

# The JEWISH REVIEW

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"Abraham" welcomed Portlanders into his tent for dinner as part of a desert extravaganza.

## Portlanders forge ties in Israel

BY DEBORAH MOON

Exploring the land, people, history and food of Israel with 200 participants on Portland's 2023 community trip to Israel was a powerful experience – one that created understanding of and connections with Israel and Jewish Portland.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Israel at 75 Community Trip to Israel began with a welcome dinner in Tel Aviv March 20 as participants ranging in age from 5 to 85 arrived in the Jewish homeland. For the next eight days, five buses carried us on an exploration of Tel Aviv, along the coast, the Galilee and Golan, Jerusalem, Masada and the Dead Sea.

"Trips to Israel are such positive community-building opportunities," says JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner. "Our goal for the initial Centennial Trip in 2020 and now with Israel at 75 was to connect people to the State of Israel and our local Jewish community. We believe we exceeded our goals and expectations. For many, it was their first trip to Israel. They now better understand our history, culture and our Jewish homeland, and we look forward to everyone being more involved in Jewish activities of interest to them going forward."

Through it all, Israeli guides shared background, insights and perspectives on places we  
See **CONNECTIONS**, page 2

## Israel filled me with hope

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

If I could boil down my emotional experience during the latest Jewish Federation mission to Israel, I would choose "hope." But I am not trying to force some poetic connection with the translation of the Israeli national anthem, Hatikvah, "The Hope." No – hope is what I genuinely felt many times during our visit.

Let me share some snapshots of my experiences.

In Tel Aviv, we took a graffiti tour and learned about the amazing illicit artwork created on city walls. Our guide taught us about the messages behind the art. Through their skills, graffiti artists challenge the status quo, question authority and force the viewers out of their comfort zones. But they also remind us what we have in common.

Also in Tel Aviv, I was able to share with representatives of the LGBTQ community a delicious dinner in a residence overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. They shared their stories, and I was inspired by their strength, resilience and love of being Jewish. I also learned through them the challenges of being LGBTQ in Israel, and how they continue to find support and encouragement from one another and forge valuable allies throughout the country.

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## Portland>Israel Special Section

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### Other News:

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## Taste of Israel

### 4/19: Israel at 75: Identity Crisis

Yossi Klein Halevi will discuss the new Israeli government and the implications for Israel's future and its democracy at 7-8:30 pm, April 19, at Congregation Neveh Shalom.

Yossi Klein Halevi is a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Halevi's latest book, *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*, is a New York Times bestseller.

The free event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Israel360 at Neveh Shalom, Congregation Beth Israel and StandWithUs.

Register: [jewishportland.org/yossi-klein-halevi-april-19-2023](http://jewishportland.org/yossi-klein-halevi-april-19-2023).

### 4/30: Israeli Superstar Noa in Concert

Tickets are still available for the April 30 concert featuring Israeli superstar Noa, who will perform here as part of our community's Israel at 75 Celebration.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Congregation Beth Israel present "Celebrating Israel at 75" at 7 pm, April 30, at the new Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in Beaverton. The concert features Noa performing with Grammy-Award winning pianist Rustan Sirota.

Tickets: \$18-\$36 plus a \$4 service fee, at [thereser.org/event/celebrating-israel-at-75-with-israeli-superstar-noa/](http://thereser.org/event/celebrating-israel-at-75-with-israeli-superstar-noa/).





Portlanders celebrated Kabbalat Shabbat in Jerusalem with a stunning backdrop, above. Protests in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem drew the participation of several Portlanders, including Marni Glick and Hank Kaplan, who took these photos in Tel Aviv.



## HOPE (continued from page 1)

There is no way I could speak about “hope” and not mention the political demonstrations that took place when we were there. The Israelis powerfully expressed their opposition to efforts to change the fundamental democratic nature of their country. And yet they did this in a positive, celebratory way. I am not aware that any of the hundreds of thousands of protesters expressed violence. Prime Minister Netanyahu clearly heard their message.

At the start of the trip, the tour guide on our bus explained that many Israelis are struggling with whether their nation should be “Jewish” or “democratic.” Clearly, a significant segment of the population, if not the majority, want Israel to be a non-theocratic Jewish democratic state. We are watching this struggle in real time.

Another highlight was learning about the Roots program. It is located in Gush Etzion in the West Bank. Roots creates opportunities for Israelis and Palestinians to interact and express how they both have intense connections to the land. When we visited with their representatives, we learned how they share their family stories and their often generations-old grief. And yet, despite the violence and pain they have experienced through the Israeli-Palestinian con-

flict, they discover what they have in common and how to forge a positive future.

During our time in Israel, we experienced over and over and over how there has been little progress in the “Peace Process.” Nearly 30 years since the Oslo Accords’ famous handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, there have been many more backward steps than forward steps. One would think that Israelis and Palestinians would give up hope. Not necessarily. Roots taught us that hope is still possible.

As Juan Manuel Santos taught: “One doesn’t make peace with one’s friends. One makes peace with one’s enemies.” At Roots, enemies are sitting down and finding ways to become allies for progress and peace.

I had an intense experience during our trip to Israel. Upon my return, I felt renewed hope for our homeland’s present and future. Without a doubt, Israelis have much to teach Americans about the importance of patience, resilience and remembering what we have in common.

Rabbi Barry Cohen is the Jewish community chaplain of the Greater Portland area. [chaplain@jewishportland.org](mailto:chaplain@jewishportland.org)

## CONNECTIONS (continued from page 1)

visited and a variety of topics such as land for peace and the history of the conflict. They spoke about the protests against judicial reform legislation and Prime Minister Netanyahu’s unprecedented firing of the country’s defense minister over that issue.

On two days, participants could choose from a variety of tracks to explore a particular area of interest. Israeli youth counselors led special programs for families and children including a visit to the Biblical Zoo, an archaeological dig and chocolate-making.

“A mission has many components,” says Wendy Kahn, JFGP Chief Development Officer. “It starts with a vision Marc had of bringing 400 community members to Israel ... then recruiting the right chairs and selecting Caron (Blau Rothstein) to manage the project. Part of the vision was creating a bucket list opportunity for the 65% who were first-timers.”

Howie Bierbaum, the executive director of the Eastside Jewish Commons, was one of those first-timers. “The rich complexity of the history, social, artistic and cultural sides of Israel was overwhelming,” he says. “I can’t explain it, but it was really profound.”

First-timers John Schwimmer and his wife, Rosemary, decided to join the trip because, “I thought it would be a good way to meet this community (Portland and Israel),” says John.

John hadn’t participated in organized Jewish life since his bar mitzvah, which he did because it was important to his Orthodox grandfather. He disliked Hebrew school but admits it did give him familiarity for elements of this trip. “This Israel visit, lectures and talks on the bus gives me a lot more context,” he says, adding he now understands “how it all fits together.”

*The following pages feature stories and photos from some of those experiences as well as reflections from about a dozen participants.*





CAESAREA NATIONAL PARK

# ISRAEL AT 75 COMMUNITY TRIP MEMORIES FOR A LIFETIME!



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER PORTLAND

75  
ISRAEL  
AT



KABBALAT SHABBAT AT SOUTHERN WALL





Kathy Davis-Weiner and Michael Weiner explore a Crusader castle.

## Mission accomplished

BY MICHAEL WEINER & KATHY DAVIS-WEINER

When we began planning this trip to Israel, it was to celebrate the Federation's 100th birthday. Covid had other ideas. Our registration fell from 400 to 200 but what a blessing in disguise: the logistics were impeccable, the excitement contagious, the wonder extraordinary.

Those 200 people, mostly first-timers, were about to experience the promised "trip of a lifetime," and it was the implicit promise to those first-timers that excited us, because we knew the power of Israel to evoke emotion and to create wonder. We also knew there was no way to fully describe what they were about to feel.

And so during the trip, we continually asked those who had never been to Israel what were their impressions. The unanimous, *yes unanimous*, responses were those of powerful astonishment.

The emotions began on Shabbat at the Southern Wall; tears of joy were actually flowing. It continued through the more lighthearted venues in Tel Aviv, where comments were made to us that they had no idea that this small country could build a 21<sup>st</sup>-century powerhouse of both tech and fun.

Every day added to their wonder with the variety of experience and concomitant emotions: the detention/absorption center brought to life the drama of Israel's struggle to be born. Yad Vashem both crushed their spirit and gave hope of a better tomorrow. The security briefings put today's reality into perspective (looking into both Syria and Lebanon was particularly jarring), as did the Helicopter Memorial.

Emotions proved to be the bond that held the participants together. Comments were given, time and again, that this was the most impactful experience of their lives; and their emotions were also our emotions, which simply proves that Israel never grows old. As many times as one goes to Eretz Yisrael, it creates or reenforces an unbreakable bond with the Jewish people.

Our goal was to connect the Portland Jewish community with the State and people of Israel. Mission accomplished.



Priscilla and Tony Kostiner, front center, on the Southern Steps celebrating Kabbalat Shabbat.

## It is not a dream

BY PRISCILLA AND TONY KOSTINER

*Eem tirtzu, ein zo aggadah:* If you will it, it is not a dream.

This expression, the words of Theodore Herzl, have been the cornerstone of our journey in planning Portland's community trip to Israel.

Our discussions about the trip began in 2016 as we looked forward to the Jewish Federation's 100th anniversary in 2020. With 400 people ready to go in March of that year, Covid overtook us, and the trip was postponed for three years until 2023 – time to celebrate Israel's 75th anniversary of statehood. Never did we, nor our co-chairs, Michael Weiner and Kathy Davis-Weiner, think of giving up.

For us, having our daughter and her family with us, as well as good Portland friends plus special best friends from Connecticut, added to the pleasure of the trip. It was rewarding to meet so many others whom we did not know or did not know well. Can you imagine, 65% of our travelers were first-timers. Seeing and hearing their reactions every day was special!

We were so fortunate to have our outstanding Federation professionals, the excellent Israeli guides, bus drivers, youth counselors and Kenes personnel with us, seeing to our every need. The use of What'sApp as a means of communicating with the terrific members of Bus 5 added to the fun.

Day after day, the group was delighted and moved by what they experienced. Even we, who have been to Israel so many times, found ourselves excited by new sites, particularly in archeology.

For us, the Kabbalat Shabbat service that we held on the Southern Steps to the Temple Mount was the most moving moment. The location and spirit of the moment captured everything this trip was all about.

Bottom Line: Would we do it again? Absolutely! When? As soon as we can! Will that happen?

*Eem tirtzu, ein zo aggadah:* If you will it, it is not a dream!



The Kostiner family in Israel.







# B'nai mitzvah, history, sites unite generations

BY DEBORAH MOON

Portland's community trip offered many families a multi-generational experience, including some becoming b'nai mitzvah in Jerusalem.

A score of adults and two 12-year-old girls participated in the b'nai mitzvah celebration held at the Southern Wall on March 27.

Eliana Michaelis was delighted to find out that even though she wouldn't turn 12 until April 2, on the Hebrew calendar she was already 12.

"I dreamed of doing it (bat mitzvah), and to be able to do it here was even more amazing," says Eliana of her Jerusalem bat mitzvah, which she shared with her mother, Kerry Haugh, and her friend, Emelia Orvieto.

Kerry, who formalized her conversion in March 2020, had planned to participate in the b'nai mitzvah on JFGP's original trip, which was postponed by Covid. This year, becoming a bat mitzvah in Jerusalem was "pretty magical and doing it with my daughter was a bonus," she says.

Trip manager Caron Blau Rothstein previously coordinated the Mother's Circle Portland, which supported non-Jewish moms raising Jewish children. The program was run by Congregation Neveh Shalom with a grant from Federation.

"Three Mother's Circle graduates came on this trip with their non-Jewish parents and their Jewish children," says Caron,

now JFGP's Chief Allocations and Engagement Office. "Some of them have chosen Judaism for themselves over the years, and one mother/daughter even had their b'not mitzvah on the trip. To see these blended heritage, multi-generation families come to Israel together as part of our community trip feels like a full circle moment for me, and I hope very much for them, too."

"I like how there were lots of activities for multi-generations," says one of the mothers who brought her three children. "The kids and I all got something out of it."

Mother's Circle graduate Laura Addonisio was on the trip with her wife, Deb Freedman, their daughter, Sarah, and both of their mothers, Barbara Freedman and Iris Addonisio, who was joined by her friend, MaryAnn Piedmonte.

"Visiting Israel with three generations of women was a spectacular experience," says Laura. "Our family is multi-faith as I'm Christian, my wife is Jewish and our daughter is being raised Jewish. This trip gave my daughter the opportunity to experience Israel with the perspective of both her Jewish grandmother and Catholic grandmother. I was so proud watching and being a part of the sharing between generations. We made lifelong memories and dreams come true."

The six women were enthusiastic, boisterous participants throughout the trip.

"We gave them roots in Jewish life, and they gave themselves and their families wings to soar, embrace and be embraced by the Portland Jewish community," says Caron of the Mother's Circle families. "It doesn't get any better or more fulfilling for me as a Jewish professional (than) to see this outcome."

Other families also enjoyed experiencing Israel together.

"I was glad to be here and put a note in the wall and then go underground and see more of it," says Elle Wendrow, 21, during a tour of the Western Wall tunnels.

Elle was in Israel for the first time and came with her parents, Michael and Susanne Wendrow; Susanne had visited Israel in 1979 and 1987.

"I was really excited to see Israel through the eyes of Elle and Michael," says Susanne.

A history buff, Michael says the views of history and the ability to touch them were fascinating.

Elle is already planning to return to Israel. She has found the security and political issues on this trip fascinating and wants to take a Birthright Israel trip focused on politics. Birthright Israel offers free trips to Israel for young Jewish adults from the Diaspora.

Throughout the trip, which offered a taste of many places and experiences, many people were heard to say they want to return for a longer experience at a favorite stop.

## Three generations experiencing Israel together

BY AMANDA NETTER

I first visited Israel in 2018 with the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project, and ever since, I've looked forward to the opportunity to take my family so they could fall in love with Israel as I did. This trip with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland not only achieved that but exceeded my wildest expectations.

Once we stepped off the airplane and saw the "Welcome to Ben-Gurion Airport" sign, I observed the excitement on my family's faces and felt that we were home. Then over the next nine days, the amazing experiences started piling up. Seeing my oldest son's face light up with enthusiasm as he talked about the cool feeling of people getting ready for Shabbat in Jerusalem, followed by a warm and beautiful service with the group by the Southern Wall. In Tsfat, finding Star of David necklaces for both my boys and bar mitzvah candles for my youngest. Getting lost in the Carmel Market in Tel Aviv where we talked to vendors, bought Judaica items, sampled the delicious rugelach and babka, and ate at my favorite hummus restaurant from my



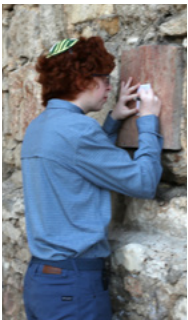
Amanda Netter with her family at Masada.

prior visit. Leaving notes in the Western Wall, feeling the history and spirituality of this holy location. Experiencing thousands of years of history at places like Caesarea, Tel Dan, Akko and Masada. And of course, floating in the Dead Sea, sifting the fine salt through our fingertips while covered in mud.

As an added bonus, we experienced everything with my mother- and father-in-law, who were also on their first visit to Israel. Having three generations together on this adventure enhanced the experience and took it to another level. Whether it was emotional activities like visiting Yad Vashem or praying at the Western Wall, or entertaining events like making chocolate at a factory in the Golan Heights or dancing on an after-dinner cruise on the Sea of Galilee, having my kids and their grandparents doing this together was incredibly special and allowed me to experience Israel through their eyes.

But most of all, I cherished being in Israel together, smiles on our faces while being surrounded by Jewish people in an environment that was safe, welcoming and comfortable. I witnessed my family leaning into their Jewishness unapologetically, connecting to our Jewish roots and history. Becoming bonded with a deeper connection to the global Jewish community and the great people from Portland on this trip. All of which filled me with pride. A feeling that I will remember forever.







# Exploring identity, pluralism and coexistence

BY DEBORAH MOON

Jewish identity, pluralism and coexistence were common themes during Portland's Israel at 75 community trip.

Some Portlanders visited Dror Israel, which, with support from Portland's Jewish Federation, provides programs to improve the lives of Jewish and Arab youth and recent immigrants in Akko (see story below).

Portlanders participating in a security track program visited Roots, a program in the West Bank where local Israelis and Palestinians are working as partners to try and end the conflict that has caused suffering on both sides.

"These are Palestinian and Jewish adults who come together and make connections so they can see they don't need to keep (up the) eternal fighting," says Charles Jaggar, who participated in the Roots visit.

A track focused on Jewish identity and pluralism began with a visit to a Hand in Hand School, which was cofounded 25 years ago by Portlander Lee Gordon and a Palestinian friend who wondered why Jews and Arabs didn't learn together.

In Israel, 99% of young people go to school with those in their own community with no opportunity to get to know those with different beliefs and life stories. In Hand in Hand's six schools, Arab and Jewish children learn together in classes co-taught by a Palestinian and Jewish teacher.

Two Palestinian ninth-graders shared their experience at Hand in Hand.

## ***Hand in Hand students "learn peace and math." ~ Palestinian 9<sup>th</sup>-grader***

When Yara came to Hand in Hand in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, she expected it to be very hard. Instead, she found "Israelis willing to listen to Palestinian stories, and Palestinians ready to listen to Israeli stories. ... I see Arabs and Jews could work together and not just fight."

Shukrallah has attended Hand in Hand since preschool. "I didn't know about the conflict. For me, coming to school was playing with friends."

"This school can bridge (the divide)," he says. "The more people who know about the problem, the easier it is to solve."

Yara says the students gain "the ability to know and listen to someone else's point of view."

Shukrallah adds that academically, the school is also excellent. He says students learn "peace and math."

The next stop on the Pluralism track was a visit with Yochi Rapoport, the executive director of Women of the Wall. WOW strives to allow women to pray freely with a Torah at the Western Wall, a practice the Kotel Rabbi bars. A 2016 Kotel agreement promised to renovate an egalitarian plaza next to the wall and extend the plaza to touch the wall. Prime Minister Netanyahu "shelved the Kotel agreement," and no

improvements have been made, Rapoport explains. "They want to take away what we won in 2016. ... WOW's goal is to implement the Kotel agreement to allow women to be part of Jewish life."

"WOW started before I was born," says Rapoport, who is 33. "I am doing this so when your kids and grandkids come to Israel, their way of Jewish life will be recognized."

After watching a video of attacks from Kotel security and yeshiva boys, Portlander Hank Kaplan said, "I was shocked by the level of animosity toward these women, who after all are only trying to worship."

The final visit of the Pluralism track was a culinary tour of the ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim neighborhood.

There are 300,000 haredim, ultra-Orthodox Jews, in Jerusalem, with a total 1.3 million in Israel.

For the haredi, "the number one priority in life is the word of God," explained the Orthodox tour guide. "Halachic law is extremely detailed ... The law tells you this is what's right, and this is what's not."

The culinary tour featured four stops: a spread of matzah ball soup, kugels and gefilte fish; a deli serving herring and a sweet and spicy Lochshen kugel; a Hungarian cake shop founded in 1936; and a wine shop.

"This was certainly a study of contrasts," said Hank Kaplan of the visit to Hand in Hand, WOW and Mea Shearim.

# Keeping traditions alive in a modern world

BY RABBI CHAYIM E. MISHULOVIN

The first morning of our amazing trip (you had to be there!), we visited Anu – Museum of the Jewish People. The core exhibit is designed to reflect the multiculturalism of Jewish diversity today. The museum creators say "from hipster to haredi, every Jew can find themselves there."

I see billboard-sized pictures of different families – the Tel Aviv family with a dog, the religious-looking family, people of different ages and locations. Life-sized screens of different Jews telling their story. Different Jewish groups (Sephardic, Hasidic, etc.) and political parties are displayed.

I could not find myself.

I knew why. Most of those shown could be placed in two opposite categories – either traditional people living in the past or the modern individual in today's world.

From a very young age, I was taught and brought up with the Chabad dictum that the ultimate way to live as a Jew is to live in the present materialistic world and infuse it with the holy and spiritual. Not only is it not a

contradiction, it is G-d's mission for us.

I joined the trip in part because I knew there would be questions. Many living in the mundane world (Oregon is known as the least religious state) may find it difficult to connect with a holy and spiritual place. I felt the Chabad philosophy I have studied my entire life could help it feel less foreign.

And boy did it. I have never been asked so many questions in my life. From a week-long discussion on "Does Judaism believe in the afterlife?" to the most often asked "Which Chasidic group wears which hat and why?" (spoiler alert: I don't know), we all appreciated the conversations.

Many were private. Here are some that weren't:

Is it true you have nine kids? Why?

Is it religious to believe in Zionism?

Why don't you shave your beard?

Why do we don *teffilin*?

How did they come up with the times for Shabbat and holidays?

All these questions have short answers, but Judaism is much more than the rules

and steps. Every detail in Jewish life is infused with rich meaning and depth.

The last exhibit in the Anu museum displays six examples of modern Jewish migrations, including from the shtetl to the big city, from Europe to America. I think perhaps those challenging transformations aren't only historic – we live them every day. We get pulled back and forth between old world and the new. But the ultimate is to live the pure traditions in our progressive world. In 2023, we must be bringing heaven down to Earth.

It was special to have these *farbrengens* (Yiddish for meaningful gathering) on the buses, in the restaurants, hotel lobbies and on the hikes. It came alive viewing an ancient land with cranes and archeological digs coexisting; even government decisions were debated while we were there.

Keep digging deeper, there is so much more. It's all right here in our daily lives. If you would like to continue the *farbrengen*, email me at [RabbiM@ChabadOregon](mailto:RabbiM@ChabadOregon) or stop by the Jewish Oasis.







# Family reunion in Israel

BY MINDY ZEITZER

I have been fortunate to travel to Israel six times, and each experience is special. This one was really special. It never ceases to amaze me that every trip to Israel brings new experiences and new perspectives.

I traveled to Israel on the JFGP community trip with my husband, Mark, and our youngest son, Ezra. The highlight for us was the thrill of meeting up with our two older boys while we were there. Although I've been to Israel several times, I had never experienced it with my family. I was elated to share the awe of Israel with my three boys and as a whole family of five.

Our youngest son was eager to go. This, after all, was his first trip out of the country and, of course, his first trip to Israel. He's spent his whole life at Portland Jewish Academy from 2 years old learning about Israel and Judaism and building his Jewish identity. Each and every day in Israel, watching his eyes twinkle with wonder brought me a renewed sense of excitement. As we traveled across Israel visiting historical and meaningful places to us as Jews, he listened intently to our incredible guide, Yoni, yearning to learn and absorb more. Often his hand was the first in the air when a question was asked, wanting to be part of it all. I knew Israel was leaving a permanent mark on him.

Our middle son was already there on a two-week, 8th-grade trip with his PJA class. This trip was a long-awaited experience for all the PJAs. In every picture I saw with his class, I could feel his excitement and joy. We were able to steal him away from his trip for a few hours on Shabbat and hear about his favorite part of the trip – a free choice lunch in the *shuk*. All the different and distinct spices and bartering for gifts was the best part for him.

Our oldest son is currently spending a whole semester in Israel on the Alexander Muss High School in Israel program – a four-month program. We were able to take advantage of Chai Israel funding through JFGP that is available to all Oregonians and kids in SW Washington to support him in attending. His experience has truly been like no other. The learning has been deep and watching his Jewish identity grow has been fulfilling. Imagine learning about Masada on Masada and getting high school credit for it!

Shabbat in Jerusalem was where we were reunited halfway



across the world in the holiest place on Earth for just a few hours. I believe a reunion, had it happened anywhere, would have been moving; the fact that it happened in Israel, in Jerusalem, made it feel all the more special. Emotions were high from all of us. Being together in the Old City, experiencing the Kotel, the history of our people – all together even for a short period – was a moment that will be with me forever. I'm so grateful to JFGP for making this experience happen through the community trip, for supporting PJAs and for supporting all kids to experience Israel. These experiences are forever.

Now, back in Portland reflecting on the trip, I realize there is another reason this trip was so special. It was a community trip with 200 people from across our small but mighty Jewish world of greater Portland. There were many people from our community that I knew and a ton of people I had never seen or met. We told everyone about meeting up with our boys; everyone shared our excitement and was eager to welcome them. I even had the opportunity to be medical support while on the trip. It was truly awesome to share this experience with our community and expand our Jewish world in Portland.

It's funny that traveling across the world to our homeland with my community gave me a deeper sense of *kehillah* and family right here at home.

*Mindy Zeitzer chairs the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.*

## Sharing b'nai mitzvah experience in Jerusalem

BY TONI (RIVKA) JAFFE

Ten years ago, my son Hunter (Reuven) Jaffe was in Israel for the Portland Jewish Academy 8th-grade trip. On the Jewish Federation of Portland 2023 trip this March, my adopted older son Michael (Ari) Peck came on the trip with me along with his partner, Shanna, and my friend Julie (Eliana) Feinberg.

We had the opportunity to participate together in the b'nai mitzvah service at the Southern Wall, standing under the pergola. Hunter had his bar mitzvah in the spring of 2012 at Congregation Shaarie Torah, and here a little over 10 years from then, Michael, Julie and I were standing with our tallits and kippahs, reciting the prayers before and after the Torah reading and being bar and bat mitzvah as adults. It was such a proud and emotional moment for the three of us to experience together, mother and son, friend, in Israel, near the Kotel.



Michael Peck, Toni Jaffe and Julie Feinberg become b'nai mitzvah at the Southern Wall of the Temple Mount.

Hunter was with me in spirit as I wore his bar mitzvah tallit. Michael, Julie and I were scheduled for the original trip that was to have taken place in 2020. In preparation for that trip, I purchased for both Michael and Julie their prayer shawls from Israel in

advance of the trip, along with a beautiful fountain pen and kippah for Michael! How special it was to finally have all three of us place our tallits around our shoulders for this once in a lifetime experience. I am a Jew by choice, and Michael and Julie were born Jewish. We shared the moment with other women, men and young adults from the trip.

Can one feel more Jewish? The answer is yes. Both Michael and I shared that we felt more Jewish with this ceremony. And here we were in the Jewish homeland while history was being made. The b'nai mitzvah was moving with Rabbi Barry Cohen, Rabbi Gary Oren and Priscilla Kostiner leading the service. Michael, Julie and I were called up for the first Aliyah, and as we looked at the Torah and all the loving faces of our families, friends and other b'nai mitzvah participants, my heart swelled with pride, joy and a few tears. A shared memory of a lifetime.







# Visiting Israel feels like “coming home”

BY DEBORAH MOON

Many people on the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's *Israel at 75 Community Trip* said that being in Israel felt like “coming home.”

That phrase was especially true for Rachel Zierdt, born in Tel Aviv on Dec. 15, 1946. When she was 4, the family moved to London when her father, Issacher (Sigi) Hillman, was sent there as an El Al accountant. An avid Zionist, he had arrived in Palestine from Vienna in December 1936; her mother, Hannah Rosenzweig, had immigrated to Tel Aviv in 1924 from Poland with her parents when she was 4.

When Rachel returned to Tel Aviv for the Portland trip, cousins on her mother's side, Leora and Tzvikah Vinik, took her to see places significant in her family's life there.



Rachel Zierdt, left, visits the Tel Aviv synagogue where she was named. Her cousin Leora took her on a tour to explore her roots in the city she left at age 4.

“My cousins took me on an exploration of my roots – the synagogue where I was named,

my grandparents' apartment building, the school my mother attended, a plaque commemo-

rating the Haganah, a paramilitary group my dad belonged to before the Independence War,” says Rachel.

Over dinner with her cousin, Dorothy, from her dad's side, the women spent “the evening exchanging stories of our parents.”

Traveling back to Tel Aviv from Jerusalem, buses passed a bombed out convoy left along the road as a memorial since Israel's War of Independence.

“Once the U.N. announced the creation of the two states, Palestinian and Jewish, in November 1947, the Arabs started to attack travelers on this road,” says Rachel. “In fact, they cut off Jerusalem for six months and required a road (Burma Road) to bypass this road. My dad was an engineer, who I believe was part of this creation. He was very quiet about his service to the nation.”

## ISRAEL ... I get it!

BY KEN GOLDBERG

If I write the background story of not coming to Israel, there won't be space left for the explanation of the most meaningful adventure of my life. But here's a few of the beliefs that kept me away until March 2023 – it's too dangerous, it's too much time on a bus and blah blah blah.

In the summer of 2022, I was having a reunion with a friend I hadn't seen in 40 years. I told him I was hoping to go to Israel in a couple months, and he said I should come on the Portland Federation tour in March 2023. I contacted the Federation and found out there was room.

No more excuses; a higher power had cleared the way. When I landed on March 17, I found there were several people I knew from my childhood in Portland. It was a whirlwind, but an amazing way to see a lot in a little time. The staff did a fantastic job of making sure both first-timers and returnees had meaningful experiences.

I could detail the stops each day, most of which were amazing in their own right, but that would dilute the revelational experience I had. Seeing and walking around the cities of biblical significance was hard to grasp at first. Luckily, several incredibly knowledgeable and patient tour guides connected my hallucinations about Israel to the reality of our homeland. From Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Haifa, Ceasaria, Akko, a kibbutz in the Golan, dinner cruise on the Galilee, Tiberius, Tzfat, through the West Bank and Jordan River Valley, Jerusalem, Masada and the Dead Sea, I've never felt so safe in my life.

Even during the protests that shut down the country for a brief period, the crowds weren't the kind that burn cars and take over police precincts like in America. The protestors were all speaking up for their dreams and hopes for their country, and how to keep it together and strong. There are no gangs, no signs of drugs, no homelessness. Absolutely nothing like what's portrayed on American media.

I loved hearing Hebrew everywhere, but most spoke English if



needed. I loved wearing a kippah from the moment I boarded El Al in Los Angeles to the moment I returned. I loved wrapping tefillin on the plane as well as at the Kotel, davening, then putting prayers into The Wall's cracks that friends had given me to deliver.

My three most meaningful stops were Tsfat, where Kaballah was developed in the 13th century; Jerusalem, where Torah surrounds you; and Hebron, where our Patriarchs and Matriarchs are buried. Davening the Minchah service was indescribable, standing on the ground where Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Leah, Rebecca, Adam and Eve lived was a full-circle connection that left me speechless for days.

What did my first trip to Israel mean to me? Life-changing. Everything looks different now. I'm different now. Connected in a new way now.

I get it ... *Baruch HaShem.*





Mitch and Nicole Elovitz at desert extravaganza.

## I can't wait to return

BY MITCH ELOVITZ

On March 19, 2023, my wife, Nicole, and I embarked on the trip of a lifetime. Along with 200 or so other Oregonians, mostly from the Portland area, we made our way to Israel. Twenty or so hours later, we arrived “home.”

Some background on my Jewish upbringing, which I feel is important to this story. I was born in 1965 in Trumbull, Conn. Trumbull is a suburban town in southern Connecticut with enough Jewish people that we would have matzah with our public school lunch during Pesach. I'm the youngest of three. I went to Hebrew School, had my bar mitzvah and attended Hebrew High School. My family would plant a tree each year in Israel through JNF and send money to Israel.

I was very involved in my youth group, United Synagogue Youth, the Conservative Movement's youth group. That provided my only other experience in Israel; when I was 15, I went on “Pilgrimage,” a six-week immersive tour of Israel. I remember very little about that trip outside of trying to get beer. I also remember spending Shabbat in Tsfat, which is where Lecha Dodi was written. I also remember being in Caesarea, climbing Masada and visiting many museums, including Yad Vashem.

Visiting all these places as an adult is an extremely different experience. My eyes and soul felt wide open. I wanted to soak up as much of this experience as I possibly could, and I didn't want to take anything for granted or forget anything. I committed to keeping a travel journal.

Our friend Deb Moon asked me if I would be willing to write a personal view about the trip, revisiting my powerful emotions during the reflection session at the end of our trip. We sat in a circle and were asked to reflect on our experiences. It was an incredible eight days. We experienced so much. As I was sitting there listening to others, it struck me that my two older siblings as well as my parents were all in Israel at different times, but we were never there all together as a family, and never would be since they all died years ago. But I felt them with me. I also reflected on how meaningful my time in Israel was with Nicole, my wife of nearly 29 years. Others on the trip dubbed us the “love birds,” because we held hands often during the trip and were often happily together.

I can't wait to go back with our daughter, Maude, and for a significant amount of time. This trip rekindled my love affair with the beautiful State of Israel, and my only regret is it took me so long to get back to her.

## Building community

BY STEVEN KAHN

Years ago, Marc Blattner told Wendy and me about his goal of bringing 500 Jewish Portlanders on a trip to Israel to celebrate the Federation's 100-year anniversary. When he then asked us to help subsidize the trip so as many members of our community as possible could make the trip, we were enthusiastically on board. You see, having previously traveled to Israel on organized missions, such as the one we have now just completed, I knew from experience how powerfully effective a trip of this kind is in building community.

Building community is vitally important to us. As longtime community participants and funders, we believe that as more people feel a part of something good, they will respond by not only being more active participants/joiners but also as funders and facilitators.

Having now finally experienced the revised trip of nearly 200 Portlanders to celebrate Israel's 75th birthday, I can say confidently that, so far, the trip was successful in connecting so many people to each other. Building community.

All of us were divided into five buses of 30-40 people each. If you could only see the lingering messaging continuing between the members of our bus after the trip even ended. There is just something transformative about experiencing this amazing country together as a group.

Now the challenge is to keep the momentum going forward. Sure, we all made dozens more friends we never knew we had. But, with our new friends, we can help build and realize a better Jewish Portland for those of us who experienced Israel together, and for the thousands who were not able to make the trip.

We need not leave our good feelings and community-building in Israel. There is much to create and build here in Portland. I look forward to building and creating with all of our new friends.

## Finding true belonging

BY ROSEMARY SCHWIMMER

As a former Catholic who converted to Judaism when I married, this trip had many layers of meaning for me. While we have raised our children to embrace and appreciate their Jewish heritage, other than celebrating the major Jewish holidays, we are largely secular and do not belong to a synagogue.

This, for me, was the first time I felt like I truly belonged in the Jewish community and felt motivated to be a more active participant.

At the same time, while visiting a Greek Orthodox Church in Jordan, I strongly felt the presence of my grandmother, Mary, who went to church every day – and I lit a candle in her memory. When she was alive, I never shared my conversion with her for fear of disappointing someone whom I loved and admired so much. After her death, I confided in my Aunt Bernadette, and she told me “she knew, and she loved you unconditionally.”

For me, love is what it is all about. My second favorite souvenir from Israel is a necklace that says *Ahava* (love) in Hebrew. My favorite treasure is a ring inscribed with “I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.” I owe an enormous amount of gratitude to my husband, John, without whom I would have never experienced this amazing journey.





# You can't fully understand Israel until you go

BY SYDNEY BLATTNER

Last month, my family had the privilege of participating in the PDX trip to Israel. I had last visited the country in 1985, as a teen with High School in Israel. It was the first visit for my husband, Mark, and our 14-year-old son, Adrian.

Being in Israel again after 40 years, this time with my immediate family (and my brother, Marc Blattner, when he wasn't busy working) was a special experience. Together, we walked the ancient cities of Jerusalem and Tzfat, toured Masada, floated in the Dead Sea, and took in the natural beauty of the Golan Heights and the Sea of Galilee/Kinneret. Our son helped make olive oil using an ancient stone press. We ate delicious Middle Eastern cuisine just as Abraham and Sarah did, in tents overlooking the hills outside of Jerusalem. We saw that the 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls looked very much like the Torah that my son read from at his bar mitzvah last year. We touched the Western Wall and wel-

***Everything we did was a tangible reminder that we are part of a tradition that started in the land of Israel and continues to live on ... in the Jewish people of today.***

comed Shabbat on the edge of the Temple Mount while singing Yerushalayim Shel Zahav with all 200 of our fellow travelers.

Our tour activities, many fun and light-hearted, some more serious, were carefully planned by the Portland Federation team and robustly interpreted by the Kenes Tours guides. Everything we did was a tangible reminder that we are part of a tradition that started in the land of Israel and continues to live on, thousands of years later, in the Jewish people of today.

Beyond the joy of sharing all of this with my husband and son, returning to Israel after so many years allowed me to revisit and reflect on my own personal Jewish journey. As a teenager, I had been deeply impacted by the sense of purpose, determination and high level of competence that I had felt in Israel. Returning to the country decades later, I was struck by how much had changed for the good, precisely because Israelis had put those traits into action for so many years.

Israel is a place that you cannot fully understand until you've been there. The trip gave my family the opportunity to build that understanding together, standing side by side in places where important moments in Jewish history happened – and are still happening today. All three of us returned home feeling inspired and strongly connected to Judaism and the State of Israel. We bonded over these shared experiences and created special memories that we will never forget.

## Dror Israel improving lives with Portland help

BY MARNI GLICK

On the third day of our Israel tour, several busloads of us drove up to the northern coastal city of Akko, a mixed city of Jews, Arabs, Druze and immigrants from the former Soviet Union. There we met with members of Dror Israel. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has been funding several Dror Israel projects over the years, and we were eager to see the fruits of our support.

In Akko, we were met by our tour guide, Adam, a member of Dror Israel's Urban Kibbutz in Akko. Adam grew up in Canada, attended a progressive Zionist summer camp and eventually moved to Israel to join Dror Israel.

We learned that Dror Israel is a community of teachers and social activists dedicated to promoting social change by creating programs to improve the lives of Jewish and Arab youth, recent immigrants and other disenfranchised communities.

As we walked through the town, Adam described how he and his colleagues tried to use youth soccer to reach across cultural and religious barriers with mixed success. He told us about starting a bike repair program to empower local teens. He talked about encouraging the parents in the community to come together to form a neighborhood committee, leveraging their power to demand city services such as trash cleanup. And he pointed to the public gardens being tended by Russian and Ukrainian immigrants as a way to build both purpose and community.

We ended up at a large building that Dror Israel had recently rehabbed with financial assistance from the Portland Federation; it now serves as both a center for community activities as well as housing for members of the urban kibbutz. We spent the rest of our visit sitting together in a large room in this beautiful building. A plaque acknowledging the partnership with Jewish Federation of Greater Portland hangs on the wall.

We heard from Svetlana, an immigrant from Moscow, who never stopped smiling as she described how Dror Israel helped her implement programs for women in the community. We listened to other speeches and tributes and then at the program's conclusion, we were asked to join together in a song. Israelis love to sing songs



Carmella Ettinger and Wendy Kahn meet with Gilad Perry, Director of International Partnerships and Collaborations at Dror Israel, during a visit to the Akko Educators' Kibbutz.

to show appreciation, something we were asked to do on several occasions throughout our nine-day tour.

The Dror Israel members we met expressed a deep dedication to the work they are doing, and to the urban kibbutz collective framework in which they are living. They repeatedly let us know of their deep appreciation of the financial support they receive from our community. I look forward to returning to Akko in a few years to see how Dror Israel continues to improve the lives of the people of Akko.







# Petra: A magical step back in time

BY JESSICA ANDERSON

Our Jordan excursion to Petra was another magical step back in time.

After sharing a goodbye dinner with our companion travelers to Israel, we headed back to the hotel to pack for another three days of adventure. We left the next morning and headed to Jordan by bus, picking up our Jordanian guide, Iyad, along the way.

Our first visit was to Mt. Nebo, where Moses looked across to the Promised Land he would never reach. Mt. Nebo is also home to a church first constructed in the fourth century to commemorate the place of Moses' death. The church features some of the earliest Byzantine mosaics, which cover the floors and walls and were beautiful and highlight monastic life in delicate shading.

On to Madaba where we had, we all agreed, was one of the best lunches of our entire trip – a near constant stream of amazing dishes. Madaba is also home to a sixth-century mosaic map of the world. Using over 2 million pieces of colored stone, it depicts part of the Middle East and contains the oldest surviving original cartographic depiction of the Holy Land and Jerusalem. Our day ended at our "hotel," which was a cluster of limestone cottages in the former Bedouin village of Wadi Moussa.

Our second day featured our trip highlight, the Nabatean capital of Petra, in existence as a hub on a major trading route dating back to the second century BCE. Iyad guided us through the 1.2-km gorge that opens to the start of the spectacular carvings believed completed in the first century CE. Some folks split off so they could explore the far-reaching parts of this Wonder of The World, and others stayed with Iyad and were told of the rich history, carvings, agriculture and water conduit systems of this time. Some folks walked more than 13 miles this day. We all arrived back at our village tired and hungry in the early evening.

Our time in Jordan coincided with Ramadan, and the evenings (and early mornings) were always punctuated with the beautiful Muslim calls to prayer that rang out and echoed across the hills of Wadi Moussa.

Our final day was an early start. We left our village and headed south to the awe-inspiring sands and rock of Wadi Rum, the desert headquarters of Lawrence of Arabia. We rode across the desert in the back of Toyota trucks fitted with benches. We climbed sand dunes, saw petroglyphs at an ancient camel resting spot and had tea in a Bedouin tent. The scale of the massive, towering rocks around us is hard to describe. You could get a sense of it by

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The Petra extension of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Israel at 75 Community Trip to Israel drew 35 people, who ready for more adventures.

watching films like Lawrence of Arabia, The Martian, Dune and Rogue One – just of few of the films shot in this beautiful landscape.

The last leg of our trip involved travel down to Aqaba on the Red Sea and a short walk over the border to Israel near Eilat, where we boarded a bus back to Jerusalem

and the airport for home. It was an exceptional few days, and one that cemented our friendships and memories.

*Jessica Anderson is the SCN Regional Security Advisor for Oregon and SW Washington. She was the Jewish Federation staff person for the Jordanian extension of the Portland Israel mission.*



# On to Petra!

BY RACHEL ZIERDT

Of the original 200 Portland Federation travelers, 35 of us traveled east into Jordan across the King Hussein bridge. The trip across the border required about 3 hours as we waited in our Israeli bus, passed passport control, paid our exit and entrance taxes, and carried all of our luggage across no man's land onto the Jordanian bus. This is not a recognized international border since this area is in the occupied area of West Bank, which makes visiting there very complicated. Only tourists and Palestinians can cross here. One of our travelers carries an Israeli passport and had to fly instead.

We woke to the sound of muezzin's call from the mosque to worship. It was 4:12 am. (It is so early because it's Ramadan, and it also tells Muslims to eat before the sun rises). It was time to start our day at Petra. Leaving the Old Village Hotel, we drove to the sandstone canyon that is Petra, a UNESCO Heritage Site and one of the new wonders of the world.

It is not known precisely when Petra was built, but the city began to prosper as the capital of the Nabatean Empire from the first century BCE. It grew rich through the trade of frankincense, myrrh and spices. Petra was annexed to the Roman Empire and continued to thrive until a large earthquake in 363 CE destroyed much of the city. Changing trade routes and earthquakes eventually led to abandoning the city by the seventh century, and it was lost to all except the Bedouins in the area. It was rediscovered by a Swiss explorer named Joannes Burckhardt in 1812.

This fascinating and beautiful city is the rose-red city because of the color of the rock from which many of the structures are carved. The Nabataeans buried their dead in intricate tombs cut out of the mountain sides. The city also had temples, a theater, an agora and churches.

Water was brought into the area by an ingenious array of channels and pipes. The streets were lined with limestone blocks brought into the area by the Romans.

Hiking and shopping activities added to the sightseeing opportunities. All of us posted at least 3-5 miles on our Fitbits exploring among the water-carved canyons and carved and etched walls.





# Agency Spotlight

*Profiles of the 18 local beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 2022 Annual Campaign.*

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## NEXT ISSUES

Issue date	Deadline
<b>APRIL 26</b>	<b>APRIL 20</b>
<b>MAY 10</b>	<b>MAY 4</b>
<b>MAY 24</b>	<b>MAY 18</b>
<b>JUNE 8</b> (Thursday)	<b>JUNE 1</b>

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**AREA OF SERVICE:** Jewish Community Building

**2022 ALLOCATION:** \$16,200

**SERVICES:** As a global organization with diverse initiatives, Moishe House is helping shape the Jewish community of today and into the future. Since opening in 2008, MH Portland has engaged thousands of Jewish young adults. In addition, MH expanded in Portland with the opening of Moishe Pod-West PDX in 2022. Both the Moishe House and Moishe Pod provide a welcoming hub of vibrant Jewish life for Jewish young adults.

"Moishe House Portland and Moishe Pod-West PDX are both central community resources that are helping make young adulthood one of the most exciting times to be Jewish," says Nicole Tafoya, West Coast Director of Advancement for Moishe House.

MHPDX and MP-West PDX have programs available for every Jewish young adult in their 20s and early 30s.

"Through the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's ongoing partnership, we are able to reach more young adults in Portland, create unique experiences and establish a sense of belonging when the need for meaningful social and spiritual interactions is acutely felt," says Tafoya.

In 2022, Moishe House Portland and Moishe Pod West Portland collectively engaged nearly 500 unique individuals through 93 programs. Programs ranged from Shabbat dinners and holiday celebrations to Jewish learning sessions and tikkun olam service-oriented activities.

"One program that we're really excited about is MH Portland's Jewish Maker's Market," says Tafoya. "The program first launched in November 2021 and brought

in more than 200 attendees. In 2022, MH Portland hosted the event at a local Jewish-owned business, Books with Pictures. This event is so special, and we're excited about the third annual Maker's Market taking place in 2023."

MHPDX and MP West PDX operate within the context of the larger Portland Jewish community.

"We believe in an inclusive approach to community building," says Tafoya. "The residents are always seeking out opportunities to collaborate with other organizations, to strengthen the overall landscape of Jewish life in Portland."

On a global level, Moishe House recently adopted a new strategic plan to guide the nonprofit through 2026, with a goal of eventually engaging 100,000 unique participants around the world.

"We believe that by continuing to invest in both proven and experiential models of Jewish communal engagement, we can build a dynamic platform and a strong Jewish future where every Jewish young adult has the access and resources needed to move further along in their Jewish journey," says Tafoya.



## Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education recent news

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education has a lot of news to share this month.

OJMCHE Board President Jeff Mazer recently announced that longtime Executive Director Judy Margles will retire at the end of 2023.

“Judy’s contribution to our community’s understanding of its past and its commitment to a better future cannot be overstated,” Mazer says. “For the last 24 years, she has been a guiding force in the evolution of OJMCHE and the strengthening of the museum’s mission.”

Other news for the museum is the announcement that The Institute of Museum and Library Services has selected OJMCHE as one of 30 finalists for the prestigious 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. OJMCHE is the only institution in Oregon to be selected as a finalist for this award and was selected from hundreds of applications.

“OJMCHE’s work is both life-affirming and challenging,” says Director Judy Margles. “This nomination – with its national recognition of our work – inspires us to renew both our larger cultural mission and our immediate social responsibility. OJMCHE’s staff and board are more committed than ever to the power of civic engagement: our audiences discuss, look, listen, study and learn. This nomination reaffirms our mission to stimulate diverse voices in our community, to illuminate the rich experience of Jews in the world at large, to learn from the past and to anticipate a livable future.”

The awards will be announced at the end of May.

April is Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Month and along with the annual Yom HaShoah services, OJMCHE has a series of collaborative events. This year’s Rising Up for Human Dignity series focuses on the nature of justice and repair.

The Yom HaShoah memorial service will be at 7 pm, April 17, at Congregation Neveh Shalom. The Oregon Board of Rabbis and Holocaust survivors and their descendants will participate. Portland Chamber Music will perform.

The annual Reading of the Names will be from 9 am to 5 pm, April 18, at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Every year on Yom HaShoah, the Day of Remembrance, communities around the world uphold the memory of victims of the Holocaust through the Reading of the Names, a public recitation of Holocaust victims’ names, ages and birthplaces. OJMCHE sponsors the Reading of the Names at Pioneer Courthouse Square. A selection of community members and elected officials will be reading the names of those murdered in the Holocaust.

“Each year, the Reading of the Names seeks to defy indifference and historical revisionism, such as denial that the Holocaust ever happened, by personalizing the individual tragedy of the dead and the survivors,” explains Margles. “As the names of victims are read aloud, they are remembered. Furthermore, keeping the memory of the victims alive fulfills one of the vital tenets of our collective experience – *zachor* – to remember.”

## Labor shortage reduces available beds at Robison

BY SYDNEY CLEVENGER

With labor shortages amplified nationwide since the pandemic, particularly in nursing, Robison Jewish Home (Cedar Sinai Park) recently made changes to its skilled nursing offerings.

“Despite major wage increases and continued excellent caregiving ratios, Robison Jewish Health Center is unable to staff all of its 92 skilled nursing beds, except with contract labor, the costs of which are exorbitant,” says Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Fuson. “Our expenses are exceeding our cash reserves, and the model is not only financially unsustainable, but irresponsible stewardship.”

With the support of its board, Robison Jewish Health Center in early March reduced admissions to its skilled nursing offerings.

Of the 92 skilled nursing beds available at Robison, 48 will remain open. The majority of suites are full already, so skilled nursing referrals will con-

tinue to be accepted on a very limited basis as room allows.

“The decision to minimize Robison admissions for now was not made lightly; in fact, we believe it is the best way to achieve our long-term goals,” said Fuson. “Above all else, Cedar Sinai Park must remain viable for the elders and vulnerable who rely upon us. We have a long tradition of high-quality care and staffing, and we want to maintain that reputation in the community well into the next century.”

Cedar Sinai Park is working with two expert advisory firms to help develop scenarios for sustainability, including a market analysis that will inform decision-making regarding the future of post-acute services at Robison Jewish Health Center.

Rose Schnitzer Manor Independent and Assisted Living, Adult Day Services and Sinai In-Home Care are fully functioning and open to the community. For information or to take a tour, call 503-535-4000.

## JFCS/Beth Israel community seder is back

WRJ/Beth Israel Sisterhood and Jewish Family & Child Service partnered to provide the first Community Seder since 2019.

“For three years, things were so restrictive in what we could do, so this seder is quite a celebration,” says Kate Gillespie, a Sisterhood member who chaired the Community Seder reboot.

Sammy Monk, JFCS’ volunteer coordinator, ensured that 30 clients of JFCS could participate in the seder, and had transportation to and from it.

The group gathered in Congregation Beth Israel’s Goodman Hall for the lunchtime seder. Cantor Ida Rae Cahana officiated while JFCS’ Alla Piatski, bilingual case manager, translated everything into Russian for clients from the former Soviet Union.

Prior to the meal – provided by Century Catering – Cantor Cahana shared a story of hope that her mother-in-law, Alice Lok Cahana, z”l, a Holocaust survivor, used to recite at Passover. “She said when she was a teenager in the camp, ‘If I survive, I will cleanse my heart of hatred. And that will be my victory.’ And she did.”



JFCS clients, above, are ready for the first traditional glass of wine. Left, Cantor Ida Rae Cahana of Congregation Beth Israel offers a *l'chaim* after reciting kiddush at the late-March Community Seder, the first in three years.





PDX Hillel staff and student leaders create a dynamic Jewish environment on Portland-area campuses.

## PDX Hillel celebrates Bridge Builders

On March 16, Greater Portland Hillel's L'Dor V'Dor Community Awards and Celebration gathered 125 supporters to honor those who helped build the organization, celebrate its achievements and hear inspirational stories from students and alumni.

PDX Hillel serves six diverse campuses: Portland State University, Lewis & Clark College, Reed College, Portland Community College, OHSU and the University of Portland.

Students and alumni spoke about how their Hillel engagement helped them transform their Jewish identity, build lifelong friendships and leadership skills, and find a home away from home.

"I am grateful for finding Hillel and the path that everyone involved has set me on within this community," Lewis and Clark student speaker Isaac Babus told audience members.

Jay Lewis, Hillel International's Lead Campus Support Director, laid out four challenges that make PDX Hillel's goals harder to achieve – serving multiple campuses, meeting the needs of commuter students, not having a designated space on campus, plus rising antisemitism and anti-Zionism. In spite of this, Lewis said, "PDX Hillel now stands proudly as one of the top Hillels in North America, providing a robust set of offerings across multiple campuses, engaging hundreds of students each year and ensuring that the Portland campuses are safe places for Jewish students to be proudly Jewish."

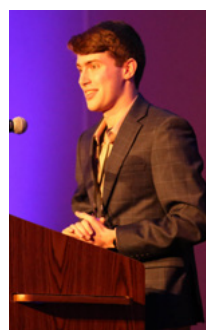
The small staff, which includes Oregon's only Israel fellow, has created a student-focused, dynamic and celebratory Jewish environment for their diverse community.

In addition to hearing student voices, PDX Hillel honored bridge builders past and present. Jordan Schnitzer received the PDX Hillel Community Pillar Award. Lewis & Clark senior Zach Gilburne was honored with the Future Leader Award.

Jordan Schnitzer has served on the boards of more than 30 nonprofits, including many Jewish organizations (e.g., Cedar Sinai Park, Congregation Beth Israel, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, Mittleman Jewish Community Center, Congregation Shaarie Torah and PDX



Jordan Schnitzer



Zach Gilburne

Hillel). In May 2008, he joined Rob Schlachter, Jeff Nudelman and other community leaders to discuss the need for a Hillel in Portland. Thanks to the support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and commitment from community leaders, including Jordan's family foundation, PDX Hillel established a vibrant Jewish life on the Portland State and Lewis & Clark campuses. In addition to his tremendous financial support over the years, Jordan was a founding board member and helped establish the foundational strength of PDX Hillel from 2008-2013.

Zach Gilburne, Lewis & Clark Hillel's current president, spoke about the support and encouragement he received from Hillel staff to become a leader on campus. Zach has been involved in Hillel since his freshman year, holding campus leadership positions since his sophomore year. After graduation, Zach plans on remaining in the Portland area, and he hopes to remain active in the local Jewish community.

PDX Hillel nurtures and inspires these young adults who are the future Jewish community's leaders.

Thanks to gifts from the Portland Jewish community and a generous match from Jordan Schnitzer, PDX Hillel raised more than \$102,000 at the event. These gifts will help the organization meet its annual budget and launch its L'Dor V'Dor campaign to hire and sustain an additional permanent staff member and a larger, more permanent space in the future.

To donate to PDX Hillel, go to [pdxhillel.org/donate](https://pdxhillel.org/donate).

## 'Day for the J' is on April 23

BY SAUL KORIN

On April 23, 2023, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center hosts the "Day for the J." Following two successful years hosting a "Walk for the J," we decided to GO BIG! On the "Day for the J," we want to showcase all the great things that happen at the MJCC while raising money to support need-based financial assistance for memberships as well as cultural arts programming for the whole community.

On April 23, you can:

- Walk for the J (walk begins at 1:30 pm)
- Swim for the J (swim begins at 10 am)
- Pickleball for the J (pickleball tournament begins at 10 am)
- Racquetball for the J (racquetball begins at 10 am)
- Kid for the J (family program in the Sportsplex beginning at 10 am)
- Maj for the J! (Yes, really! Instruction and open play begin at 10 am).

We are grateful to John Emshwiller and Deborah Yaeger, who are co-chairing the event. Jonathan Glass is the chair of the walk, and Deborah Yaeger and Karli Kondo are overseeing the swim. Nadine Gartner is leading pickleball and Jay Gilbert is coordinating the racquetball tournament.

"The J is one of a handful of spaces in Portland that is truly nondenominational and welcoming to all, and, for recent transplants and secular Jews, it is an entry point to our Jewish community," says Nadine Gartner.

We are grateful to our presenting sponsor, Jordan Schnitzer and The Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Family Fund of OJCF. For a full list of sponsors, visit [oregonjcc.org/daysponsor](https://oregonjcc.org/daysponsor). You can sign up to sponsor a walker or swimmer at [justgiving.com/campaign/dayforthej2023](https://justgiving.com/campaign/dayforthej2023).

*Saul Korin is the Director of Donor Engagement and Philanthropy at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.*



# OJCYF celebrates 20 years of teen philanthropy

After more than two years of virtual meetings and benefit events, the youth board members of the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation are excited to be together in person to learn about Jewish teen philanthropy and to drive change.

Twenty-three civic-minded high school students from 11 schools are participating in this year's program meeting regularly to connect with other Jewish teens and put their values into action.

Throughout the year, the teens explore core Jewish values to guide their philanthropy journey and consider the challenging questions they provoke. Along the way, they learn about the local Jewish community, identify important needs in the community at large, prioritize justice issues, put out a request for proposals and attend site visits to learn more about how organizations serve the community.

"Being a part of OJCYF has taught me about Jewish philanthropy, the needs of my communities and fundraising," says Ben Rosenfeld, a senior at Catlin Gable School and a member of the OJCYF Leadership Council for the past three years. "Every site visit has changed the way I see Jewish and secular communities in Portland. Recently, visiting a small, local synagogue opened my eyes to a vital part of the Jewish community that I didn't know about before. Also, on a visit to a nonprofit immigration and refugee advocacy law firm, I learned about the national issue of immigration law on a local level and how a small operation can improve the lives of thousands."

On behalf of the youth board, OJCYF Leadership Council members Tali Greenfield, Elizabeth Mehr, Ben Rosenfeld and Serena



## YOUTH FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER: GIVIN' IN THE RAIN

**WHO:** OJCYF is a nationally celebrated program of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. The program cultivates the next generation of thoughtful philanthropists and community leaders. Youth learn about *tzedakah*, *tikkun olam* and community needs. The program has directly impacted more than 260 teens and 180 organizations with grants exceeding \$815,000. The teens end the year with the responsibility of fundraising from – and the joy of grant-making into – the community.

**WHAT:** "Givin' in the Rain," an in-person benefit dinner hosted by these future leaders. Featuring Guest Speaker Amie Wexler, Associate Director of the Oregon Justice Resource Center.

**WHEN:** April 20, 5:30-8 pm

**WHY:** The teens are raising funds for grant-making that benefit local Jewish and secular nonprofit organizations.

**COST:** \$36/members, students, alumni; \$54/adults

**REGISTER BY APRIL 13:** Register or donate at [ojcf.org/programs/benefit-event](http://ojcf.org/programs/benefit-event)

Song invite the community to the 20th annual teen philanthropy celebration and benefit dinner, Givin' in the Rain. The teens are raising funds for grant-making to organizations that address the values of responsibility (*areyvut*), human dignity (*kavod*), preservation (*shmirah*) and justice (*tzedek*). All proceeds benefit community organizations through grants awarded by the teen philanthropists.

## Eastside Jewish Commons celebrates Poetry Month

In honor of National Poetry Month, the Eastside Jewish Commons presents a series of poetry readings and discussions, as well as an opportunity for community members to share their work. You can register for all events (except open-mic night – see below) at [ejcpdx.org/events-1](http://ejcpdx.org/events-1).

### April 22: Havdalah Cafe with Alicia Jo Rabins

Havdalah Café presents guest poet Alicia Jo Rabins at 7 pm, April 22. Havdalah Cafe in April will be a Poetry Month edition with live music from violinist and poet Alicia Jo Rabins. Alicia will also read some of her poetry. Come share the warmth of Havdalah. You are welcome to bring food (no pork or shellfish) and games such as Rummikub, backgammon or Uno. Suggested donation is \$6-\$18 person.

### April 23: Schneberg shares *The Naked Room*

At 3 pm, April 23, award-winning Poet Willa Schneberg (founder and curator of OJMCHE's annual reading of "Oregon Jewish Voices") will read from her new collection of poems relating to mental health, *The Naked Room*. These are poems of the unconscious, the dreamscape, the despondent, the unmoored and the mortal. Poet and psychotherapist Donna Prinzmetal will be the discussant followed by a Q&A from the audience. All ages, sliding scale of \$6-18/person. Doors open at 2 pm, reading 3 pm.

### April 25: Reading from December First Writers

A 7:30 pm event on April 25 will feature a poetry reading by founding members of December First Writers: Pat Vivian, David Rutiezer and Sylvia Zingeser. The December First Writers is

dedicated to education, dialogue, community building, and raising awareness and support for AIDS organizations and resources. They engage many different types of audiences with diverse writing. Q&A to follow; 30% of ticket sales will be donated to Cascade AIDS Project. Open to all ages. Doors open at 7 pm, reading at 7:30 pm. \$5-\$8/person sliding scale, no one turned away.

### April 29: Open-Mic Poetry Night

On the final weekend of Poetry Month, EJC invites the community to share work in a safe, supportive and fun environment. This 7 pm, April 29, open mic event is for all community members, whether you consider yourself a seasoned wordsmith, or if this is your first time reading before an audience. Any work that is hurtful, othering or intolerant should stay in your notebook and is not welcome. Not a slam or competition, EJC's Open-Mic Poetry Night is a place for all writers to come together to share in a community reading. To sign up, email [ericstern@ejcpdx.org](mailto:ericstern@ejcpdx.org) using a subject line of "Community Reading." First come, first served until all spots are filled; poems should be 3 minutes or less.

The month's final event at 5 pm, April 30, features author and visual artist Ahuva S. Zaslasky reading from her latest collection of work, *Between These Borders Wanders a Golem*. The reading is part of her ongoing visual art exhibition at EJC. In Zaslasky's first collection of writing, questing story-creatures shape-shift beyond what we might easily categorize. This hybrid book of poems, flash and short stories presents psychic investigations into memory, trauma and repeating ideas that roam a body. All ages. Sliding scale donation of \$6-\$18/person.



## April 15: EJC Art Opening and Reception

Eastside Jewish Commons presents Israeli artist and Art/Lab graduate Ahuva S. Zaslavsky. The free Art Opening and Reception at the EJC will be at 7 pm, April 15. Ahuva was one of the artists who made a splash at EJC last year in the Art/Lab group exhibition, and now EJC is featuring her work in April and May. Come have a nosh and a raise a glass to art at the EJC with Ahuva. Register at [ejcpdx.org/events-1](http://ejcpdx.org/events-1).

## April 16: Food and Jewish Values

Co/Lab: Reimagine Jewish ([colabpdx.org](http://colabpdx.org)) presents a daylong gathering that will explore the intersection of food and Jewish values from a culinary, ethical, historical and social perspective. The gathering will be from 10 am to 6 pm, April 16. For location and details, email [rabbijosh@colabpdx.org](mailto:rabbijosh@colabpdx.org).

## April 16: Jewish Community Orchestra concert

The Jewish Community Orchestra presents violinist Tomás Cotik for its spring concert at 3-5 pm, April 16 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Tickets are \$15 general, \$10 seniors, \$8 students and are available at the door. For more information, visit [jewishcommunityorchestra.org/wordpress/concerts/](http://jewishcommunityorchestra.org/wordpress/concerts/).

## April 17: Yom HaShoah

The Yom HaShoah candle lighting ceremony takes place at 7 pm on April 17 at Congregation Neveh Shalom. It is presented in partnership with Congregation Neveh Shalom, Oregon Board of Rabbis and Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Yom HaShoah is the day set aside in the Jewish calendar to remember those six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and to honor the lives of survivors in our community.

## April 19: Sephardic Film Fest double feature

The Sephardic Film Festival continues at 7 pm, April 19, with a double feature at Congregation Ahavath Achim.

"Rhodes Forever" and "From Philadelphia to the Front" will be followed by a discussion and free Sephardic desserts. RSVPs are appreciated: [info@ahavathachim.com](mailto:info@ahavathachim.com).

## April 19-May 10 (Weds): End of Life

Whether you are 20 or 95, everyone faces mortality. Though everyone's story will differ, we all lose someone we love, and we all grieve differently. Chevra Kavod haMet and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center present an opportunity to learn how death awareness translates into a life of love and compassion – both for those we care for and ourselves.

Let's Talk End of Life will meet at 6:30-7:30 pm, Wednesdays, April 19 & 26 and May 3 & 10 in Portland Jewish Academy's Beit Midrash. Learn how Judaism and our society approach death. In this four-session series, we will have an open discussion about all things end-of-life. Free, but please register: [oregonjcc.org/letstalk](http://oregonjcc.org/letstalk)

## April 21: Noontime concert with Mirabai Peart

This free concert series continues at noon, April 21 with violinist Mirabai Peart at the Eastside Jewish Commons. Mirabai Peart is a versatile violinist, violist, singer and teacher. She has performed on many continents, at major festivals and at venues ranging from house concerts to iconic venues like Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House.

Pack a lunch or stop by one of the many pods at 24th and Glisan, bring your food in (no pork or shellfish please) and come and hear the music! Small ensemble concerts that are semi-acoustic and always enlivening.

## April 22: Moishe House Board Games & Bagels

Young adults are invited spend a cozy Shabbat afternoon playing board games, eating bagels and hanging out with friends. Come to Moishe House at 2-4 pm, April 22. Whether you want to share a favorite game or want to find your next go to, all are welcome. Text 503-908-3394 to RSVP with your favorite color to play.

## April 23: Electrify Everything!

In honor of Earth Day, the Havurah Climate Action Team hosts a practical presentation on how to electrify your home on Sunday, April 23, 3-5 pm. Eli Spivak and Brian Stewart will offer insights and details about how to most economically and environmentally appropriately transition to high efficiency electric power for homes, buildings and transport. Tabling will offer opportunities to connect with community solar, solarizing homes, and heat pumps.

The free event will take place at Havurah Shalom in person and on Zoom. Register for event, either in-person or for the Zoom link at [havurahshalom.org](http://havurahshalom.org).

## April 24: Moishe Pod clothing exchange

Get rid of stuff you don't want and take home free stuff you need at Moishe Pod-West PDX, 5:30-7:30 pm, April 24.

Young adults can bring any lightly used clothes or small household items that are cluttering your closet or cupboard and exchange it for something that brings you joy. Anything that's left unclaimed at the end will get donated to local facility. For more information, visit [moishepodwestpdx.com](http://moishepodwestpdx.com).

## April 24-28: Israel at 75 JSU celebration

The Jewish Student Union will celebrate Israel Independence day at all JSU clubs from April 24-April 28. There will be pita and falafel, Israeli games, and Israeli treats. For details, email Moshe Carr at [carrm@ncsy.org](mailto:carrm@ncsy.org).

## April 26: Yom Haatzmaut: Israel at 75

Celebrate the State of Israel at 75 from 4:30-9 pm, April 26, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. There will be Israeli dancing, trivia, an Israeli music sing-along and a DJ to close out the night. Kids programming in the gym. Teen programming, as well. A collaboration of MJCC, Keruv Levavot, IAC, Israel 360 and Neveh Shalom. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. [oregonjcc.org/yomhaatzmaut](http://oregonjcc.org/yomhaatzmaut)

## April 27: Antisemitism on the Left symposium

Join Rabbis Ariel Stone and Jill Jacobs, author Shane Burley and scholar Natan Meir for a symposium exploring antisemitism on the left at 6:30 pm, April 27, at the Eastside Jewish Commons.

The panelists will explore the history of antisemitism, the challenges facing Jews today as antisemitism rises, and the obstacles for Jews who engage in social justice work. The evening will conclude with a discussion about a progressive approach to tackling antisemitism in the Northwest. There will be time allotted for a Q+A session, which is sure to be enlightening and provocative. Free, but registration is required at [ejcpdx.org/events-1](http://ejcpdx.org/events-1).

## April 30: Moishe House Spring Gardening

What better way to celebrate spring than with a gardening party! Young adults are invited to help bring our two backyard garden beds to life while enjoying treats and sipping on lemonade. We'll be planting some vegetable starts and getting some direct seeding done as well. Bring any gardening tools/gloves you have and get ready for some gardening fun in the backyard of Moishe House, 1-3 pm, April 30. Text 503-908-3394 with a little veggie emoji.



# Climate Corner

## Restore a park on Good Deeds Day

*The Climate Action Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is sharing tips and resources for healing the Earth in a periodic Climate Corner in the Jewish Review. The group is committed to the important work of tikkun olam, repair the world.*

**BY BONNIE NEWMAN**

Spring fever is about to strike, and the Jewish Federation's Climate Action Committee has the perfect remedy: sprucing up a local park while connecting with other community members.

Anyone wanting to breathe in the fresh April air while helping to restore local parkland is invited to join a volunteer team at Iron Mountain Park to celebrate Good Deeds Day (see box).

Up to 40 volunteers will undertake one or more of the following tasks: spreading mulch, installing plants to attract pollinators and removing invasive species. Participants of all ages are welcome at the event, which is being organized by Babs Hamachek, Parks Stewardship Coordinator for the City of Lake Oswego's Parks and Recreation Department.

"This is an exciting time for Iron Mountain Park, because – for the past 7 years – we have been ridding the area of invasive species," says Hamachek.

The approximately 51-acre recreation area opened in February 2021. Now, the landscaping duties include planting new vegetation and protecting it with mulch.

Hamachek is especially pleased that families are invited to participate in the event.

"We are all about education and hands-on experiences for children," says Hamachek.

A nature-themed scavenger hunt will let younger children explore the area where the restoration work takes place.

Equipment needed for the project will be provided by the park. However, Hamachek suggests volunteers bring their own gardening gloves. Trowels, spades and kneeling pads also may be helpful. Binoculars may come in handy for spotting birds and other wildlife for those who want to roam the grounds, as well.

Iron Mountain Park is considered accessible for people with disabilities. It has restrooms, a covered picnic shelter and a play area. Fans of Oregon history can spend some additional time exploring the history of the old Prosser iron mines located on the grounds. The Prosser iron mines, which are now blocked, are one of the

### GOOD DEED: PARK RESTORATION

**WHAT:** Park restoration in honor of Good Deeds Day 2023, a global celebration

**WHEN:** 1-3 pm, Sunday, April 16

**WHERE:** Iron Mountain Park, 2401 Iron Mountain Road, Lake Oswego

**REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER AT**

<https://forms.gle/tLPLQnv2CdvaHBt86>

seven stops along the Iron Heritage Trail, which guides visitors to sites associated with Oregon's pioneer iron industry.

According to the AllTrails website ([alltrails.com/trail/us/oregon/iron-mountain-trail--3](https://alltrails.com/trail/us/oregon/iron-mountain-trail--3)), the park's Iron Mountain Trail is an easy, 2.1-mile, out-and-back trail. Dogs on a leash are welcome.

According to the city of Lake Oswego, Iron Mountain Trail follows the route of the narrow-gauge railroad that transported ore during the 19th century from nearby mines to the iron works.

Later in the week, Earth Day 2023 will be marked with a cornucopia of eco-oriented events. Find opportunities at these links:

SOLVE, dozens of opportunities: [solveoregon.org/solvecalendar](https://solveoregon.org/solvecalendar)

Fields Bridge Park, West Linn: [pdxparent.com/event-single/earth-day-work-day-at-fields-bridge-park/](https://pdxparent.com/event-single/earth-day-work-day-at-fields-bridge-park/)

Forest Park: [forestparkconservancy.org/get-involved/events-calendar/](https://forestparkconservancy.org/get-involved/events-calendar/)

The Great Exchange at St. John's Swap and Play: [facebook.com/events/1385286722269881](https://facebook.com/events/1385286722269881)

Clothing swap at the Good Water Store: [facebook.com/events/s/earthday-clothing-swap/5900444136735519/](https://facebook.com/events/s/earthday-clothing-swap/5900444136735519/)

*Bonnie Newman is a former journalist and retired physical therapist. Currently, she volunteers with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Climate Action Committee, Dignity Grows and the Eastside Jewish Commons.*

## Playwright David Fuks to speak as child of survivors April 30

The Next Generations Group and Havurah Shalom present "An Afternoon with David Fuks: Short Stories from a Child of Holocaust Survivors." The event will be on Zoom and in person at Havurah Shalom, 825 NW 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., at 2 pm, April 30.

"Those of us who were raised in families of Holocaust survivors have learned that each individual survivor was unique in both their experience during World War II and in their struggle to make a new life in a world that could never fully comprehend who they were and what they saw," says author and playwright David Fuks. "We, their children, have labored to try to understand our parents' history while also seeking our own path in contemporary society."

Fuks' approach to personal storytelling is

a combination of poignant and affectionately shared insight. David is an author, playwright and actor, and a child of Holocaust survivors. His father was in the Lodz Ghetto and then survived five years imprisoned in Buchenwald near Weimar, Germany. His mother was enslaved for five years in Oberalstadt, a labor camp near Prague, Czech Republic. They married after the war.

Fuks' family came to the United States after four years in a displaced person's camp in Landsberg, Germany. He was born and raised in Detroit, Mich., and came to Portland in 1974. Fuks received a B.A. in English Literature and an M.D. in Social Work from the University of Michigan. In addition to his creative work, he has been a leader in Oregon's human services arena including as

CEO of Cedar Sinai Park for several years.

He is a speaker for the Holocaust Speakers Bureau of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education and a member of the Next Generations Group.

"When I was a boy, I remember seeing a Sunday comics character who always had a rain cloud over his head. That shadow was the image I had of being in a survivor's family when I was young. Discovering my voice as a writer, and later as a performer, has helped me to come out from under that cloud and into the light of understanding my parents, their peers and their history," he says.

The event is free, but please register at [havurahshalom.org/event/an-afternoon-with-david-fuks-short-stories-from-a-child-of-holocaust-survivors.html](https://havurahshalom.org/event/an-afternoon-with-david-fuks-short-stories-from-a-child-of-holocaust-survivors.html).



## **JULIE SALTZMAN LEUVREY**

Julie Saltzman Leuvrey, z"l, passed away on March 31, 2023. Julie was the wife of Eric Leuvrey; mother of Nicolas and Ali Leuvrey; and sister of Jeff Saltzman, Barb Lovre (Randy) and Dan Saltzman (Liz Burns).

She was a member of Congregation Beth Israel.

Julie earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California-Santa Barbara, where she received the Santa Barbara City Club award, which is given annually to the top six women graduating with liberal arts degrees.

She formerly served as Co-President of the Oregon Pacific Investment and Development Company, which was founded by her father Jack Saltzman, z"l, and has grown into the owner/manager of multifamily housing, retail and industrial properties in three states.

The family will hold a private memorial on April 3.

Donations in Julie's honor may be made to the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute or the Alzheimer's Association.

## **STAN FEDERMAN**

Stan Federman, z"l, recently of Hillsboro, died March 22, 2023, at the age of 98. He is survived by sons, David and Mike; niece, Erica; nephew, Jeremy; and cousins. Stan was preceded in death by his wife, Lorraine, and brother, Donald.

No memorial service is planned. The family suggests that any memorial donations be made to the Oregon Humane Society.

Stan was a longtime newspaper reporter who lived in Milwaukie for more than 60 years.

Stanley Federman was born in Utica, N.Y., on Nov. 11, 1924. He grew up in New York City. One of his fond childhood memories was summers spent at the Camp Arrowhead boy's camp at Lake St. Catherine, Vt.

Stan was drafted into the U.S. Army when he was 18 years old. During World War II, he was a radio operator attached to several artillery units and the 115th Infantry Regiment in support of the 29th Infantry Division. He landed on Omaha Beach, Easy Red sector, on the morning of June 6, 1944, during the D-Day amphibious assault. His recollection of D-Day was first published in The Oregonian newspaper in 1974 for the 30th anniversary of the Allied invasion. After making landfall, Stan participated in the liberation of France and supported the assault force at the Battle of Saint-Lô. He later saw occupation duty while stationed in Scharding, Austria, during the summer of 1945.

After he returned to the states, Stan earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio State University and was the editor of The Ohio State Lantern newspaper. He began a newspaper career that spanned more than 40 years, with early stops at the Long Island Daily Press and The Fresno Bee. He moved to the Portland area in the mid-1950s and was the advertising director at the Milwaukie Review weekly newspaper for seven years. He transitioned to The Oregonian and became a staff writer, a position he held for 30 years until he retired. His assignments included labor, state politics, human interest stories and the Portland/Washington Park Zoo.

In his spare time, Stan worked as a freelance writer and was published in many popular magazines, including Smithsonian, American Way and WWII History. His articles covered a diverse range of storytelling, from the timeless game of bocce played in San Francisco's Ghirardelli Square to the pioneering dentistry of Paul Revere.

Stan met his wife, Lorraine, when they were both active with the Portland Civic Theatre. They married in 1957 and moved from Portland to Milwaukie in 1960. They were married for 60 years

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until Lorraine's death in 2018 at the age of 89.

An avid sports fan all his life, Stan coached youth baseball teams for several summers during the 1970s. He participated in bowling leagues in Milwaukie and Gladstone, and played on a senior softball team after he retired. In later years, he had a trio of basset hounds who kept him active with daily walks.

## **CELIA HINKLE**

Celia Hinkle, z"l, died Saturday, March 25, 2023, in Keizer, Ore. She was 76 years old.

She is survived by her husband, Charles Ross Hinkle; son, William Jason Ross Hinkle; daughter, Michelle Louise (Christian) Andrews; five grandchildren, Doron, Abe, Nathanael, and Lily Andrews and Ariana Maurman; brothers, Sydney (Barbara) Steinbock and Jerry Steinbock; and sister, Gail (Chris) Menke.

Celia was predeceased by her parents, Philip and Hilda Steinbock; brothers, Nathan Jay Steinbock and Irving Steinbock; sisters, Helen Sharon Carter, Lottie Kaufman and Ruthie Subotnick; and daughter, Jennifer Hinkle (z"l).

The funeral was March 28 at Shaarie Torah Cemetery.

## **BERTHA GOLDMAN**

Bertha Goldman, z"l, passed away on March 15, 2023, in Beverly Hills, Calif. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Erica Goldman and Jeffrey Druckman of Portland; her son and daughter-in-law, Seth and Sheryl Goldman of Los Angeles; seven beautiful grandchildren; and six adorable great-grandchildren.

She was buried in the Goldman family plot at Mt. Hebron in Queens, N.Y., next to her husband, Samuel Goldman, who predeceased her on Nov. 4, 2000.

'Mrs. Goldman' was a superlative elementary school teacher and a longtime volunteer at the Friends of the Beverly Hills library bookstore, where her immense knowledge of books was valuable to the staff, corps of volunteers, and those who came to browse and buy.

Donations may be made to the Tikvah Fund or to Congregation Kesser Israel,

## **NORMAN RONALD DRUCKMAN**

Norman Ronald Druckman (Ron), z"l, passed away on March 14, 2023, in south Florida surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Druckman; son, Jeffrey Druckman (Erica Goldman); daughter, Lisa (Jeff) Newman; and stepchildren, Barry Bender, Stacey Bender and Candi Schwartz.

A career in the textile business culminated with his formation of a textile manufacturing company in Elberton, Ga. At its height, the company created hundreds of jobs and sold products internationally. An innovative employer and loving husband and father, Ron was a self-made, self-taught man with a wide range of interests and a deep love of reading and learning.

Donations may be made to the Tikvah Fund or Congregation Kesser Israel.

## **Burial Societies**

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

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