

# The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

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## War, needs both expand in Ukraine



Screenshots from the video "Federation at Work to support the needs in Ukraine" at [vimeo.com/686883506/815e725245](https://vimeo.com/686883506/815e725245)



Donate at [jewishportland.org/ukraine-crisis](https://jewishportland.org/ukraine-crisis)

BY DEBORAH MOON

More than 3 million refugees, including several thousand Jews, have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded the sovereign nation less than a month ago.

"Eighty years ago, to be a Jew was to be damned, but today it is exactly the opposite," is a sentiment shared in several interviews by human rights activist Natan Sharansky, who was born in what is now Ukraine. "Today if you are a Jew, there are Jews outside waiting for you."

Jewish Federations, and other organizations, are raising money to provide food, medicine, security and transportation for those still in Ukraine; temporary housing, food and basic needs for evacuees who have reached other countries; and chartered

See UKRAINE, page 11

## Power up for Pesach with free series

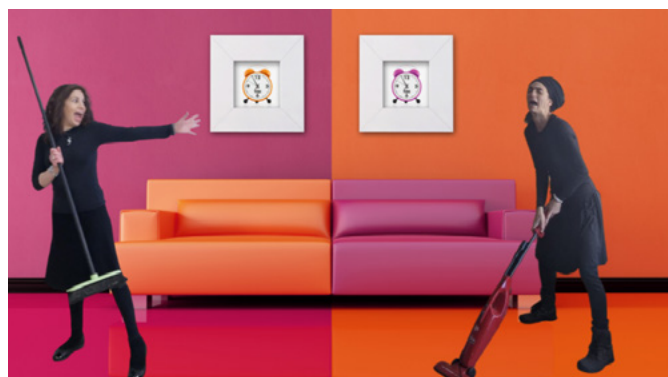
BY DEBORAH MOON

Portlander Jodi Fried has gathered a group of women from around the globe to present a free series of 20 interactive workshops on Zoom designed to reduce pre-Passover stress for Jewish women.

This will be the second year of Power up for Pesach conceived by Jodi and nutrition coach Dalia Brunswick of Zurich. Last year with just a month to plan, the series drew some 600 registrants to participate in eight workshops.

"We want to bring support to Jewish women during the stressful time before Passover," says Jodi. "It's always a lot of pressure getting ready for Pesach, and last year women had to cook and clean while their kids were home."

See PASSOVER, page 3



Dalia Brunswick, left, in Zurich, Switzerland, and Jodi Fried in Portland get ready for Pesach.

### POWER UP FOR PESACH

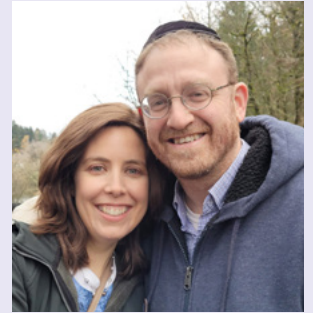
Empowering Jewish Women Together

March 22-April 6, 2022 | Free on Zoom

Ditch the Overwhelm, Money Guilt & Menu Planning Stress  
Feel Invigorated and In Control as You Prep for Passover

Register: [powerupforpesach.com](https://powerupforpesach.com)

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# After 16 years at Kesser, Rabbi Brodtkin gets N.J. post

After 16 years leading Portland's Orthodox Congregation Kesser Israel, Rabbi Kenneth Brodtkin has accepted the role as rabbi of Congregation Sons of Israel in Manalapan, N.J., beginning in August.

His wife, Aviel, serves as Kesser's director of community engagement. The Rebbetzin led Maayan Torah Day School as General Studies Principal from the school's founding in 2011 through June 2021.

"Given the incredible support Aviel and I have enjoyed at Kesser Israel from community members and beloved friends, this is a decision that took a tremendous amount of soul searching," wrote Rabbi Brodtkin in an email to Kesser members. He continued: "As much as I look forward to this new calling, it's very bittersweet for Aviel, the kids, and myself to be planning a move from this community, which we love so deeply. Portland, Oregon and Congregation Kesser Israel have been our home since December 2005, and we will always consider ourselves an integral part of the Kesser family."

In the same email, Kesser Israel President Charles Elder wrote, "On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire Kesser Israel community, I would like to thank Rabbi and Mrs. Brodtkin for their many years of outstanding service to Congregation Kesser Israel and the Portland Jewish community."

"Sixteen years ago, the Brodtkins assumed leadership of a wonderful, but then very small, shul. Since then, the trajectory of our community has been one of steady progress, expansion, and growth. We now have a flourishing congregation of over 120 families, where Jews of diverse backgrounds daven and learn together as a unified Kehillah. We have an excellent Torah Day School, an Eruv, a Mikvah and a thriving Kollel."

In a short email interview, Aviel wrote: "We feel deeply connect-



The Brodtkin family at daughter Devorah's wedding last year. In New Jersey, Rabbi and Aviel Brodtkin will be two hours from Devorah and Ezra Epstein, as well as their older children in East Coast schools.

ed to so many people here and it is difficult to say goodbye to a place you feel you have made your home. It has been beyond a gift to raise our precious family here. We now go to join them and our upcoming grandbaby!"

"We are deeply thankful to everyone for their friendship, for all the times we have come together for spiritual connection, and most significant moments in life," continued Aviel. "We hope to bring our love for synagogue life and achieve some of the great accomplishments we had here in Portland to our next Jewish community."

See **BRODKINS** on next page

**HAPPY PURIM**

FROM THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PORTLAND

FIND MEGILLAH READINGS, PURIM SPIELS, PARTIES AND MORE AT

[JEWISHPORTLAND.ORG/COMMUNITY-CALENDAR](https://www.jewishportland.org/community-calendar)

 Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER PORTLAND

# Chaplain's Corner

## How can we be happy this Purim?

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

How are we supposed to be happy during a time like this? Jewish tradition instructs us to be happy. Why? Because it is the month of Adar. (Actually, because of the phenomenon of the Jewish “leap month,” we have had Adar I and this year Adar II ... two months when we’re supposed to be happy.)

We are instructed to be happy because Purim falls in the month of Adar. We celebrate it starting at sundown of March 16 (14 Adar II). With Purim, we celebrate overcoming our oppressors who planned to wipe us out from the ancient Persian empire. Because we overcame all odds, we are supposed to be happy.

With the current international and national state of affairs, how can we keep this tradition? Russia has invaded Ukraine. There are millions of refugees. Who knows how many children, women and men have been murdered? Putin continues to conduct an indiscriminate war. The United States has its own problems. Covid has not disappeared. We are polarized, adversarial and live in separate realities. White Nationalism is on the rise.

And we’re supposed to be happy? That sounds like a sick joke.

I recently read “Torah Reflections on Purim” by Rabbi Jo Hirschmann of the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center. She urges us to look for holiness even in the places where it is the most hidden. Purim is all about hidden holiness. In the Book of Esther, which tells the Purim tale, we do not find a single mention or any variation of the word “God.” And yet, Purim teaches that we can always experience hope, holiness and God (however we define “God.”)

A quick overview of the story: Esther, a Jew, becomes queen of Persia, married to King Ahasuerus. Mordecai, her cousin, is a member of the king’s court. He angers Haman, principal minister of the king, when Mordecai refuses to bow down to him. As a result, Haman convinces King Ahasuerus to issue a decree to wipe out all the Jews. Mordecai calls on Esther to go before the king and plead on the Jewish people’s behalf. She is resistant because she has not received a formal invitation to meet with him. Without such an invite, she risks her life.



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

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

whether this is God, the cosmos, music, art, tradition, community, family, history or any one of the numerous other things that give our lives meaning. It is also about being connected to *eit zot*, to the time in which we find ourselves.”

We can fulfill our responsibility to be happy if we live *eit zot*. We can do this by fostering connections with others, whether nearby or halfway across the world. We can do this by caring for a loved one or healing a relationship. We can do this by pursuing a healthy society by addressing the injustice and inequality that exists in our city with the houseless that we see almost every day. We can do this by resisting the urge to divide and subdivide our fellow citizens into “us” versus “them.” We can do this by learning the ugliness of our nation’s past in order to create a better future. We can do this by aiding our Ukrainian brothers and sisters as they wage war against a modern-day Haman, Vladimir Putin. And we can do this simply by expressing gratitude for what is good in our lives.

During this season of Purim and in the days, weeks and months that follow, let us all live fully in *eit zot*, and celebrate the time that we have been given. When we live *eit zot*, we reveal hidden holiness.

In her column, Hirschmann writes that Mordecai urges her to act two times with the words *eit zot*, “this time.” If she fails to act *eit zot*, the implications will be dreadful. In effect, Mordecai encourages Esther that this is **her time** – the **exact time** to act.

Hirschmann teaches that when Esther acted at her “exact time,” and when we act in our “exact time,” we create a sense of holiness and godliness.

She explains, “I draw my understanding of who and what God is from my broader definition of spirituality. For me, spirituality is about being connected to something beyond ourselves,

## PASSOVER (continued from page 1)

This year’s expanded two-week series features two workshops a day, five days a week (Sunday-Thursday). Topics include money (a huge stressor at this time of year), menu planning, cleaning, organizing, fitness, style and de-stressing techniques. Two sessions – an art class and cooking demonstration – are ideal for moms and school-age daughters.

All of the sessions have a Pesach twist, but the topics are universal and can be relevant at any time of year. Those who register for the series will receive the schedule and log in information. They can participate in sessions live or watch recordings of sessions they miss during the two weeks.

“We wanted it to be accessible to anyone who needs support,” says Jodi.

The only cost is for those who want lifetime access to the recordings. The fee for that is \$27.

Jodi met Dalia when she invited her to be a guest on her To (Mom) Life podcast, part of Jodi’s [Love.Adventure.Mom](#) business, where she helps moms live a fulfilled life by incorporat-

ing adventure into family life. Dalia teaches how to balance nutrition and life the Jewish way with her business [Fully In Balance](#).

“This is through our businesses, but this is really from our hearts,” says Jodi, who adds that they do not make any money from the series. “We feel we have to provide this support for women – we saw how impactful it was last year. The feedback was incredible. It takes a lot of time and energy to put together, but it is absolutely worth it.”

Sponsor De La Rosa Foods – which produces natural, kosher food, wine and oils – is covering the cost of the platform and other expenses. The presenters all donate their time. Tech support is also donated by women from around the world. Leslie Ruder of HERE Happenings, a nonprofit that puts together events for Jewish women, is helping behind the scenes.

“Last year, I learned the power of Jewish women, the power of community,” says Jodi.

She hopes other women will gain that same sense of power through this year’s series.

## BRODKINS (cont. from page 2)

The congregation will convene a meeting later this month to provide information about the rabbinic search process and to get members’ input. Rabbi Brodtkin plans to work with the board and rabbinic colleagues to “pave the way for the next rabbi of the congregation.” He also intends to be available after his departure to assist in the transition.

Elder added, “We have been in discussions with leaders at the OU and around the country toward devising a strategy for our rabbinic search, and the Executive Committee has begun laying the groundwork for transitioning the leadership of our key strategic projects.”



# Rachel's Well – A space to consecrate and celebrate

BY SARAH E. ROHR

As a mikvah guide, I have become friendly with a hidden jewel in our community – Rachel's Well Community Mikvah.

The class of mikvah guides I initially studied with was taught by Caron Blau Rothstein, Sarah Evans, Naomi Malka and Ronnie Malka. The all-day class occurred the day after the neo-Nazi parade in Charlottesville. There was a heightened sense of the preciousness of our gathering.

It was purposeful, coordinated and included 30 (or more) people from across the Jewish denominations. It was unlike any other Jewish gathering I had attended – women with a *sheitel* (wig) shared the table with a woman with spikey purple hair. It was a preview of the inclusion that the mikvah embodies.

Pre-Covid, I attended a Sephardic bridal shower at the mikvah with the bride's elegantly dressed family and friends, who played music from their phones, ululated ecstatically, circle-danced and noshed on fabulous pastries in honor of the marriage.

The *simcha's* energy inspired me with the vast range of possibilities for using the mikvah as ritual space.

The mikvah welcomes whoever visits, wherever they are on their life's journey – whether a great achievement or celebration, a threshold moment or a loss.

Think of a threshold moment as one when a person is going from one state of being to another.

I often think of threshold moments as *mezuzah* moments. (I'm sure I got this idea from some wise person in the Jewish world.) They are moments where we pay attention to the transitory nature of existence and acknowledge and consecrate the change as it is happening.

Over the years since that first training to be a mikvah guide, my older son, Gabriel, has heard me say, "I'm leaving to go and guide a mikvah," and he would ply me with hugs and see me on my way without much questioning.

This year his interest was piqued.

Gabriel came up with the idea of going to the mikvah to celebrate his seventh birthday.

My husband, Brian, and I added the fact that Gabriel is now big brother to 8-month-old Charlie as another reason for him to celebrate. To our own celebratory list, Brian and I added that we are



Brian and Sarah Rohr had a joyous celebration with their two sons at Rachel's Well Community Mikvah.



now parents to two children.

The morning before we went to the mikvah, our home was abuzz with the energy that comes before a ritual.

We were in full preparation mode, gathering our towels and clothing as well as bathing (which is required during Covid times).

With our hair wet and smiles on our faces, we drove to Rachel's Well.

Brian had enjoyed using the mikvah before, but to Gabriel it was all new, so he got the grand tour.

The mikvah process began hours before, and when the moment finally arrived, the water was soothing and warm.

Baby Charlie was thrilled in the warm water; he kept splashing the surface with his tiny hands outstretched, giggling and smiling. Gabriel was beaming and relaxed.

We said the traditional prayers as well as a prayer from the collection of *Mayyim Chayim* life-cycle rituals available in the lobby for all guests, and we dunked.

Then we shared our gratitude for Gabriel and his *simchas* and for our mutual joy as a family.

Brian remarked that he wants to return every month as a regular practice.

Gabriel shared how awesome visiting the mikvah was for him and asked to visit again.

For me, I got to introduce my people to one of my favorite sacred spaces in Oregon.

It was a remarkable way to consecrate our child's special moment and give that joy a container that he can return to at his threshold moments from now on.

I invite you to visit Rachel's Well to mark a holy moment in your life! To learn more and request an appointment, visit [jewishportland.org/mikvah](http://jewishportland.org/mikvah).

## Challah cards benefit orphanage in Ukraine

"Like most of us so deeply concerned about the peril of the Ukrainians, I wanted to find a way to help," says Lisa Spiegel.

"Lisa makes exceptionally beautiful challah creations and creates a calendar every year, with the proceeds going to charity," says Katie Schneider, administrative director of Congregation Shir Tikvah, where Lisa is a member.

Lisa adds, "My last few challot have been braided with the Ukrainians in my heart. The photos I share (Instagram [@lisachapter58](https://www.instagram.com/lisachapter58)) each week resonated with my friends, as well, so I decided to raise funds by offering challah notecards."

She's distilled a few of her designs and created cards to benefit the Mishpacha Orphanage in Odessa, Ukraine.

"The Mishpacha Orphanage in Odessa is run by the sister and brother-in-law of my Vancouver Chabad friends Rabbi Schmulik and Tzvie Greenberg," says Lisa. "I've been inspired and moved by their care of these children, especially following their dangerous evacuation, and simply want to help in any way I can."

A pack of six notecards with envelopes is \$18 (includes shipping). Order cards at [form.jotform.com/lisaspiegel/notecards](http://form.jotform.com/lisaspiegel/notecards) or email [lisa.spiegel@comcast.net](mailto:lisa.spiegel@comcast.net).



Cards featuring challah by Lisa Spiegel.

# Explore hate, radicalization and how to respond

On March 30, nationally recognized experts Talia Lavin and Shane Burley will address the ongoing global threat of fascism and conspiracy theory. The two authors' deep expertise will provide a better understanding of both the escalating culture of hate and the psychology of radicalization unfurled by white nationalist groups.

Hosted by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, the program will also address the role of resistance, a key focus for OJMCH and the subject of one of its core exhibits.

"Talia Lavin's interrogation of how radicalization occurs has become even more astonishing considering the myriad of crises at home and abroad," says OJMCH Director Judy Margles. "Whether talking about the insurrectionists or Vladimir Putin or antisemitism, Lavin's skills as both a journalist and activist make her uniquely qualified to deal with these sometimes-inexplicable issues."

Lavin's journalism has focused on far-right movements since 2017. She wrote *Culture Warlords: My Journey into the Dark Web of White Supremacy* during the waning days of the Trump administration. It was released shortly before the insurrection at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Lavin describes the insurrection as "... a moment

## Resisting the Global Threat of Fascism & Conspiracy Theory

A Conversation with Talia Lavin,  
Moderated by Shane Burley

5 pm, March 30, on Zoom

Register at: [ojmche.org/events/resisting-the-global-threat-of-fascism-and-conspiracy-theory/](https://ojmche.org/events/resisting-the-global-threat-of-fascism-and-conspiracy-theory/)



Talia Lavin



Shane Burley

rhetoric and tactics of the Alt Right since the 2017 Charlottesville Unite the Right rally, and the explosion of antifascist, anti-racist and revolutionary organizing that has risen to fight it.

"Both Burley, who lives in Portland, and Lavin, who lives in New York, have been affected by their experiences of Jewishness and the increasing threat of antisemitism," says Margles.

"They are also friends and colleagues, which is certain to make this program thought provoking and memorable. I would also like to thank all our generous program sponsors," says Margles.

The lead sponsors for this program are the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and the Kostiner Cultural Education Fund; they are joined by co-sponsors the Anti-Defamation League Pacific Northwest, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the Rabbi Joshua Stampfer Cultural Programs Fund of OJMCH.

of extraordinary visibility of far-right extremism, and one whose aftershocks are still being felt in the body politic."

The book inspired Saul Korin from the Mittleman Jewish Community Center to find a way to share Lavin's message.

"After reading *Culture Warlords* in the early days of the pandemic, I felt Lavin's voice was one we needed to hear in Portland," says Korin. "Due to the focus of her book, I reached out to Gail Mandel at OJMCH to discuss how we could bring Lavin to Portland."

Portland-based writer and filmmaker Shane Burley will be moderating the conversation with Lavin. Burley is the author of *Why We Fight: Essays on Fascism, Resistance and Surviving the Apocalypse*. His collection of essays addresses the shifts in

## 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](http://www.redcrossblood.org) sponsor code: JFGP



# Day Camps

## Reap rewards of day camp this summer

Day camps traditionally have been a place for youth to have fun, socialize and learn new skills. At Jewish camps, children also gain a sense of Jewish culture and community through Jewish values-based programs.

Two years into a global pandemic, the need for socialization and community are greater than ever. Combined with falling case counts and available vaccines for children 5 and older, the demand for and availability of Jewish day camps is growing.

“Our program is filling up fast, and it may be a trend day camps will be experiencing this summer,” says Celinda Llanez, director of Portland Jewish Academy’s Summer Discovery program. “Enrichment programs and summer day camps help children feel a sense of normalcy and consistency.”

BB Day Camps have expanded to multiple communities to help meet that need. This year, BB Day Camps will serve children in Corvallis, Eugene, Lincoln City, Portland Northwest, Portland Eastside and Salem. Chabad’s Camp Gan Israel has added new sites, as well.

“We are headed into our third pandemic summer with experience and confidence under our belts to support our

campers in having a safe, meaningful and fun Jewish summer camp experience,” says BB Day Camp Director Chanel Bourdeau. “BB Day Camps are accessible to everyone, as we believe that Jewish day camps are vital in raising Jewish values-based leaders for our communities.”

“We often hear from parents that BB Day Camp has been the only sense of normalcy and community for their families throughout the pandemic, which is a responsibility we do not take lightly,” adds Bourdeau. “Since the pandemic, we have increased our mental, emotional, social and spiritual health supports to aid our efforts in assisting children with ongoing disruptions to their everyday lives, to rebuild their Jewish community.”

At the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, the day camps are being tailored to help children with social skills and to facilitate friendships.

“Now more than ever, summer camp is a much-needed place where children develop a sense of community and belonging,” says MJCC Day Camp Manager Daylee Shaw. “Camp is an amazing space for youth to develop within their community, learning and building interpersonal relationships.”

### BB DAY CAMPS (Six Locations)

**503-496-7447**

[cbourdeau@bbcamp.org](mailto:cbourdeau@bbcamp.org)

[bbcamp.org/day-camps/](http://bbcamp.org/day-camps/)

**Locations:** B’nai B’rith Day Camp is hosted at Congregation Beth Israel and Eastside Jewish Commons in Portland; additional locations in Corvallis, Eugene, Lincoln City and Salem.

**Grades:** Kindergarten to Grade 8

**Dates & Times:** Weekly sessions, 9 am-3:30 pm with extended care available at CBI.

BB Day Camp Portland, at CBI:  
June 27-Aug. 19.

BB Day Camp Eastside, at EJC:  
July 11-29.

Visit website for other locations' dates.

**Cost:** \$350 a week, sign up by March 31 to save \$25 a week. Financial assistance available.

**Program:** At BB Day Camp, we value and cherish each camper, striving to meet the individual needs of all



BB Day Campers enjoy diverse activities including rock wall climbing and gaga.

children in our care. We create an environment where personal interests and growth are fostered and celebrated. Creating plenty of opportunities for choice and structured free play within

a Jewish environment, BB Day Camp develops opportunities for campers to play, interact meaningfully and grow.

Continued on next page

**NEXT UP: Jewish preschools: March 30 issue**

## CAMP GAN ISRAEL-CLARK COUNTY

360-993-5222 | [tzivie@jewishclarkcounty.com](mailto:tzivie@jewishclarkcounty.com)

[jewishvancouverwa.com/camp-gan-israel](http://jewishvancouverwa.com/camp-gan-israel)

**Location:** Chabad Jewish Center, 9604 NE 126th Ave., Vancouver, Wash.

**Grades:** K-6

**Dates/times:** July 18-22 & July 25-29, 9 am-3 pm.

**Cost:** one week \$225; two weeks \$425.

**Program:** Camp Gan Israel is enhanced with games, drama, sports, science, swimming, Shabbos parties, challah baking, exciting field trips and so much more. Judaic themes are taught through exciting activities, stories, songs, games and contests.

## CAMP GAN ISRAEL-EASTSIDE

503-309-4490 | [Mushkawilhelm@gmail.com](mailto:Mushkawilhelm@gmail.com)

[Jewishnortheast.com/campganizzy](http://Jewishnortheast.com/campganizzy)

**Location:** Portland's east side

**Ages:** 5-12

**Dates & Times:** Weekly sessions June 20-July 1, 9 am-3 pm.

**Cost:** \$325 for 1 week; Early Bird discount \$299 for 1 week. \$595 for both weeks; Early Bird discount \$547 both weeks. Early Bird discount before March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Program:** Camp Gan Israel is a comprehensive program designed to strengthen the body and soul. It provides your child with a rich and wholesome summer vacation of fun and excitement along with friendship and meaningful educational experiences. Camp Gan Israel will strive to be a truly fun and unforgettable experience; to be a place where children will learn the importance of caring, sharing, patience and working with others; and to provide an opportunity for Judaism to be felt, lived and experienced in a fun and all-encompassing way.

## CAMP GAN ISRAEL PORTLAND

[ganisraelportland.com](http://ganisraelportland.com) | 503-309-4185

2022 schedule not yet set; see website for updates.



A Gan Israel camper has fun with bubbles.



MJCC Summer Day Campers enjoy the center's pool.

## MJCC SUMMER DAY CAMP

971-254-8332 or 503-244-0111

[daycamp@oregonjcc.org](mailto:daycamp@oregonjcc.org) | [oregonjcc.org/daycamp](http://oregonjcc.org/daycamp)

**Location:** Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland.

**Dates & Times:** Weekly, June 13-Sept. 2, 9 am-4 pm (half-day options); pre-care: 7:45-9 am; after care: 4-5:30 pm.

**Cost:** From \$144 to \$320 per week.

**Program:** Have an AWESOME summer at MJCC Day Camp. Our camp is imbued with a sense of joy, community, spirit and fun. Health and safety is our top priority. Enjoy quality, fun, and age-appropriate programs including sports, cooking, Jewish culture, drama, nature and more. Campers create crafts, play games and do activities that revolve around each week's theme.



Campers discover origami at PJA Summer Discovery.

## PJA SUMMER DISCOVERY

503-244-0126 | [cllanez@pjaproud.org](mailto:cllanez@pjaproud.org)

[pjaproud.org/summer](http://pjaproud.org/summer)

**Location:** Portland Jewish Academy, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland.

**Ages:** 4-15

**Dates & Times:** Weekly, July 5-29, 9:15 am-1:15 pm; pre-care (ages 4 and up): 7:30-9:15 am; after care (ages 5 and up): 1:15-5:30 pm.

**Cost:** \$180-220 per week of camp; contact camp for pre- and after-care costs.

**Program:** Open to everyone! Explore your creativity, discover your talents, nurture your curiosity and broaden your horizons at PJA's Summer Discovery Program. With safety and security as a top priority, PJA offers enriching classes from experienced, enthusiastic, professional teachers who incorporate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) to enhance learning in a fun and nurturing way.



# Local Israeli opens flight school in Beaverton

When Elad Segal was a boy in Israel, his pilot uncle took him up in a small aircraft and introduced him to the joys of aviation.

Now Elad has realized his dream of opening his own flight school, NW Wings Aviation, headquartered in Beaverton. The school offers personalized courses for students to achieve their pilot-licensing goals, which include certificates in private, instrument and commercial as well as becoming a certified flight instructor (CFI). He also offers adventure flights over Portland and Pilot for a Day opportunities to take the control of a small plane under a licensed pilot's supervision.

NW Wings has donated four Pilot for a Day opportunities to the April 10 Neveh Shalom Auction "to give an introduction to flying like my uncle took me on as a kid."

"I want to expose people to aviation," he says. "If I succeed to give someone a new path, this makes me happy."

The school's innovative model gives students the flexibility to take ground training courses from the comfort of their own home through live web-based training with a CFI. While many schools offer prerecorded courses, NW Wings Aviation's live instruction brings interactivity between the CFI and students while building a community. In this unique setting, difficult questions can be answered immediately as opposed to waiting for an instructor's response, which is often found in self-guided courses.

Flight training takes place at both Hillsboro and Hood River Airports with a fleet of Cessnas 150, 152 and 172. The company also offers aircraft rentals.

"The aviation industry's pilot shortage has spurred airlines to remove barriers for pilots to seek employment with major carriers," says Elad. "This is an opportunity for independent flight schools such as NW Wings Aviation to allow pilots to earn their required



Elad Segal has opened NW Wings Aviation flying out of Hillsboro Airport (above) and Hood River Airport. At left, Elad is joined by his wife, Etti, and their two children. Photos by Regina Shubov.

licensing and jump-start their careers without the additional cost of a college education."

Elad served as a Commander in the IDF's Army Special Unit, where he was also a medic. Following his army service, he worked for Israel's Ministry of Transportation. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Middle East Studies with a minor in Human Resources in 2013 from Ben Gurion University, Israel. He and his wife, Etti Segal, moved to Portland in 2016 for Elad to study at Hillsboro Aero Academy.

"It was not easy for us to move here and leave Israel," says Etti. "But when he started flight school, I said, 'This is what you are supposed to do in life, this is you.'"

Elad earned his flight credentials at Hillsboro Aero Academy, where he went on to serve as Senior CFI. He improved the academy's training program and achieved the CFI Gold Seal for a student pass rate of over 80%. He served as the interim Assistant Chief of Ground Training for the academy.

Etti teaches Hebrew and Jewish studies at Congregation Neveh Shalom. She helped start the Neveh Shalom's Ivrit Israelite for children and volunteers for the local Israeli group, Kirov Levavot. Elad and Etti are Neveh Shalom members and have two school-aged children. For more information: 503-906-0945, [info@nwwafly.com](mailto:info@nwwafly.com) or [nwwafly.com](http://nwwafly.com).

## Jobs board

Full listings at [jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs](http://jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs)

### CEDAR SINAI PARK

#### Controller

Salary: \$105,000-165,000 DOE plus benefits

The Controller manages all aspects of accounting and financial compliance administration for our organization, a large nonprofit senior living campus. Requires a bachelor's degree in accounting or finance, a CPA, 5-7 years of relevant experience, and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and federal and state financial regulations.

### CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM

#### Finance Director

Salary: \$65,000-75,000 DOE plus benefits

The Finance Director provides accurate financial information to the executive director and board of directors for use in decision

making. This position directs the financial activities of the congregation and supervises the administrative accounting staff.

### CONGREGATION SHAAKIE TORAH

#### Davening Director

Salary: \$30,000-40,000 DOE; part time

The Davening Director serves as Shaarie Torah's prayer leader, providing joyous and spiritual tunes and music. While vocal and musical skill is essential, inspiring robust community participation in prayer and song is equally important. Under the direction of the rabbi, the davening director guides the congregation in all matters affecting the Jewish prayer activities of the synagogue.

### JEWISH CAREER HUB – 19 job openings

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's job board for the ongoing listing of job opportunities in the Jewish community currently features 19 Jewish job openings, including the above openings. Visit [jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs](http://jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs).



# Gift engages CSP elders in hands-on music

BY SYDNEY CLEVENGER

Drumming can be beneficial to seniors because of the mental focus and physical movement required. And now, thanks to a generous gift from the wife of a former Adult Day Services participant, Cedar Sinai Park's hallways are alive with the sound of drums on Fridays.

"The steady sound of drumming can be likened to a heartbeat," says Adult Day Services Director Nancy Heckler. "Drums are hands on, sensory and helpful for seniors, especially those with Parkinson's and cognitive challenges. We are so grateful to offer our participants this special experience."

The gift of 20 drums and percussion instruments, along with a handful of visits from a music instructor, is from Sherril Gelmon, doctor of public health, whose husband, Philip Kreitner, Ph.D., had a long journey with Alzheimer's and began participating in the Adult Day Services program in 2018. Phil passed away in August of 2021.

"I'm very happy to contribute to Adult Day Services with this gift," says Sherril. "Nancy told me that Phil loved the music sessions. Phil would have loved the drums, and he probably would have wanted to be the one playing the loudest and making the most noise! I only wish he were here to enjoy them, too."

On Friday afternoons, participants in the Adult Day Services program (which includes seniors from the community, along with residents from Rose Schnitzer Manor and the Harold Schnitzer Center for Living) assemble for a drum lesson. Staff



Participants in Cedar Sinai Park's Adult Day Services have fun making music with drums and other percussion instruments recently donated to the program along with music lessons.

hand out the drums and shakers, and a Portland State University music education major offers instruction.

The drumming begins slowly and softly and builds up to a louder, steadier sound. Shakers, some in the shape of lemons, others with handles, accompany the drums; there are also drumheads to beat. Heckler occasionally accompanies the drumbeat on the piano.

"It's a very comforting sound for this population," says Heckler. "Some folks just want to relax, and you see others really concentrating. Each person gets to engage in the music in their own way."

"That was terrific, just wonderful!" says Sharon, while

keeping time with a shaker and taking a break from singing along. "When I go to bed, I'm going to dream about this sound," says Stan.

"That's the magic of music," PSU Instructor Ash Phillips tells the group. "This is all about trying new things."

With prior experience in teaching young people, Phillips "didn't know what to expect" when he visited CSP for the first time.

"I was a little afraid, but these folks are the best," says Phillips. "I can't wait to come back. It's truly the highlight of my day."

Cedar Sinai Park's Adult Day Services are open to senior members of the community, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 6 pm, on a flexible basis. Contact Nancy Heckler for more information: [Nancy.Heckler@cedarsinainpark.org](mailto:Nancy.Heckler@cedarsinainpark.org).



Eastside Jewish Commons co-working space now has standing desks and other new furniture thanks to an anonymous donor. EJC has many options available for community members looking for co-working, office or flex space on a regular or drop-in basis. To learn more, visit [ejcpdx.org/new-page-1](http://ejcpdx.org/new-page-1) or email [info@ejcpdx.org](mailto:info@ejcpdx.org).

## EJC gets "Manna from Heaven"

The Eastside Jewish Commons and more than a dozen nonprofits recently received some "manna from heaven."

EJC Executive Director Cara Abrams recently received an intriguing email connecting her to the CEO of a downtown company. His company was closing an office, and he was looking to donate to a Jewish charity. When Cara called, he asked, "Does the EJC need any office furniture?"

Did it ever!

For weeks, founding board chair Mia Birk had been telling people that EJC was looking to upgrade furniture. A priority was standing desks for their office spaces. (Current occupants are TischPDX, OneTable and Co/Lab PDX, with room for more.) Not only had EJC been seeking desks, but couches and chairs for the lounge, tables for the atrium and numerous pieces of equipment.

Cara and Amelia Schroth of Congregation Shir Tikvah, with offices in EJC, sprang into action. Arriving at the company, they found the furniture was beautiful – exactly what EJC needed and so much more.

The only catch was it all had to be moved immediately, as in two days later. Cara hired a moving company. She, Amelia, Mia, Shir Tikvah's Katie Schneider and Mervin Kurkavian, along with the teen crew from Tivnu (the Jewish gap-year program), all lent their muscle to moving stuff in and out. While they were at the EJC, the Tivnu crew also disassembled old, energy-hogging lights and helped with painting as part of interior upgrades.

The incredibly generous furniture donation was even more than EJC needed, so they paid it forward.

As of mid-March, 14 of EJC's community partner organizations benefited from new 27.5-inch monitors. Three additional nonprofits and numerous individuals received their older furniture.

The generous CEO has chosen to remain anonymous. What a mensch!

For more information about EJC's office spaces or spaces for activities and events, or to participate in a wide variety of programming, visit [ejcpdx.org](http://ejcpdx.org).

# JFCS Cancer Support Group creates community

BY JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

Community is important. Cancer is lonely. Jewish Family & Child Service has combined these two truths to create a no-cost Cancer Support Group. It's the Jewish community's first and one of few available in the greater community.

"Cancer is a lonely road to travel on," says JFCS' Caitlin DeBoer, LCSW and group co-facilitator.

An expert in helping clients suffering from chronic pain, Caitlin says she too often hears the refrain, "Where are my people?" People with cancer, too, feel more isolated due to their illness and treatment regimen. "If we can alleviate this isolation even in one small corner, then this is great."

The Cancer Support Group's other facilitators are Rabbi Mel Young and Rabbi Barry Cohen. Known as Rabbi Mel, he moved three years ago to Portland from L.A. with his wife, Linda, and is a cancer patient himself. He facilitated support groups in Southern California. Rabbi Cohen is the community chaplain and co-led Walking Beside You, JFCS' inaugural grief-processing group.

Beginning April 13, the Cancer Support Group will meet via Zoom the second Wednesday of every month, from 11 am to noon. While the opportunity is free, registration is required. No medical advice will be offered. (See box for registration information and details.)



Caitlin DeBoer

***"I am a cancer patient who happens to be a rabbi. This work transcends my professional work."***  
~ Rabbi Mel Young

In 2005, Rabbi Mel was 53 years old and a secondary school program administrator when he received a diagnosis of renal cell carcinoma, kidney cancer. His diseased left kidney was removed. Four years later, his cancer hit stage 4. During treatment, he entered rabbinical school in 2010. He was ordained in 2017. In summer 2020, his second year in Portland, the rabbi was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus, resulting in an esophagectomy.

No stranger to hospitals, treatments, surgeries, pre-scan sky-high anxiety and the isolation



Rabbi Mel Young



Rabbi Barry Cohen

## Cancer Support Group

**Presented by Jewish Family & Child Service**

What: A no-cost, safe, online space for those with a cancer diagnosis

When: The second Wednesday of each month, beginning April 13

Where: via Zoom

How: Please contact Caitlin DeBoer, LCSW, with questions or to register at 971-400-3533 or [cdeboer@jfcs-portland.org](mailto:cdeboer@jfcs-portland.org).

More information: [jfcs-portland.org/cancer-support](https://jfcs-portland.org/cancer-support)

cancer often causes, Rabbi Mel, 70, receives medical care at a local teaching hospital. "But when I exit the building after an appointment or treatment, then what?" he asks. "There is no support whatsoever."

Rabbi Mel met Rabbi Cohen when the latter visited him in the hospital while he was recovering from a procedure. Rabbi Cohen brought up the need for a support group for cancer patients and then introduced his idea and Rabbi Mel to JFCS' DeBoer.

"I learned from Rabbi Young the unique challenges of going through cancer treatments and the need to find support and strength from others," Rabbi Cohen says.

"When it became clear that there are limited cancer support group offerings, Rabbi Young and I began to ask how we could create one for our community," he says. "I am appreciative of how receptive JFCS was to combine our talents, experiences and resources in this

effort. Together, we will help those with cancer navigate the road of healing and health."

The facilitators stress that the Cancer Support Group is open to anyone with a cancer diagnosis. "I am a cancer patient who happens to be a rabbi," Rabbi Mel says. "This work transcends my professional work."

The rabbi says the group members will benefit from being heard and supported by the facilitators and one another. Their role is to honor the presence of those also on this journey, acknowledge what he calls signposts (say, surgical procedures) and celebrate milestones (such as the half-way point in chemo treatments).

Caitlin, Rabbi Mel and Rabbi Cohen are creating community for anyone along the cancer continuum.

"If we can provide a safe space, where people can be honest with one another and themselves — where they are not taking care of others — that is key," Caitlin says.

## Deadlines near for Havurah Shabbat School

Havurah Shalom, Portland's Reconstructing Judaism community, is currently planning for next year's Shabbat School, the congregation's cooperative Jewish education program for children and families.

April 18 is the deadline to become a Havurah Shalom member for those considering enrolling children in Shabbat School. The school enrollment deadline is May 1.

Information about Shabbat School is available on Havurah's website ([havurahshalom.org/shabbat-school-grades-k-6.html](https://havurahshalom.org/shabbat-school-grades-k-6.html)). Anyone seriously considering Shabbat School and Havurah Shalom membership should contact Deborah Eisenbach-Budner, Havurah's Education Director, at [deborah@havurahshalom.org](mailto:deborah@havurahshalom.org) as soon as possible, as Shabbat School staff will meet or have a conversation with all prospective families before March 31.



# Happenings



## March 16-17: Purim

The joyous holiday of Purim arrives at sundown tonight, March 16. The community calendar once again features an array of celebrations. To find a celebration, visit [jewishportland.org/purim](http://jewishportland.org/purim).

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 [myjewishlearning.com/purim](http://myjewishlearning.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 29: Gubernatorial Candidate Forum-Democrats

The Jewish Community Relations Council will host two Democrats running for Oregon Governor on Zoom March 29.

Tune in to hear from State Treasurer Tobias Read (7-7:40 pm) and former Speaker Tina Kotek (7:45-8:30 pm).

Each will present separately and then take questions from the community.

Stay tuned for more information and a chance to meet the Republican candidates.

On May 17, 2022, Oregon's registered voters will select the candidate that they believe should be their political party's candidate to run for governor in the general election.

Register: [jewishportland.org/community-calendar/gubernatorial-candidate-forum](http://jewishportland.org/community-calendar/gubernatorial-candidate-forum)

See more local events at  
[jewishportland.org/  
community-calendar](http://jewishportland.org/community-calendar)

# UKRAINE (Continued from page 1)

flights and absorption aid for those wanting to resettle in Israel.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has raised \$303,000 as of March 15 as part of the continental special campaign to assist Jews in the region. *One hundred percent* of the contributions goes to those in need. Donate at [jewishportland.org/ukraine-crisis](http://jewishportland.org/ukraine-crisis).

"The Jewish Federation has been supporting essential organizations of Jewish relief and rescue like the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Joint Distribution Committee year in and year out for a century," says JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner. "This funding supports the infrastructure that makes them ready on the ground and able to mobilize immediately to do the extraordinary work they are doing in Ukraine – saving lives and caring for the most vulnerable."

During a Federation briefing, JAFI Managing Director Roman Polonsky spoke about how this 21<sup>st</sup> century war has doubly traumatized Holocaust survivors. He saw train cars designed for 40 crammed with 400 people – these were people fleeing destruction rather than being transported to extermination camps. "I saw a 96-year-old lady in Poland near the border. She was detached from reality, but probably reliving memories of the Holocaust."

Holocaust memories also surfaced for many when Russian bombs damaged the memorial at Babi Yar, the ravine where more than 100,000 Jews killed by the Nazis, including 33,000 in just two days, lie buried in a mass grave.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency quoted Ukraine's Jewish President Volodymyr Zelenskyy: "Nazism is born in silence. So, shout about killings of civilians. Shout about the murders of Ukrainians," [Zelenskyy said in a call with American](#)

[Jewish groups](#). He spoke about the Russian missile strike near the Babyn Yar memorial to slaughtered Jews, saying, "We all died again at Babyn Yar from the missile attack, even though the world pledges 'Never again.'"

Portlander Cheryl Tonkin, who went to Ukraine on a Federation mission in 1999, said she felt "despair that that was sacred hallowed ground and that they went and hit it again. ... it just epitomized all the cruelty and hatred in the world." She said she could only imagine the pain that that bombing caused Holocaust survivors.

"I'm in despair that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we haven't learned anything," she said in a recent interview.

Tonkin kept a diary of that mission and still has tremendous pride in the efforts of JDC and the global Jewish community to support Jews in Ukraine in a way that aided the revitalization of that Jewish community.

The rebirth of Jewish life in Ukraine brought Hillel and Moishe House to the country to help young adults embrace their Jewish identities. Now the global campaign is helping those groups with security, supplies and/or evacuation.

On Tuesday, a Moishe House email reported, "The residents of Moishe House Kyiv are mobilizing volunteers throughout the city, delivering food and supplies to those most in need and opening their homes to their community members. These young adults have demonstrated a profound commitment to supporting neighbors who are vulnerable while still building community rooted in Jewish values during incredibly perilous times. We are in awe of their perseverance and, as a global community, are eager to share our support and solidarity."

To follow JTA coverage of the war and relief work, visit [jta.org/tag/2022-ukraine-war](http://jta.org/tag/2022-ukraine-war).



## Recorded events offer context for Russia's war on Ukraine

On March 2, Dr. Natan Meier of Portland State University provided historical and geopolitical context for Russia's attack. [jewishportland.org/explaining-russias-war-on-ukraine](http://jewishportland.org/explaining-russias-war-on-ukraine)

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has everyone confused and seeking more clarity. Watch the March 3 [recording](#) of Marat Grinberg, Associate Professor of Russian and Humanities at Reed College, discuss the situation. View at [ojmche.org/calendar/recorded-events-2022/](http://ojmche.org/calendar/recorded-events-2022/)

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### Next issues

| Issue date | Deadline         |
|------------|------------------|
| March 30   | March 24         |
| April 13   | April 7          |
| April 27   | April 13 (early) |

Submit news, photos and obituaries to [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

## Op-Ed

# Advocacy groups criticize AIPAC 's recent endorsements

BY CHUCK TAUMAN

AIPAC, the largest pro-Israel lobby in the United States, recently formed two political action committees to give financial support to partisan candidates. One of these PACs released its first Congressional endorsements – 120 candidates, including dozens of Republicans who voted against certifying the 2020 presidential election results. These endorsements were made despite warnings from Jewish community leaders and former AIPAC officials that officially entering the campaign fray endangers AIPAC's declared political neutrality and bipartisanship.

One prominent endorsee on the list is Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, one of 37 AIPAC-endorsed Republicans who voted against certifying the election of President Biden. Rep. Jordan also refuses to testify before the Congressional committee probing the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol, despite evidence of his involvement in events leading up to the violence that day. Another endorsee, Rep. Scott Perry of Pennsylvania, has compared Democrats to Nazis and has promoted white supremacist conspiracies of "population replacement."

Despite criticism, AIPAC is standing by its endorsements of these supposed pro-Israel lawmakers regardless of their anti-democratic positions on other issues. As AIPAC spokesman Marshall Wittmann said in a March 6 Haaretz article: "Unlike other groups which have ideological and partisan agendas, we are a single-issue organization that is focused on our mission of building bipartisan support in Congress to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship."

According to Haaretz, former AIPAC Executive Director Tom Dine and former chief lobbyist Douglas Bloomfield stressed the need to combat the perception that AIPAC has drifted toward the Republican Party. They warned against endorsing fringe candidates from either party, underscoring the need to judge candidates by their record

beyond Israel-related issues.

Other organizations that support Israel, such as J Street, Democratic Majority for Israel and Jewish Democratic Council of America, have pledged to not endorse candidates who support the "big lie."

"AIPAC's support for these candidates endangers American democracy and undermines the true interests and values of millions of American Jews and pro-Israel Americans who they often claim to represent," said J Street's national political director, Laura Birnbaum.

The CEO of Jewish Democratic Council of America, Halie Soifer, added that "this shouldn't be a tough call. We don't have to choose between our values, our democracy, our decency, what we know is right and support of the U.S.-Israel relationship." She said that the overwhelming majority of American Jews rejects this false dichotomy. Former Anti-Defamation League chief Abe Foxman criticized the endorsements as a "sad mistake," adding that "those who undermine America's democracy undermine America, and a weak America will not be able to stand and support its ally, Israel."

The bottom line: for generations, AIPAC and others have described Israel as "the only democracy" in the Middle East – indicating that they understand the importance of defending democracy. But how can AIPAC claim to defend democracy when it endorses lawmakers who clearly don't believe in democracy? Financially supporting those who opposed the peaceful transfer of power in 2020 is shameful political pandering. AIPAC owes its supporters a reasonable explanation for its anti-democratic positions, or face loss of support from Jews who support democracy – both here and in Israel.

*Chuck Tauman is a member of the Greater Portland JStreet Chapter executive committee.*

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## LINDA FAYE (POTTER) HOCHMAN

Linda Faye (Potter) Hochman, z”l, passing away March 8, 2022, in Prescott, Ariz. She was predeceased by her sister, Carol Ginsberg, and her husband, Stanley Hochman. She is survived by her brother, Congregation Neveh Shalom Past President Irving (Arlene) Potter; her three children, David (Sarah) Hochman, Joe (Angela) Hochman and Leah Hochman; her seven grandchildren; and her partner of the past several years, Bill Cadwallender.

Linda was born in Portland on July 3, 1940. Shortly after Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, z”l, arrived in Portland, she had the honor of celebrating the first bat mitzvah ever celebrated in Oregon.

Her funeral was held March 10 followed by shiva services in Phoenix and Prescott.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends deepest condolences to the extended Hochman/Potter family.

## DREAMA HERNDON

Dreama Herndon, z”l, passed away on March 9, 2022, in Virginia. She was the mother of Congregation Neveh Shalom member Beth (Liza) Milliner.

The service was held on March 14 in Roanoke, Va.

## ERIC FLAMM

Eric Flamm, z”l, died of cancer on March 6, 2022, at his home in Portland. He was 56 years old. With him were his wife, Robin; their children, Olivia and Jonah; and his brother, Michael. He is also survived by his mother, Ellen, and his sister, Maya.

Eric was born in New York City in 1965 and raised in Northfield, Minn. From childhood, he had a sweet and gentle spirit. As a teenager, he was both conventional and unconventional. He played youth hockey – a rite of passage in Minnesota – and was an Eagle Scout like his father. But Eric also enjoyed listening to music that never appeared in the Top 40, and he sported a Mohawk for a time. And he loved to tinker with his old Volkswagen Super Beetle.

Eric was at heart an adventurer who loved to travel. After high school, he backpacked through Europe in 1983 with two friends. The following year, he moved to Portland to work at radio station KCNR. After studying English literature and learning Mandarin at Lewis & Clark College, he biked across the country from the Pacific to the Atlantic in 1989.

Eric was always curious about other cultures, cuisines and customs. For the next five years, he lived and worked in Taipei as a journalist. He polished his Mandarin skills, embraced tea drinking, immersed himself in the expat life and even participated in dragon boat racing.

But he also became interested in exploring his Jewish identity

and moved to Israel in 1994. He learned Hebrew, found an apartment near the beach in Tel Aviv and surfed every morning before he went to work at a footwear software company. Two years later, Eric became an Israeli citizen and received his draft notice. He could have chosen sentry duty in Tel Aviv, but that was not his way – he always had a deep sense of obligation and service to community and country. He volunteered for combat and joined an artillery unit in the Negev Desert.

But Eric’s reserve duty in the Israeli Army largely consisted of patrolling Palestinians in the West Bank. This experience made a lasting impression, convincing him that the occupation was morally unjust and politically as well as economically unsustainable. For the rest of his life, he was a peace activist who advocated for Palestinian rights and the “two-state” solution. He also served as the president of the Portland chapter of J Street for several years.

Eric met Robin Miller, his soulmate and life partner, in Tel Aviv in 1998. They married in 2000 and moved to Portland the following year. Olivia was born in 2002 and Jonah in 2004. As a family, they celebrated life together with love, friendship, adventure and, above all, plenty of laughter.

Eric may have seemed easygoing and laid back to casual observers. But he was also organized, disciplined and methodical. Every morning, he first took care of what he needed to do. Then he focused on what he wanted to do. Every day presented new opportunities, and he wanted to take full advantage of them.

Eric was a creative and artistic person who curated his family’s life in photos and videos, maintained a regular blog (portdaddia) and crafted greeting cards with clever graphics. He also wrote constantly, and in 2019 published Portland Zionists Unite, a collection of short stories.

Eric cherished the great outdoors and the active life. Although he loved his Portland home, Hood River was his happy place. The prevailing west winds made it perfect for windsurfing or kiteboarding (he switched later in life). At other times, skiing, hiking and biking with family or friends brought him endless joy and satisfaction.

Eric first battled – and defeated – cancer in 2005. He was consistently grateful and appreciative for the additional years he had with family and friends. He was also relentlessly positive – the essence of who he was – and incredibly generous to friends, causes and the community. As important, Eric always looked for the best in people and never assumed the worst. Even when someone tried his patience or sought to take advantage of him, he remained good natured and even tempered.

The family held a memorial service at Havurah Shalom on March 10 and requests donations in his name to J Street or Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

See more OBITUARIES on page 14

## Talking About Death Won’t Kill You – final session, online resources

One session remains in the three-part series that explores how Judaism approaches the last phase of the life cycle. “Talking About Death Won’t Kill You” is a free program sponsored by the Oregon Board of Rabbis and Chevra Kavod HaMet (*Chevra Kadisha*, burial society).

Rabbi Eve Posen of Congregation Neveh Shalom will lead the final session on Jewish grieving and beliefs in the afterlife at 7 pm, March 31.

In conjunction with the series, the Chevra

has created a webpage ([chevrakavodhamet.org/questions/continued-learning/](http://chevrakavodhamet.org/questions/continued-learning/)). The page, which will be updated as the series continues, features recordings of the sessions, links to PDFs of presentations, links to recommended resources, answers to all questions asked and related information.

“We have been thrilled with our turnout,” says Sharon Fendrich, co-chair of Chevra Kavod haMet. “When we announced the sessions, we hoped for about 40 people to register. As of today

(March 8), we have 140 unique registrants.” Jewish tradition provides a path both for the person who is dying and for those who love them.

The series explores 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. Register for the final program at: [forms.gle/kVLgwJAgBzPpKgX68](https://forms.gle/kVLgwJAgBzPpKgX68).

# Obituaries (continued from page 13)

## LILLIAN MORGENSTERN

Lillian (Laya) Morgenstern, z"l, passed away March 6, 2022. She was the mother of Joyce (Al) Siciliano and Arlene (Paul) Koenigsberg of Portland; grandmother of Todd Koenigsberg, Amy (Josh) Remick, Josh Drinkard and Annie (Tim) Dixon; and great-grandmother of Dylan and Haley Koenigsberg, Brady and Olivia Remick, Ainsley and Mason Drinkard, and Russel and Gavin Dixon.

Lillian was preceded in death by her husband, Albert "Happy" Morgenstern.

The funeral service was held March 10 in Philadelphia. Shiva was held in Portland March 13 at the home of Amy and Josh Remick.

Donations in Lillian's memory can be made to the American Cancer Society.

Congregation Beth Israel sends condolences to the entire Koenigsberg family.

## LOIS URMAN

Lois Uрман, z"l, passed away March 3, 2022. She was the mother of Steven Uрман (Vicki Romm), Carol Uрман (Ron Entwisle) and Susan Uрман Odegaard; sister of Patricia Reader; grandmother of Julia (Drake) Radditz, Evan (Megan) Uрман, Erin Odegaard and Andrea Odegaard; and great-grandmother of Kit Michaela.

Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin James Uрман, and by her parents, Maxwell Silverstein and Elizabeth (Fischbach) Silverstein.

A funeral service was held at Beth Israel Cemetery on March 6.

Donations in Lois' memory can be made to the Uрман Family College Communication Fund at Congregation Beth Israel.

## JOANNE BONIME

Joanne Bonime, z"l, passed away on March 1, 2022. She was the mother of Todd (Brenda Ellering) Bonime, Bart (Teryn) Bonime and Julie (Fred) Braden; mother-in-law of Jina Bonime; and grandmother of Matthew and Brooke Bonime, and Ellis and Josh Braden.

Joanne was preceded in death by her husband, Mortimer Bonime.

A funeral service was held on March 7 at Congregation Beth Israel followed by a private burial at Beth Israel Cemetery. Donations in Joanne's memory can be made to the American Lung Association.

## MICHAEL ROY SHENKER

Michael Roy Shenker, z"l, *Mendel ben Chana Sara v'Eliezer haCohen*, passed away on Monday evening, Feb. 28, 2022. He is survived by his brother, Mylen (Roz) Shenker; sister, Rosalind (Bill) Cooper; and children, Michael, Anthony, Troy and Samantha.

Congregation Neveh Shalom and Congregation Shaarie Torah both extend condolences to the family.

## SUBMISSIONS

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Pay tribute to family or friends in memory of their dearly departed by making a donation in their honor. Call 503-245-6219 or visit [jewishportland.org/kavodtribute](http://jewishportland.org/kavodtribute)



Above, Rabbi Motti Wilhelm looks at one of the burned books before placing it in a box, while his father, Rabbi Moshe Wilhelm, seals another box of books.

At right, volunteers take the books to cars to transport to Riverview Cemetery.



## Chabad prepares burned holy books for genizah

Chabad of Oregon has begun to move some 2,000 holy books ruined when the Chabad House in Southwest Portland was destroyed by fire Aug. 19, 2020.

Holy books, papers and ritual objects dealing with sacred subjects are traditionally stored in a genizah, storage area, as a sign of reverence and respect.

Last month, volunteers took boxes of ruined books to store at the Riverview Cemetery, where a special plot is being created for the holy books in the Jewish section of the cemetery. Now Chabad of Oregon's Rabbi Moshe Wilhelm and volunteers have begun the more difficult task of collecting the books that have largely been turned to ash. Rabbi Wilhelm says he will need more volunteers to help move those boxed ashes to Riverview Cemetery.

Chabad of Oregon will bury the ruined holy books in a public ceremony once a concrete box with a removable lid is built in the plot. The removable lid will enable more damaged holy books to be added in the future as needed.

To volunteer or donate, call Chabad at 503-381-7119.