COST: \$12,750

FINANCIAL AID: Maayan offers a plethora of scholarships and financial aid.

BEFORE AND/OR AFTER SCHOOL: Yes

KINDERGARTEN-8TH GRADE: 55 students

ACCOMMODATION FOR LEARNING DIFFERENCES: Yes

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: Maayan is committed to offering a stellar secular and Judaic education at an affordable price. Students enjoy a rigorous academic experience that pushes them to grow yet nurtures their love of learning. In recent national standardized testing, the majority of students far exceeded grade expectations in Math and ELA. Students gain an in-depth understanding of Mid-dot, Jewish customs and Torah. Most of all, they develop a love for their rich Jewish heritage and Israel.

MAIMONIDES JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Director: Devora Wilhelm

General Studies Principal: Karen DeNardo

office@portlandjewishschool.com

503-977-7850 | portlandjewishschool.com

6612 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, OR 97239

ACCREDITATION: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; National Council for Private School Accreditation; and National Accreditation Board of Merkos L'inyonei Chinuch

COST: \$12,700

FINANCIAL AID: At Maimonides, we believe it is the right of every Jewish child to have the highest quality Judaic and secular education. To that end, we offer financial assistance as we feel no child should be turned away due to financial concerns.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE: Yes

KINDERGARTEN-8TH GRADE

ACCOMMODATION FOR LEARNING DIFFERENCES: We have one staff member for every five students. This allows us

Continued on next page

Why send kids to day school?

Portland's three Jewish day schools offer an abundance of benefits for Jewish children at any time. Now, two years into a pandemic that has battered everyone's equilibrium, Jewish day schools offer even more advantages – not just for the students, but for the world.

"We are living in a very chaotic world, and a private Jewish school can bring in values and ethics," says Maimonides Jewish Day School Director Devora Wilhelm. "Having a values-based education is even more important now than five years ago."

Portland Jewish Academy Admissions Director Sarah Glass agrees that Jewish day schools have much to offer in the way of flexibility and core values.

"Our Jewish studies curriculum provides a built-in structure for social/emotional development by using our Jewish texts to learn lessons about how to live our lives with gratitude, respect, care for oneself and for the community," says Glass. "We also incorporate a social/emotional curriculum

in all classes. Lessons might include how to be a positive member of a classroom community, dealing with conflict in kind and constructive ways, building social skills and showing *kavod* (respect) for ourselves, others and property."

Maayan Torah Day School also offers values-based education – one that inspires children to love Judaism and mitzvot.

Wilhelm notes that Judaism also teaches that every person makes a difference in the world.

"If every child could feel 'I have purpose, what I do is important and I can make a difference,' we would have a better world," says Wilhelm.

The low ratio of students to teachers, ranging from 5:1 at MJDS to 10:1 at PJA, enables day school staff to be in tune with their students' emotional and social needs, as well as their academic needs.

"This year, we are noticing a greater need

See **WHY**, page 11

JEWISH DAY SCHOOL BENEFITS

Low student-to-teacher ratios.

A community of learners where every person is honored and valued.

A values-based education that engages the mind, body and spirit.

A school experience that encourages students to participate in Jewish life, engage in the broader Jewish community and become change-makers in the world.

A school that is grounded in Jewish values, informing everything from curriculum development to hiring.

Hebrew language (foreign language acquisition).

Increasing a student's Jewish literacy (understanding of Jewish history, texts, and culture).

Strengthening a student's Jewish identity.

Courtesy of Portland Jewish Academy.

DAY SCHOOLS (continued)

to accommodate for learning differences, whether it is for a student who is struggling with a concept or for a student that is beyond the given lesson and needs enrichment.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: We believe individuals progress and thrive most successfully at their own pace, so we maintain an excellent ratio of staff to students. We also believe that Judaism is applicable, relevant and supports meaningful and successful daily living. It is taught using a project-based approach that helps children love and personally connect to Jewish tradition and values. We believe that as active members of the 21st century, students must be curious, critical thinkers and lifelong learners.

PORTLAND JEWISH ACADEMY

Director of Admission: Sarah Glass

503-535-3599 | sglass@pjaproud.org

pjaproud.org

6651 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219

ACCREDITATION: Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS)

TUITION: K-5th, \$22,050; Middle School, \$22,800 (2022-23)

FINANCIAL AID: We offer tuition assistance. More than 50% of PJA families receive tuition assistance. We also offer a 30% tuition discount for Jewish Communal Professionals.

BEFORE AND/OR AFTER SCHOOL: We offer after-school care for K-5th grade students.

KINDERGARTEN-8TH GRADE: 186 students

ACCOMMODATION FOR LEARNING DIFFERENCES: We will make accommodations for learning differences as nec-



Portland Jewish Academy kindergartners work together.

essary and as long as we have the resources to do so. PJA has a Support Services team of educators who provide support in both academic and social/emotional skills. In addition, we have support for students new to Hebrew language learning. Support is given both in the classroom and in individual or small group sessions.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: Founded in 1961, Portland Jewish Academy is an independent, inclusive Jewish community school that welcomes families of all backgrounds. PJA provides an academically rich environment that supports each student's personal growth and development, from infants through 8th grade. Our hands-on interdisciplinary curriculum emphasizes collaborative learning, critical thinking and community engagement. At PJA, students are empowered to think for themselves and work for the world.

NEXT UP: Day camps: March 16 issue | Jewish preschools: March 30 issue

People in the News

Dr. Mark Zeitzer named Chief Medical Officer

Dr. Mark Zeitzer has been named ZoomCare's Chief Medical Officer.



Dr. Mark Zeitzer

Dr. Zeitzer has been with ZoomCare since 2015 when he helped pioneer ZoomCare Super, an innovative facility that bridges the gap between traditional urgent care and the emergency room. He has held the interim position of CMO since September 2021 and is now ZoomCare's permanent Chief Medical Officer.

He is a past board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and co-chaired the annual campaign with his wife, Mindy. He is also part

of a 20-member Portland cohort of the renowned Wexner Heritage Program, in which participants study Judaism and leadership for two years. Mark studied medicine at the University of Arizona, where he became an avid Wildcats fan. He brought his love for basketball to Portland and is a proud supporter of the Portland Trailblazers. Mark also loves the outdoors, fitness and downhill skiing and is an avid cyclist.

"It's been an incredible adventure working for ZoomCare over the last six plus years," says Dr. Zeitzer. "It is truly fulfilling to work with a fantastic team to revolutionize emergency, urgent and primary care for our communities in 60 clinics across four states. I am very excited for the opportunity to be CMO and bring the 'Quadruple Aim' (patient care, provider satisfaction, cost-effectiveness and population health) to our communities and our

providers. Health care is ripe for positive disruption. ZoomCare offers an awesome patient experience; we see it in our online reviews every day. It is tremendously gratifying to lead a team that makes this awesome experience happen every day on every visit, demonstrating how this experience is sustainable. I'm proud to be part of ZoomCare leading the way for how things ought to be done in health care."

MJCC Asst. Executive Director takes new post

Mittleman Jewish Community Center Assistant Executive Director Jennifer Harrington has accepted a position as the Wellness Program Manager for St. Charles Health Care Systems. Her last day at the MJCC will be March 10.

"She will continue to work with me on a consulting basis as we recruit and on-board a new assistant executive director for the MJCC," says Executive Director Steve Albert.

Jennifer has been at the MJCC for over a decade. During that time, she has served as fitness program manager, health and wellness director, and assistant executive director.

"In these roles, Jennifer has had an enormous impact on the J's programs in all areas, especially fitness, day camp, sports and recreation, aquatics and membership," says Albert. "The wide range of offerings and services, and the current strong position of our organization, is a tribute to Jennifer's dedication, passion and talent."



Jennifer Harrington

See **PEOPLE** on next page

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland hosts

*Whoever saves a single life
is considered...to have
saved the whole world*

Sanhedrin 37a



**American
Red Cross**



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PORTLAND



BLOOD DRIVE

**Wednesday, April 6
12-5 pm**

9900 SW Greenburg Rd.
Tigard

**Pre-register to secure your appointment at
www.redcrossblood.org sponsor code: JFGP**

BB Camp's Michelle Koplan honored

B'nai B'rith Camp CEO Michelle Koplan has received the 2021 American Camp Association's prestigious The Frank M. "Scotty" Washburn Award for Outstanding Service from the Oregon Trail for her outstanding service.

Koplan founded and chairs the Alliance of Oregon Camps, formed in response to the pandemic, which forced the closure of overnight camps in 2020. The Alliance includes Oregon overnight camps including those affiliated with ACA, the Christian Camp and Conference Association, and unaffiliated licensed camps.

"This was such an honor – really nice and quite surprising," says Koplan. "This is such meaningful work. I am so passionate about creating a Jewish experience for children, and that motivates me to do this work."

When the award was announced she says she received this lovely "campy" text from Janette Kunkel, ACA Oregon Trail President: "You really deserve so much! You jumped into the deep end and got life jackets on us all and helped us keep swimming! So proud to have you on our team and grateful for your leadership! I could write pages on your efforts, energy and efficiency. You truly were like a wrangler with wild horses that were going in many different directions!"

At the start of the pandemic in 2020, Koplan served on a task force with the governor's office and Oregon Health Authority to create protocols for overnight camps to operate in the summer of 2020. But after an outbreak in an immigrant farm camp, the governor decided to close all overnight

camps in 2020.

"We were all devastated," says Koplan of camp leaders around the state.

When Koplan learned the Oregon Cultural Trust had received federal funding through the CARES Act, she decided to see if Oregon's 160 overnight camps – whose industry had been shut down – could also receive funding. She worked with volunteer lobbyists, stakeholders and legislators and was able to secure \$1.5 million in December 2020 for Oregon camps.

That drove her to further organize camps to ensure they could open for 2021. The newly formed Alliance was able to develop safety protocols and obtain \$10 million from the state legislature to open safely in the summer of 2021. Additional funding from the Oregon Community Foundation brought another \$40 million to summer camps that year.

"We are still on a roll," says Koplan of the Alliance's efforts for summer 2022. For the Oregon legislature's 35-day short session that began Feb. 1, the Oregon Alliance of YMCAs, OregonASK, the Oregon Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs and the Alliance of Oregon Camps have submitted a request for \$52 million to support and assess the needs of summer programming and summer camps.

Inspired by hearing of National Guard members in other states serving as substitute teachers, she worked with Rep. David Gombert and Sen. Dick Anderson to draft a letter to the governor requesting National Guard assistance for summer camps facing severe staffing shortages.

The award was named for Oregon native



Michelle Koplan received the 2021 American Camp Association's Frank M. "Scotty" Washburn Award for Outstanding Service. It is awarded to an individual or team known for his/her/their outstanding service and leadership in the profession of organized camping.

"Scotty" Washburn, who passed away in 2016. He was a leader in the resident camping field and served in a number of roles with the American Camping Association including national president from 1968-1970.

ACA Senior Director of Volunteerism Michele Branconier wrote to Michelle: "Your leadership in organizing The Alliance of Oregon Camps, developing key relationships with the Oregon Health Authority, and using your voice to support the camp experience through government affairs has been exemplary."

PEOPLE (continued from previous page)

In her new position, Harrington will serve as a member of the human resources organizational development team, and her primary responsibility will be the creation of an employee-centric wellness program for the 4,600 employees in the St. Charles system. St. Charles' network encompasses four large hospitals and myriad medical clinics throughout Bend, Redmond, La Pine and Madras. Harrington will be based in Bend; she'll work in a hybrid/remote capacity initially and plans to relocate to Bend in the summer of 2023.

"This is a very exciting professional opportunity for Jennifer," says Albert. "Please join me in wishing Jennifer all the best in her new role."

Nominate high school scholar athletes

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center seeks nominations for the Harry Glickman Scholar Athlete Award. Any Jewish student athlete who has lived in Oregon for the past three years and is a junior or senior in high school is eligible. Two winners will be selected and recognized at the MJCC Community Celebration on May 24, 2022. This award was established in 2012, in honor of Harry Glickman, z"l, the "father" of professional sports in Oregon. He was the founder of the Portland Trail Blazers, the Trail Blazers' President

from 1987-94 and the founder of the Portland Buckaroos. He is also a member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Applicants will be judged on academic and athletic achievement as well as their commitment to community service. Winners will receive a \$500 scholarship for college. Apply/nominate by April 14, 2022. Visit oregonjcc.org/hsathlete

Former Portlander publishes autobiography

Author Joseph Cox made *Aliyah* in 2014, moving from Portland to Israel with his wife and children. In November 2021, he released *A Multi Colored Coat (an autobiography of sorts)*.

Joseph's family became religious while living without running water or electricity in the Idaho wilderness. His parents both earned Ph.D.s from Columbia University. Joseph grew up near Scappoose, Ore., as a hybrid crossing between numerous worlds – hillbilly, Jewish and Ivy League. *A Multi Colored Coat* explores Joseph's childhood and the lessons he's learned since then.

The book is available from Amazon.



PLURALISM (cont. from page 1)

are creating on a daily basis a model of equality, partnership and peace. We hope that this model will have a growing impact for shared society in Israel.”

When interviewed following the ceremony, Gordon said the \$50,000 prize will go to support Hand in Hand’s programs in Israel. Hand in Hand has created a growing network of integrated bilingual schools across Israel, serving Israeli Arab and Jewish children, families and the wider community. The integrated multi-cultural schools are equipping a new generation to live together in cooperation and respect. In these schools, Hebrew and Arabic languages have equal status, as do both cultures and national narratives. More than 2,000 students in seven schools are supported by a community of active citizens who come together in solidarity and dialogue working to build a shared, inclusive society.

Gordon added that over the past year, Hand in Hand began to offer teacher training and resources to two communities where Jewish preschools are also serving Arab students. “There was no Arab content or language for those students, and the Jewish kids don’t get exposure to Arab culture.” With Hand in Hand’s help, those schools have hired assistant teachers who speak Arabic and can share that culture with all the students. Using multicultural curriculum developed by Hand in Hand, all the students gain a pluralistic experience.

He noted this effort is a small side project. “Our focus is still on our schools.”

One parent and community activist described the experience her children receive at Hand in Hand school as a gift.

“This is the community for me,” said Lena Turel, a Hand in Hand parent. “The community where I can most be myself, living my values and being embraced by others for doing so. I love Hand in Hand because what our people really care about is how you treat others. Here it is about inclusion, equality and respect. We are a community modeling this way of life for our children and educating them to prioritize these values. I can think of no better environment in which to educate my own children.”

News in brief

Free Covid-19 tests outside Neveh Shalom

Free Covid-19 testing is now available 8 am-3 pm, Mondays-Fridays, at the Curative Mobile Testing site in the Neveh Shalom lower parking lot, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland.

Two different tests are available: PCR (results in 2-3 days) and Abbott ID NOW Rapid Test (the rapid test is only available from 9 am to 2:30 pm with results within an hour).

You must make an appointment ahead of time at [curative.com](https://www.curative.com) and find the Neveh Shalom site listing for available times.

Emergency free loans available for housing

The Jewish Free Loan of Greater Portland has opened an emergency loan fund for individuals who are experiencing a housing crisis.

The emergency loan fund will offer loans up to \$1,500 with no required co-signer and quick turnaround for individuals 18 years old or older in the Oregon and SW Washington area who are Jewish, identify as Jewish or live in a Jewish household. The funds can be used to help with housing expenses such as rent, deposits and mortgage payments.

For more information or to apply, contact Ben Winkleblack at ben@jewishportland.org or 503-892-7417.

In addition, interest-free loans of up to \$5,000 are available with two cosigners with repayment over three years. Application-to-approval can take a few weeks. [jewishportland.org/jewish-free-loan](https://www.jewishportland.org/jewish-free-loan)

10 Jewish Review March 2, 2022



Shada Edris Mansour and Noa Nammer, right, will speak on Zoom.

Hand in Hand takes Israel360 spotlight on Zoom March 13

Israel360 hosts two leaders of Hand in Hand: Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel at 10:30 am, March 13, on Zoom.

Shada Edris Mansour works to build Hand in Hand communities, including building relationships with local municipalities, the Ministry of Education and a variety of organizations. She also has a daughter attending a Hand in Hand School. She is an optometrist and is working on her M.A. in public policy at Tel Aviv University.

Noa Nammer is an American-born educator, activist and musician who has lived in Israel since 2003. Noa shares the Hand in Hand story with thousands of supporters in Israel and around the world in visits, workshops and online. She is also the Youth Program Director at Heartbeat, a music dialogue organization for Israeli and Palestinian youth. Noa’s activist work includes dialogue facilitation with Israeli and Palestinian youth, working in a treatment center with Ultra-Orthodox girls with eating disorders and volunteering in a rural village in Nepal. She has a B.A. in psychology and Jewish history and an M.A. in gender studies.

Housed at Congregation Neveh Shalom, Israel360 is a series of programs that consider many aspects of Israel. The sessions this year focus on Israel: Resilience, Renewal and Realities.

To register, visit nevehshalom.org/israel360/.

OJCYF grant to JFCS helps survivors connect

The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation awarded Jewish Family & Child Service’s Holocaust Survivor Services program a grant to help chase away pandemic-related isolation.

The OJCYF provided funds to research and launch a pilot program whose name is a riff on a previously long-established, in-person social program JFCS regularly ran for its survivors. Virtual Café Europa does not fully replace Café Europa – field trips, cultural outings, educational lectures and more – but does provide at-home enrichment options for survivors during the ongoing Covid pandemic.

Run by Selfhelp, Virtual Senior Center (VSC) provides a device-based platform for older adults, all in the name of social engagement to benefit older adults. Clients can pick and choose from, for example, online classes, discussion groups and exercise courses, including Russian-language offerings.

One HSS client taking part in the pilot says she’s happy for the stimulating activities she can participate in, all while at home and interacting with others online. She said, “I watched the news on it and also a humorous news site. (I’m) planning to continue, to explore it some more. ... I understand the benefits of staying connected with the outside world, both for physical and mental health.”

Ever in tune with community needs, the OJCYF has supported JFCS programs and projects since 2006.



Evergreen Region teens attended the recent BBYO International Convention in Baltimore. Among the Pacific Northwest teens were (from left) Jackson Friedman, sophomore from Beaverton; Joseph Weiner, senior from Beaverton; and Max Rubenstein, junior, and Sadie Wolf, senior, both from Mercer Island, WA. Photo by Jason Dixon Photography.

Local teens join 2,500 BBYOers from around globe

Oregon teenagers were among those attending what is possibly the biggest in-person Jewish gathering since Covid began.

A year after being held as one of the Jewish community's largest virtual gatherings due to the Covid pandemic, [BBYO International Convention \(IC\)](#) convened in person again Feb. 17-21, 2022, in Baltimore. With extensive health and safety measures in place, the event drew more than 2,500 Jewish teens from 40 countries around the world. Teens were able to come together

and connect with like-minded peers to define a future for themselves and their communities around this year's theme, "The Power of Us."

The weekend's programming focused on expanding leadership skills, finding ways to serve the local Baltimore community and working together to strengthen the Jewish future.

This year's event featured the full diversity of the BBYO community, with nearly 400 global delegates attending.

Life-cycle event

ENGAGEMENT JONATHAN SINGER-REBECCA SIEGEL

Jonathan Singer of Portland and Rebecca "Becca" Siegel of Mountain View, Calif., are engaged to be married. The couple happily got engaged Feb. 12 when Singer proposed while on vacation in Carmel, Calif.

Singer, a Berkeley Law and Pomona College graduate, is a fifth-generation Oregonian who runs his own commercial real estate law firm. He is the chair-elect of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and secretary of Portland Jewish Academy and Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Siegel, a graduate of the University of Washington, is a senior program manager in diversity, equity and inclusion at a major tech company and serves as a member of the Young Adult Leadership Committee at Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco.

Singer is the son of Peter Singer and Sharon Stern, and grandson of Jerry, z"l, and Helen Stern and Anne, z"l, and David, z"l, Singer, all of Portland. Siegel is the daughter of Caryn and Mark Siegel of Redwood City, Calif., and granddaughter of Joyce, z"l, and Arthur, z"l, Joseph of Teaneck, N.J., and Carol, z"l, and Daniel, z"l, Siegel of Pasadena, Calif.



The couple met on Lox Club, a Jewish dating app. It didn't hurt that his rescue dog is named Bagel and her rescue cat is named Izzy, after Palo Alto's best bagel shop.

WHY (from page 7)

among many students for additional support, both academically and socially," says Glass. "Our teachers are focusing more than ever on providing opportunities for students to develop their social skills and find tools to help them manage their emotional regulation."

In addition, PJA has a school counselor who works with students individually to guide them through challenging situations and offers small group sessions to support students navigating unfamiliar social dynamics.

At Maimonides, regular team meetings allow staff members to keep tabs on children for academic, social/emotional growth and concerns. Staffers consult with mental health professionals when needed and reach out to parents with out of school options.

MJDS believes in a three-pronged approach for students to succeed at school. Happiness – they must enjoy coming to school. Character traits – the school and home instills character traits that help a student develop into a mensch, who can succeed while making a positive difference in the world. Academics – the ability to think critically, analyze, interpret and use information and data effectively. When one is happy and a mensch, that is the foundation for academics to thrive.

Maayan Torah also focuses on creating a love for learning and Judaism. The school uses nurtured heart recognitions and student engagement strategies to foster an excitement for learning, which develops self-motivated students. The school offers an environment that conveys the joy and meaning of Torah and mitzvot.

BB Camp sets two spring break day camps

Join BB Day Camp this spring break for a week of day camp in Portland or at BB Camp in Lincoln City. Camps are for youth in kindergarten through sixth grade. Both camps meet 9 am to 3:30 pm, March 21-25.

Spring Break Day Camp in Portland meets at the Eastside Jewish Commons. It will be a week packed with songs, crafts, Shabbat celebration, games, field trips, sports and all your favorite summer camp activities. Cost is \$299. For questions, contact Abby Evonuk at aevonuk@bbcamp.org.

Spring Break Day Camp at BB Camp will be a week packed with songs, crafts, games, sports and all your favorite summer camp activities. This is a great option for families vacationing on the coast for spring break. Cost is \$225. For questions, contact Carly Sokoloff at sokoloff@bbcamp.org.

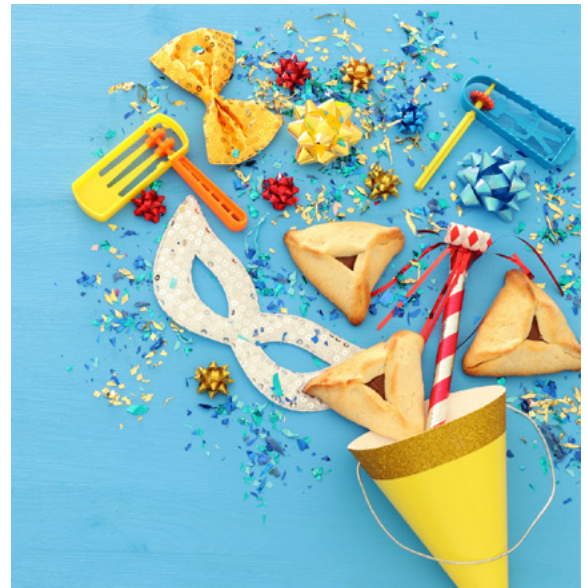
Registration and more information at bbcamp.org/spring-camps/.

Purim fun is coming soon

The joyous holiday of Purim arrives at sundown March 16. Although pandemic restrictions may put a dent in many of the carnival-like gatherings common to the holiday, the [community calendar](#) once again features a sprinkling of celebrations.

Purim celebrates how Queen Esther saved the Jews in ancient Persia from the wicked Haman. It is traditionally celebrated with Megillah readings, gifts of food, charity, feasting and merriment. Since dressing in costumes is a big part of the holiday, this is one holiday where face masks do not seem out of place. Learn more about the holiday at my-jewishlearning.com/purim.

Purim 2020 was the last festival celebrated before Covid closures. In 2021, delivering Mishloach Manot (Purim gift bags) took center stage. This year, hamentashen, Megillah readings and Purim spiels are among the traditions making a comeback – though Covid protocols still mean some modifications.



March 4: Deadline to order hamentashen

Congregation Shaarie Torah's sisterhood has been baking and selling hamentashen as a fund-raiser since the 1950s. The first year, they sold 100 dozen. In recent years, the sisterhood has made over 2,500 dozen with the help of over 100 volunteers. They are shipped all over the world.

With Purim 2022 fast approaching, the sisterhood has announced that Shaarie Torah's tradition of baking and selling hamentashen goes on. Though they will not be able to bake as many as in 2020, the last pre-pandemic bake, the sisterhood has made plans to bake while keeping everyone healthy.

An announcement of this year's plans reads: "We will not be congregating closely in the kitchen as we have done for so many years. We will be baking in the social hall and keeping our distance. As bakers, we will be following strict CDC guidelines. We really want to keep our wonderful hamentashen baking tradition alive at Shaarie Torah. We hope you understand why we made the changes and hope that we can still make your holiday delicious."

Place your order at shaarietorah.org/hamentashen. Curbside pick-up will be on specific dates and times (see order form).

March 16: My Fair Esther: A Purim Schpiel

Congregation Beth Israel brings Purim back into its main sanctuary at 6 pm, March 16, with "My Fair Esther: A Purim Schpiel."

Get me to the shul on time for our lover-liest Purim Schpiel yet! Beth Israel's talented, hilarious cast of clergy, staff and community members are guaranteed to make you want to dance all night.

Covid-19 health and safety protocols will follow state requirements in place at that time.

Not comfortable going out yet, but don't want to miss the fun? The Schpiel will also be available [via livestream](#). Visit bethisrael-pdx.org/joinus.

March 16: P'nai Or Purim Joy party via Zoom

The P'nai Or Purim Joy party will be at 6 pm, March 16, on Zoom.

The 90-minute frolic will include a mirthful opening song, goofy fundraising antics, a fun musical Purimspiel, storytelling and a costume contest.

For more information, email admin@pnaiorpx.org.

March 17: Purim at Ahavath Achim

Enjoy megillah reading, festive fun, pasta bar kosher dinner, costumes and more at Congregation Ahavath Achim, from 4 to 6 pm,

March 17. Masks must be worn at all times (unless eating and drinking). Maximum of 40 adults. Cost: \$10/person, \$5/children, \$25/family max. Registration is required: ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/purim

March 17: Close Out Purim Bash

Congregation Kesser Israel invites the community to enjoy dessert and dancing for a Close Out Purim Bash at 6:45, March 17. The Portland Kollel cosponsors the event.

For the congregation's full Purim schedule, visit kesserisrael.org.

March 17: Sporty Purim

Enjoy a Megillah reading, Purim music, buffet, games and crafts from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, March 17, in the basketball gym of Hillsboro's Poynter Middle School (1535 NE Grant; gym entrance from the back).

Come dressed in your favorite sports team's apparel. Cost is \$6/person or \$20/family.

Hosted by Chabad Hillsboro. RSVP: chabadh.com/events/sporty-purim

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Purim Seudah

This year, Purim and St. Patrick's Day overlap.

Celebrate a Purim seudah (festive meal), St. Patrick's Day, the capriciousness of life and words of Torah at Leikam Brewing Company, 5812 East Burnside, on March 17 at 4:30 pm. Wear a mask for Purim and a mask for Covid-19 and celebrate an amazing Purim. The food cart will have Purim/St. Patrick's-inspired fare.

"It is traditional to have a festive meal on Purim, but Portland is rarely traditional," says brewery cofounder Sonia Marie Leikam, who calls Purim her favorite holiday. leikambeer.com

March 19: Outrighteous Party & Variety Show

Co/Lab: Reimagine Jewish and Alberta Shul present "A Completely Outrighteous Purim Party and Variety Show" from 7 to 11:55 pm, March 19, in North Portland.

Outrageous and totally righteous at the same time, let it all hang out with a parade, a variety show, good music and delicious beverages. Proceeds from the evening will go to support a local organization to help fund the construction of tiny homes and give houseless individuals valuable training in the construction. Tickets are \$18-54.

Proof of vaccination along with ID and a mask are required to attend. Register at colabpdx.org/purim/.

March 3: Understanding the Crisis in Ukraine

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education will present “Understanding the Crisis in Ukraine, A Conversation with Marat Grinberg” at noon, March 3 on Zoom.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has everyone confused and seeking more clarity. Reed College Associate Professor of Russian and Humanities Marat Grinberg will discuss the situation, offering an up-to-date analysis, and answering questions.

Professor Grinberg emigrated from Ukraine in 1993, studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University, and received his PhD from the University of Chicago. He is a scholar of Jewish and Russian literature and culture.

Register at tinyurl.com/5n79343p

March 5-6: Weekend in Quest

Weekend In Quest 2022 will explore “How the Soviet Jew Was Made: Literature, Culture, Humor.” Sponsored by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, WIQ 2022 will be presented virtually, in Zoom format, over the course of two days, honoring the program’s roots as a Shabbaton study weekend.

The weekend’s scholar-in-residence, Sasha Senderovich, will present three lectures: “Hammer and Pickle: How Soviet Jews Joked – And Were Joked About”; “Rooted and Rootless: History, Memory and Cultural Mythology”; and “Scenes of Encounter: How American Jews Imagined Soviet Jews – and Vice Versa.” Havdalah service will be led by Cantor Barbara Slader.

Registration \$18 per household. For more information and to register, visit ojmche.org/calendar/

March 10: Sephardic Film Series resumes

The 15th Annual Sephardic Film Series resumes with a double feature Thursday, March 10, at 7 pm at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 6686 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland.

The January and February films in this year’s series were cancelled due to the Omicron surge, but with Covid positivity rates and hospitalizations decreasing, the series resumes this month.

March films are “The Sabbath Bride” and “Dreamers and Builders.” “The Sabbath Bride” celebrates the excitement and diversity of Shabbat in London.

Israeli filmmaker and scholar Ya’akov Gross uses rare archival film footage of Palestine in the tumultuous 1920s as the heart of the documentary “Dreamers and Builders.”

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

[RSVPs](#) are required. RSVP to info@ahavathachim.com.

March 12: (Virtual) Jewish Arts Festival

After two years of almost exclusively virtual programming, Congregation Beit Haverim is using a virtual fundraiser to raise money to fund technology to add hybrid programming and religious school programming.

“We are confident we can begin to shift to be in person,” says Rabbi Alan Berg. “But we are installing equipment so we can broadcast live. Zoom has allowed people who have felt isolated to feel there is a community there for them. While we are abuzz with the prospect of returning (to the synagogue), we don’t want to lose the ability to connect with everybody where they are.”

Just before Covid hit, Beit Haverim’s Art Festival was so successful, the congregation decided to make it the annual fundraiser. They have returned to that concept this year, though the festival will be virtual.

The (Virtual) Jewish Arts Festival and Fundraiser will be on Zoom beginning at 6 pm, March 12. The festival will include arts-based family fun. Ann Brown will teach participants a Yiddish song. Tobi Piatik will lead families in a 15-20 minute art project using markers and watercolors or colored pencils.

The evening culminates with a special performance by composer Michael Allen Harrison. He will present “Red Sea Suite,” piano and vocal impressions of his concert “Crossing Over – A Musical Haggadah.” To register, visit beithav.org/springfundraiser2022.

March 12: Pacific Northwest Pajama Party

Join PJ Library communities across the Northwest for a night of storytelling and Havdallah featuring authors Eric Kimmel, Kung Joadee and Shoshana Litman. Rabbi Yohanna Kinberg will lead Havdalah. Zoom at 7 pm, March 12.

Register at tinyurl.com/45ju4bmh

Jewish Arts Month returns – but just for one week



Eddy Shuldman, fused glass.

Jewish Arts Month, or “JAM,” has been a traditional springtime major sales and exhibit event for ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists. Last year, Covid forced the sale to move online. This year, ORA artists return to the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., March 6-11.

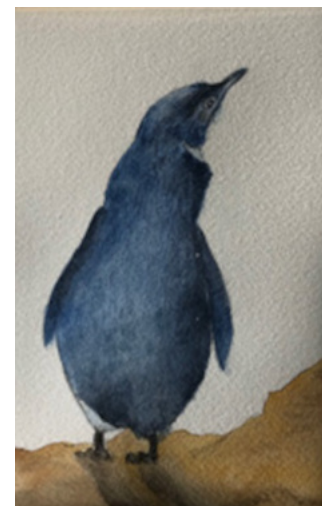
“We are so pleased to be showing and selling at the MJCC again this year after a Covid hiatus,” says ORA artist Arlene Hirsch. “The show will run one week only, not the typical month as in the past. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to come out and see what our artists have been creating. Invite your GenXers and Millennial kids and friends; they are buying homes now and might want to find that special piece of art for their new home.”

Participating artists are Arlene Hirsch, painting; Victoria Epstein, metal jewelry; Jack Liskear, turned wood; Laurie Fendel, fabric art; Eddy Shuldman, fused glass; Simkha Shields, painting; Lou Jaffe, photography; and Justin Carroll, painting.

Show hours are Sunday, 11 am-5:30 pm; Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am-6 pm; and Friday, 8:30 am-3 pm. Visit northwestjewishartists.org.



At left, metal jewelry by Victoria Epstein. Below, painting by Arlene Hirsch.



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| March 16 | March 10 |
| March 30 | March 24 |
| April 13 | April 7 |
| April 27 | April 14 (early) |

Submit news, photos
and obituaries to
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14 Jewish Review March 2, 2022

Chaplain's Corner

Wired to be Hopeful

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Are we seeing a light at the end of the Covid tunnel? Maybe ... perhaps ... possibly? But we've been here before. I remember those incredible weeks in the early summer of 2021 when mask mandates ended. I felt liberated as I shopped at Safeway, mask-free, able to walk any direction I wished, no longer bound to follow the directional arrows.

Then the Delta variant struck. Masks, social distancing and directional arrows returned. We suffered another setback when Omicron followed Delta; I added to my budget regular N95 mask orders.

We recently learned that the indoor mask mandate in Oregon will end on March 31. Do we have permission to feel hope and optimism? Or will we feel like Charlie Brown when Lucy pulls away the football at the last second and rather than completing a successful kick, he falls on his tush?

After all, I have already read of the next variation of an even more contagious version of Omicron ...

Despite how challenging the past two years have been, I still have guarded optimism about the coming months. Of note, being hopeful is hardwired into the Jewish people. Part of our identity is to hold fast to the vision that the future will be better than the past. We carry forward a legacy of adventurers and pioneers who felt hopeful about the future.

Think of Avram and Sarai (Abraham and Sarah). Rather than live the remainder of their lives comfortably in Haran, they chose to depart from the path chosen for them and reject the dominant religious world view and moral code. They heard *Lech l'cha*, you need to go to a new place, a Land of Promise; you need to make a covenant with an unseen, abstract God who promises that you and your descendants will become blessings.

But we have the ability to respond positively. Our ancestors have prepared us.

Think of Jacob, who had lived his entire life protected and coddled. To fulfill his potential, he finally developed the courage to leave home. (OK, fine, he had actually manipulated his brother, deceived his father and was fleeing for his life. But at least he had enough confidence to journey into the unknown, unprotected.) At the beginning of his journey, Jacob encountered God by way of a ladder linking earth to heaven; years later, he matured into an independent, confident young man, married, with children and wealth.

Think of Moses. Though he grew up in Pharaoh's court, he stood up for the Hebrew slaves because he knew on a gut level the meaning of justice. While he attempted to recreate his life in the wilderness, he responded to God's call to return to Egypt, confront Pharaoh and demand for the slaves to be freed. Moses embraced the vision that change was possible, that the mixed multitude could be freed and that they could journey to a Land of Promise.

And think of Shifra and Puah, the Hebrew midwives who stood up to Pharaoh and disobeyed his order to murder the male newborns. They rejected the status quo of Egyptian absolute power, put their lives on the line and refused to allow more innocents to die.

On a personal level, I think of my grandfather, Max, a man I never met. But I heard stories of how he left Poland alone when he was only 16 to travel to his Land of Promise, America. In a new country, through hours



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

of hard work, he made enough money to bring his family to a new home. If not for his inherent hope and optimism (and hard work), I would not exist.

We continue to struggle with Covid. We could fall into the trap and believe that not much will change ... that the proposed end of the mask mandate is a mirage. Instead, let's remember our legacy of hope. Let's remember the past generations of people who embraced the idea that our world can be better and that we can help unlock society's potential for the good.

The root of this challenge is a mere virus, but it manifests itself in the form of illness, death, isolation, alienation, polarization, bigotry, hatred, fear and scapegoating.

But we have the ability to respond positively. Our ancestors have prepared us. We can look to Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Moses, Shifra and Puah, among so many other biblical giants. We can look to our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

We can remain steadfastly hopeful, optimistic and confident that we can weather every variant of Covid and all of its collateral damage.

By seeking inspiration from our past, we can transform ourselves into models for future generations. We have the opportunity to become modern day Abrahams and Sarahs. Let's enthusiastically embrace the vision that tomorrow will be better than today, not only for our sake, but for the sake of generations yet to be born.

Don't let Whoopi Goldberg pigeonhole Jews

BY BOB HORENSTEIN

When American actress and television personality Whoopi Goldberg proclaimed that “the Holocaust isn’t about race” during the Jan. 31 airing of ABC’s *The View*, she exposed a blind spot many Americans have when it comes to understanding antisemitism. Goldberg demonstrated the same blind spot later that day on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, when she argued that Jews are white and that no one – not even Nazis or Ku Klux Klansmen – can tell whether someone is Jewish from their physical appearance.

Although Goldberg apologized for her ill-informed comments, ABC acted appropriately in suspending her for two weeks. We can only hope that during her time off, she educated herself on the Holocaust and came to the realization that the Final Solution wasn’t about “white people doing it to white people.” So, case closed, right? Hardly.

It would be a mistake to simply write off this episode as a gaffe born not of hatred but of ignorance and just forget it and move on. That’s because the opinions expressed by Goldberg reflect the reason why antisemitism is widely misunderstood among Americans and often ignored or dismissed even by professionals engaged in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work.

According to the American Jewish Committee’s survey on the “State of Antisemitism in America 2021,” 34% of American adults don’t know what antisemitism is, and nearly

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one in six said they had never heard of the term. We shouldn’t be surprised by these findings. After all, Whoopi Goldberg isn’t alone among Americans who hold a rather narrow view of Jews as a “white” religious community (although, ironically, if you ask a white supremacist, we don’t qualify as white at all).

The problem runs deeper than merely discounting the 10-15% of American Jews who are, in fact, people of color. Americans, particularly progressives, tend to see structural oppression only through the lens of race. Based on this worldview, how can it be that Jews, who are lumped together with the white majority, experience oppression? How can *they* be vulnerable when attributes such as privilege, affluence and implicit bias (if not outright racism) are associated with being white? How can antisemitism be a pressing issue if its victims are positioned at the top of the oppressive power structure?

To be sure, we Jews who are white-presenting must acknowledge a degree of privilege. Yet, one need only look

at the alarming increase in hate crimes against Jews over the last several years to realize that whatever privilege we have doesn’t provide immunity against antisemitism.

People who think like Goldberg have recast Jews into an amorphous grouping that’s entirely devoid of our identity, peoplehood, culture and long history of persecution. Because we are dismissed as just another part of the white power structure – a view which, arguably, is antisemitic itself – not only are we not considered a historically oppressed community, we also don’t merit the level of support that other marginalized minorities do.

This explains how an FBI spokesperson reporting on the mid-January hostage-taking at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, could make the absurd claim that it “was not specifically related to the Jewish community” – in other words, that it wasn’t an antisemitic hate crime. It explains why so many Jews feel abandoned by those whom we would have expected to be allies in the face of rising antisemitism, especially from the far left. And it explains the frequent omission of Jews and antisemitism from ethnic studies curricula.

The fallacy that Jews are white also erases the identity of millions of Israeli Jews who trace their roots to Arab countries, Iran, Turkey and Ethiopia. Representing more than half the Israeli Jewish population,



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these are people whose skin color is manifestly not white. Their existence flies in the face of the insidious Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which would have Americans believe that Israel is a white European settler colonialist enterprise that dispossessed the indigenous (Palestinian) people of color and therefore has no right to exist.

During the Holocaust, Hitler sought to erase the Jewish people, whom he considered to be an inferior “race,” by committing genocide. Now, our distinctive identity and history are being erased by those who insist on pigeonholing the Jews into a black-and-white paradigm in which we don’t properly fit and by which our concerns about the threat of antisemitism are largely disregarded.

We need to make clear that we don’t accept an erroneous definition of who Jews are based on skin color. If we expect American society to take antisemitism seriously, we can’t allow the Whoopi Goldbergs of the world to deny the complexity of our identity or negate the reality of our historical experience.

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland online

Website: jewishportland.org

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Sign gun violence prevention petitions at home

Supporters are hopeful that an interfaith, statewide drive will succeed in putting two gun violence prevention initiatives on Oregon's November 2022 state ballot.

About a decade ago, a group of Portland-area clergy began to gather for prayer vigils after mass shootings at schools, Clackamas Mall, a theater, and other places.

"I for one was getting angrier and angrier with a sense of hopelessness that nothing was changing," says Congregation Beth Israel Senior Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana. "We came to the conclusion that prayer vigils were insufficient; we could not stand idly by while our neighbors were bleeding. We had to take action."

"Lift Every Voice Oregon," an interfaith grassroots organization, grew out of that conviction.

"We had connections with churches, synagogues and mosques all over the state," he says.

After the high school shooting in Parkland, Fla., in 2018, the group began work on an initiative petition to get gun violence prevention on the state ballot. But they didn't have enough time to get on that year's ballot, so they started again aiming for the 2020 ballot.

"Then the pandemic hit, and we paused," says Rabbi Cahana. "We did not want to put people in danger to collect signatures."

Now Rabbi Cahana is one of three chief petitioners on the two gun violence prevention initiative petitions that are circulating for possible inclusion on this fall's ballot. Because of a new option for signing petitions, he is hopeful they will succeed.

Because of the pandemic, the secretary of state has allowed people to download a sign-from-home, single-signature petition. People can mail signed petitions to Lift Every Voice Oregon for inclusion in the signature count. That reduces the reliance

on gathering signatures at street fairs and other large gatherings, which are still in short supply, as well as the need to send people door to door.

To appear on the ballot, the petitions need about 140,000 signatures from registered Oregon voters by July 2022.

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

Rabbi Cahana emphasizes signing the petition is NOT voting to support the measures – it simply enables the initiative to appear on the ballot and to allow it to be a public conversation.

The complete text of the initiatives and sign-at-home instructions and forms are available at lifteveryvoiceoregon.com.

Obituaries

Submit obituaries to: editor@jewishportland.org

HELEN A. BERNSTEIN

Helen Ann Bernstein, z"l, passed away Feb. 17, 2022, at age 76, in Portland. She is survived by her beloved son, Niall Monaghan; daughter-in-law, Coco Cioroiu; and grandson, Declan; sisters, Gertrude Bernstein, Shirley Bernstein and Joan Rea; and a brother-in-law, Ed McVicker. Her brother, Edmond Bernstein preceded her in death. She also leaves nieces and nephews in Seattle, Florida and Portland.

She was born April 3, 1945, in Philadelphia to Minnie and Nathan Bernstein, the youngest of five children. She graduated from Girls' High in Philadelphia and West Chester State College. She lived in Washington, D.C.; Plainfield, N.J.; Korea; New York City; and Portland.

Her life in NYC was filled with work, friends, family, dance, theater and love. She moved to Portland in 1996. Helen's work life was dedicated to seniors. In NYC she worked in the Senior Programs at Marymount College and at the 92nd Street Y. In Portland, she was Executive Director of Store to Door, a non-profit that shops for and delivers food to seniors and people with disabilities. Donations may be made to Store to Door, Cedar Sinai Park in Portland, or a place of your choosing.

MATILDA ROSENBERG

Matilda Rosenberg, z"l, *Mazel bat Avram*, passed away Feb. 25, 2022, in Overland Park, Kansas. She was the beloved sister of Congregation Shaarie Torah member Isaac

16 Jewish Review March 2, 2022

(Charlotte) Tevet. She also is survived by her husband, Marty Rosenberg; sister Sarah (Ira) Korman; children, Eli (Amy), Alanna (Joe) and Joey (Maya); and grandchildren, Mira, Aliza, Leor and Levi.

She was born April 13, 1952, in Portland to Albert and Alegre Tevet, Holocaust survivors and part of a tiny remnant of the Greek Jewish community that survived the Holocaust.

Matilda went to Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War to work on an agricultural kibbutz while workers were off defending Israel. After six months she traveled with a longtime Portland friend to Crete, where they slept in a cave and were awoken by a herd of goats and their tinkling bells.

Upon her return, she met, fell in love and married Marty. They settled in Kansas City.

The funeral was Feb. 28. A shiva minyan will be held via Zoom on March 6 at 5:30 pm. Contact Congregation Shaarie Torah for the Zoom link.

EGHBAL ROSTAMIAN

Eghbal Rostamian, z"l, passed away Feb. 21, 2022, at age 94. He is loved and remembered by his wife, Behjat; children, Congregation Neveh Shalom member Mojgan (Doug Edwards) Rostamian, Eli Rostamian, Shahan Rostamian and Fariba (Mark) Mutschler; and four grandchildren.

MARIANNE BUCHWALTER

Marianne Buchwalter, z"l, passed away Feb. 17, 2022, at age 97. Marianne is loved and remembered by her children, Juliet

(Doug Strohl) Buchwalter, Andrew (Kate Rowe) Buchwalter, and Charles (Lisa) Buchwalter; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral was Feb. 20 at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery.

MARY KATHLEEN JOHNSTON

Mary Kathleen Johnston, z"l, passed away Feb. 16, 2022. Mary is loved and remembered by her husband of 50 years, Phil Johnston; and her three daughters and their families, Congregation Neveh Shalom members Anne Johnston and Sam Silverberg (Benny, Ella, Ava and Miles), and Maura and Phil Bellaria (Mary Catherine, Jaqueline and John), and Shannon Johnston (Riley).

Burial is at Good Shepherd Cemetery in Huntington Beach, Calif.

BARRY HORWITZ

Barry Horwitz, z"l, passed away Feb. 15, 2022, at the age of 74, in Carpinteria, Calif. He is loved and remembered by his sister, Congregation Neveh Shalom member Addie (Bruce) Banasky.

Judaism's wisdom on death

Explore how Judaism provides a path both for the person who is dying, and for those who love them: March 10: Jewish rituals to help us prepare ourselves and our loved ones for death, Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen.

March 31: Jewish grieving & beliefs in the afterlife, Rabbi Eve Posen, Neveh Shalom.

Register: forms.gle/kVLGwJAgBzPpKgX68