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Chag Pesach Sameach!

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The JEWISH REVIEW

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Sweet Lorraine's to relocate



Rachel (top left) and Aaron Brashear (bottom left) announced on social media that Sweet Lorraine's Latkes and More would be losing their main kitchen space on Southeast Yamhill Street in Portland due to the sudden closure of Labrynth Forge Brewing. The company will continue to operate Lefty's Cafe at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education while they search for a new kitchen space. Right: Customers enjoy a final batch of homemade delicacies at the former location Saturday, Apr. 13. Donations to support Sweet Lorraine's as they search for a new space can be made at sweetlorraineslatkes.squarespace.com/donations-page (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Marc's Remarks

A flash in a dark room

By MARC BLATTNER

I was up at 3 am Sunday, contacting friends in Israel, devouring every bit of news, podcast (Call me Back with Dan Senor and Nadav Eyal is excellent), and briefing so I can to better understand what happened Saturday.

Quite simply, Iran attacked Israel directly, firing 331 projectiles from its territory: 185 drones, 110 surface-to-surface missiles, and 36 cruise missiles. Israel, together with the United States, United Kingdom, Jordan, and reportedly Saudi Arabia forces, successfully intercepted 99% of them before reaching Israel airspace. The overwhelming success constitutes a significant strategic, operational, and technological achievement.

Matti Friedman wrote Sunday, "Like a flash going off in a dark room, the attack has finally given the world something valuable: a glimpse of the real war in the Middle East. Tehran's strike on Israel should make clear, for those still in doubt, that this war is not about Gaza, or even about Israel and a single Iranian proxy in Hamas. It is about Iran. The importance of last night's barrage was that for the first time, the full Iranian alliance gave us a practical demonstration of its scope, orchestration, and intentions."

This attack from Iran was in retaliation for the alleged Israeli strike that killed IRGC general Mohammad Reza, the most senior Iranian military officer in Syria and Lebanon, involved in planning and executing Oct. 7 and other terrorist attacks against Israel.

Nadav Eyal, on Dan Senor's podcast, explained three ways Iran miscalculated this attack. First, there was no major damage within Israel. Second, the United States firmly stood by Israel. And, third, we will potentially see a new alliance of Arab countries (Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia) join Israel in its fight against Iran.

The last time Israel was attacked in this manner was in early 1991, when Saddam Hussein fired 42 Scud missiles into Israel. They did not have the sophisticated air defense system they have now. Israel did not respond based on pressure from President Bush. What happens this time?

I will admit, Saturday scared me. To get "breaking news" on your phone and then have to wait hours to see what may happen, was excruciating. I can only imagine what it was like for Israelis holed up in the middle of the night in their safe rooms and hearing loud "booms."

I am proud that the Israel Defense Forces were prepared, along with the US and other allies, and thank goodness the air defense systems worked. Or else we would have a whole new reality today.

Let us continue to pray for peace.

Marc Blattner is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

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Aaron Kahn performs at Hoyt Arboretum in Portland in this undated courtesy photo. (Mike Drewry/Hoyt Arboretum via Aaron Kahn)

Kahn's album available this Saturday online

Portland trumpeter also set to perform in Palo Alto for Yom Ha'atzmaut

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Portland trumpet virtuoso Aaron Kahn has been busy by anyone standards.

Kahn is releasing an album of music he describes as "sound journeying" as well as performing at one of the Bay Area's leading synagogues for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's independence day.

The album, set to release Saturday, Apr. 20, is the product of the group Anamnesis, consisting of Kahn, Austin Kourakin, and the mononymic pianist Sequoia. The album's two tracks, totaling 45 minutes, were recorded at The Big Red Studio in Corbett.

"We had an energetic one, and a kind of mellow, lower your blood pressure one," Kahn said. "I'm just delighted with how the tracks came out."

Kahn was a member of Art/Lab's second cohort of Jewish artists, and the program produced by Rabbi Josh Rose and Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem has been an important factor in how Kahn has defined his career path as an artist.

"Being a part of that greatly informed how proud I am of my Jewish identity. And how important it is to signal and convey the importance of being, you know, a young adult Jew in today's world," Kahn said. "Everything from the spiritual aspects, the sacred to the cultural identity and representing music by Jews is singularly important to me."

It's a big part of why he'll be performing in Palo Alto this year on Yom Ha'atzmaut Tuesday, May 14.

See KAHN, page 10



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland



Photos courtesy of Oregon Jewish Museum
and Center for Holocaust Education



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SCN's Mendenhall talks security at MJCC

Secure Communities Network Deputy Director of Operations Grant Mendenhall takes questions during a meeting with Jewish community professionals at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center Thursday, Apr. 11. Mendenhall joined SCN in 2020 after a 30-year career at the Federal Bureau of Investigations. He addressed what threats to the Jewish community in North America look like and how the security structure and protocols needed to thwart them looks different for each community. While foreign governments are certainly targeting Jewish institutions, Mendenhall said the main threat comes from homegrown violent extremists. "It's going to be one person, more than likely, that we let in the front door," he said. "The two words I would ask you to take away from this chat, if you don't remember anything else, are 'access control.'" (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



Agencies bring Climate Fair to MJCC Apr. 28

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

There are myriad ways each of us can take action to mitigate the effects of climate change – and one good way to learn about all of them under one roof.

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center will host a Climate Action Fair Sunday, Apr. 28 from noon-4 pm. Sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the MJCC, Havurah Shalom, Congregations Kesser Israel, P'nai Or and Shaarie Torah, Rose City Dayenu Circle, Jewish Earth Alliance, Portland Jewish Academy and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon/Interfaith Power and Light, the fair brings speakers and resources together to give everyone tools to address climate change, regardless of income, living arrangements, or family size.

"This is an exciting opportunity to bring 50 different organizations that are engaged in either climate action or businesses that provide climate-related services and help people live healthier and more efficiently in their home," explained Michael Haumann, a member of Havurah Shalom's Climate Action Team and one of the organizers of the event.

Havurah Shalom previously hosted a smaller fair prior to the COVID-19

pandemic, and the Climate Action Team has been eager to organize another at a much larger scale, utilizing the space afforded by the Schnitzer Family Campus to cast as wide a net as possible.

"We figure not everybody is interested in everything," Heumann said. "We want to have an array, and we don't want to have just one of one kind and one of another."

The event will also host a cadre of speakers, including Paul Koberstein and Jessica Applegate discussing their book, "Canopy of Titans." Koberstein and Applegate are environmental journalists who now both hold leadership positions at *Cascadia Times*, an online outlet focused on climate and environmental policy coverage in the Pacific Northwest. Their book focuses on the importance of the Northwest's temperate rain forests to both the local and global environment and the threats those forests face in the modern era and has been nominated for an Oregon Book Award.

Other speakers include a panel discussion on forestry and talks about vegetarian and plant-based diets as well as the importance of electrification in homes and transportation.

For those interested in electric trans-

portation, the event will host a handful of electric vehicle test drive options with current owners available to discuss their experiences with electric vehicles. Tables inside will have information on such energy-saving projects as adding solar panels to one's home or, for those who rent rather than own their homes, participating in projects like Community Solar or working with the City of Portland's Clean Energy Benefits Fund.

"If your house or your congregation isn't right to have solar panels," Heumann said, "you can buy into Community Solar and still take advantage of renewable energy."

"There are opportunities for everyone to help, many of which can save people money as well as helping save the planet. Every little bit counts," co-organizer and Havurah Climate Action Team member Steven Katz explained.

"We have to just work little things that will add up to a big change," he said. "I remember when, during World War II, they wanted people to go around and collect metal, collect paper. "That's what I grew up with."

Heumann spent a career in occupational public health, witnessing firsthand the effects of environmentally damaging jobsites and working condi-

See **FAIR**, page 10

Avraham's Closet 'a labor of love'

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Nestled downstairs under the Stampfer Chapel at Congregation Neveh Shalom, in a room dominated by heating and ventilation equipment, is a collection of items that fills one of the areas greatest and least known needs: durable medical equipment, readily accessible and available to use without the need for lengthy insurance processing, Medicare sign-off, or cash.

The room, and the service that gets that equipment into the hands of those who need it, is known as Avraham's Closet.

Named for co-manager Cantor Linda Shivers' husband Albert Shivers, who's Hebrew name is Avraham, the program started shortly after its namesake was coming home after a stay at the Robison Home at Cedar Sinai Park following a fall.

"He couldn't go home unless he had certain equipment," Cantor Shivers explained. "So, I had to go find the equipment, and it was a big pain."

Cantor Shivers had seen churches with lending libraries for medical equipment but didn't know of such a service within the Jewish community. So, with the aid of Neveh Shalom's Chesed Committee, she started one, putting out the call for donations of equipment.

In addition to the equipment, she needed someone who knew what to do with it.

"[Donors] started to give me things that I didn't know what they were," Cantor Shivers said. "I might know how to mechanically adjust it, but I didn't know how to properly fit it."

She combed the Neveh Shalom member directory for physical therapists and found Patti Magid-Volk, a PT who has specialized in geriatric home health throughout her career and who enthusiastically joined the project.

The inventory list is comprehensive these days.

"We have wheelchairs. We have tub transfer benches, shower chairs, raised toilet seats, commodes, front-wheel walkers, four-wheel walkers, knee scooters," Magid-Volk explained, as



Cantor Linda Shivers, seated, and Patti Magid-Volk in the storage space at Congregation Neveh Shalom that houses their medical equipment lending program, Avraham's Closet. (Rockne Roll/*The Jewish Review*)

well as a variety of canes, crutches, and a couple sets of bed rails. All of it has been donated.

Those in need often find Avraham's closet online – Magid-Volk and Cantor Shivers both said one of their most common sources of referrals is a piece then-*Jewish Review* Editor Deborah Moon wrote on the program. (See "Borrow rehab essentials," *Dec. 8, 2021*, pg. 8) From there, they call Neveh Shalom and are put in touch with Magid-Volk or Cantor Shivers, who will set an appointment – usually very quickly.

"It's rare that I make an appointment a week out," Cantor Shivers said.

Names, phone numbers and email addresses are recorded, and each piece of equipment bears a tag with the synagogue's contact information. Often, not always, the equipment is returned after the recipient is done using it.

"A lot of people return the items," Magid-Volk said, "and they return even more than what they borrowed."

Avraham's Closet will serve anyone – one need not be impoverished or even Jewish. And while the challenge of acquiring medical equipment through insurance or Medicare means that even those in good financial situations need help to get these items in a timely

fashion, the biggest impact is often for those with the least ability to pay.

"We've delivered a wheelchair to a tent," Cantor Shivers said. "That woman came back. She's in a home now. She's not in a tent anymore."

"I've delivered a walker to a van that somebody was sleeping in; he was moving around quite a lot," Magid-Volk said. "He was so happy to get it."

It's an impressive impact for a program that essentially has no operating budget; Magid-Volk, Cantor Shivers and other volunteers that help deliver equipment to outlying areas donate their time, the equipment itself is all donated, and Neveh Shalom fields the phone calls and provides the equipment tags, photocopies of promotional flyers, the pad which records the contact information of recipients and, or course, the space in the HVAC closet under the Stampfer Chapel.

"It's a labor of love," Magid-Volk explained.

Those in need of durable medical equipment like that described, or who are interested in donating such equipment, can email cantor.shivers@gmail.com or call Congregation Neveh Shalom at 503-246-8831.

jewishportland.org/subscribe



Left: Holocaust survivors are assisted by volunteers at a hamentaschen-making event hosted by Congregation Neveh Shalom and Jewish Family & Child Service's Holocaust Survivor Services at Neveh Shalom. (Marina Milman/JFCS/Jewish Review file) Right: Eva Aigner speaks at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education's 2023 Gala at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. (Mario Gallucci for OJMCE)

Survivors serve, are served by, community

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

The Associated Press estimated that in January of this year, approximately 245,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors are living worldwide, out of just under 16 million Jews worldwide. It's harder to establish just how many survivors are living in the Portland Metropolitan Area, but many of them are integral parts of the region's Jewish community. And while much work is done to care for those who lived through the most horrific of modern atrocities, many survivors also care for the broader community – Jewish and non-Jewish – by serving as a memory; as an active, collective reminder of that which must never be allowed to happen again.

Survivors are cared for most directly by Holocaust Survivor Services, a division of Portland's Jewish Family & Child Service. HSS provides a variety of services to survivors, the most direct of which is in-home care like housekeeping and assistance with daily activities – these services are performed separately and through contracted providers.

Program Manager Sima Borsuk explained that HSS regularly serves around 60 survivor clients. Most of them are from the former Soviet Union; Russian is the first language of approximately 80 percent of HSS's clients. When they fled Eastern Europe, they came where they knew people.

"People came here if they had some family that brought them here, one of their children or siblings," Borsuk said.

One of the major sources of funding for services to Holocaust survivors is through the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, also known more simply as the Claims Conference. Founded in 1951 by 23 global Jewish nonprofits, the Claims Conference conducts ongoing negotiations with the German government to support the needs of survivors worldwide. JFCS uses those funds to pay for the caregivers that support survivors, as well as offering social programs for survivors such as Café Europa and helping survivors apply for certain one-time payments or ongoing pensions they may be eligible for through the Claims Conference. There are income and asset limits on many of the Claims Conference's programs, but they're not nearly as

stringent as Medicaid's rules.

Beyond HSS's client base and a handful of people who have had their status as survivors confirmed with the Claims Conference but turned down benefits, there's an unknown number of survivors in the Portland community who have not applied for that status or any of the benefits associated with it.

"Some of those survivors, they're considered survivors within our guidelines, but they might not consider themselves survivors," Borsuk said. "So there's potentially people who've never applied. Someone like that reached out to us a few weeks ago, who lives locally, and is in need of assistance. She does not have Medicaid but cannot afford assistance, so her daughter is in the process of applying now."

While some eligible individuals may not have known that these programs were available, others may not have applied for personal reasons.

"They didn't want to take the money from Germany," Borsuk explained. "I think that's becoming less of a barrier, but because that used to be, it could be those folks haven't applied."

In addition to the social programs JFCS puts on directly, Borsuk said that the agency is also partnering with other groups and agencies to facilitate participation by survivors in community-wide events. One example was Chabad's Mega Challah Bake in the lead up to the High Holidays last September.

"We had, I believe, 13 clients come, and it was really nice for them," Borsuk said. "We supported that through the Claims Conference socialization funds. That was a nice way for us to give them an opportunity to socialize, but not have to put together an event on our own. And it was also great for them to engage in the community."

Borsuk has become an expert in navigating the processes of working through the Claims Conference.

"I'm a social worker. I've always wanted to work with older adults. I get fulfillment from working with seniors," she said. "There is a lot of satisfaction with helping our survivors stay connected, get what they need, using the funds that we're given in a way that's as helpful as possible for those who we're servicing."

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While many survivor-focused programs center on taking care of those who endured the horrors of the Holocaust firsthand, there are also programs that provide opportunities for survivors to give of their time to the community.

A prominent example is the Speakers Bureau of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Founded as part of the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center and later merged into the museum, the Speakers Bureau includes five active speakers who are first-generation survivors of the Holocaust, along with a number of second- and even third-generation Holocaust survivors as well as survivors of the Cambodian and Rwandan Genocides.

“Given their age, it’s mostly child survivors; hidden children and children who fled,” OJMCH Head of Public Engagement Mariah Berlanga-Shevchuk, who manages the Speakers Bureau, said of the first-generation survivors still active with the Bureau. “They range from having been 2 to 10 years old. They have really strong memories of what they were experiencing at that time.”

Those experiences resonate with students, who are a common audience for the Bureau’s speakers thanks in large part to the state’s Holocaust education mandate.

“The students really are impacted by it, especially when speakers can kind of bring in their own childhood experience into it,” Berlanga-Shevchuk said. “They can connect and put themselves in their shoes in a way that’s really moving and impactful.”

One of the Bureau’s first-generation survivor speakers is Eva Aigner. As a child in Czechoslovakia and later Hungary during the rise of the Nazis, her father died in a forced labor camp while she, her sister and their mother were confined to the ghetto in Budapest. Her mother was later taken away to a labor camp but escaped from the train and returned to Budapest as her children were being led to the banks of the Danube. There, members of the Nazi-affiliated Arrow Cross militia were murdering the occupants of a portion of the ghetto by shooting them into the river – memorialized by the “Shoes on the Danube Bank.”

“My mom recognized my sister’s crying voice in the line,” Aigner said. “She still had her wedding ring, and she bribed the Arrow Cross men. ‘I’ll give you my ring; let these two girls out of the line.’ They didn’t think she was Jewish.”

A few weeks later, the city was liberated. She went on to meet her husband, Les Aigner, z”l, who was a survivor of Auschwitz whose mother and sister were murdered in the gas chambers. Considering what they had both been through, it was a natural fit.

“We had so much in common in our lives,” Eva Aigner said. “We fell in love and 59 days later we got married.”

The couple emigrated to the United States. The pair were part of the efforts to build the Oregon Holocaust Memorial in Washington Park. In 1989, the couple saw a headline in *The Oregonian* about increasing Holocaust denial at the time.

“Both my husband and I decided that as painful as it is, we have to come forward,” Aigner said. “It wasn’t easy to share, because it brings back so many memories.”

At first Aigner didn’t speak – she said she wasn’t ready. But over time, she began to tell her story alongside her husband’s and has continued to speak after his death. They traveled throughout Oregon and elsewhere; Idaho, New York and

Los Angeles, just to name a few, presenting to audiences of all kinds. Aigner particularly remembers a presentation they made to a group of juvenile inmates at the Washington County Jail in Hillsboro.

“I will never forget this young man when he heard our story. He felt he was abused by his parents and he had a million excuses why he did some crime,” Aigner recalled. After the presentation, he said, ‘Mr. And Mrs. Aigner, after listening to your history, I have no excuse. You still turned out to be decent people.’”

They received thousands of letters and drawings from children over the years.

“I never had the feeling that you can change everybody. But I knew that some of them really took it to heart the way they wrote. And this one kid wrote, he said, ‘I hated everybody, because I didn’t grow up with love. But I see that you went through so much hate and you still made it in life.’ And we knew we made a difference, and that gave us the drive to continue,” Aigner said. “Hate doesn’t only happen against the Jewish people; they always find somebody to hate. My husband and my message was always love instead of hate.”

Their message was more than just love – it’s spelled out in Hebrew on a pin Aigner wears whenever she speaks publicly, a pin given to each attendee at her husband’s celebration of life service, in one word - *Zachor*.

“It means ‘remember,’” Aigner said. “My husband and I never spoke without having this on.”

It’s a mission that’s not lost on the people who work with the survivors who take on the work of speaking about their experiences.

“It’s an honor, honestly, to get to work with them and to help make sure that future generations can witness firsthand and hear this testimony,” Berlanga-Shevchuk said.

More information about JFCS’s Holocaust Survivor Services is available at jfcs-portland.org/services/holocaust-survivor-services. Learn more about OJMCH’s Speakers Bureau at ojmche.org/teach-learn/speakers-bureau.

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OSU Holocaust Memorial Week starts May 6

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Oregon State University's Holocaust Memorial Week returns for 2024 under new leadership and with new community partners.

This year's slate of four campus programs is now led by co-chairs Katherine Hubler and Kara Ritzheimer, both of whom teach history at OSU. Hubler's research focuses on the history of human rights. She is the author of the forthcoming book "Listening to Survivors: Four Decades of Holocaust Memorial Week at OSU." Ritzheimer specializes in Modern European history, focusing on Germany. She has served on the Holocaust Memorial Program Committee for more than 17 years and takes over with Hubler as co-chair this year following the retirement of longtime chair and history professor Paul Kopperfield.

"Since I was in college, I've been deeply interested in this topic," Ritzheimer said, "and I feel a real commitment to helping students really understand the history of it and that it's an isolated event, but to be on the lookout for things happening in their own life or their world."

Hubler studied under Kopperman as an undergraduate and has returned to teach, among other classes, the History of the Holocaust course Kopperfield taught.

"I think it's really easy for academics to spend a lot of time researching and writing about things that don't actually have a lot of significance in people's actual lives," she said. "I've always wanted what I spend my time on professionally, and especially in terms of academic programming, teaching and writing, to have a real-world relevance and impact."

The week's programs are cosponsored by the university's College of Liberal Arts, its School of History, Philosophy and Religion, School of Language, Culture, and Society, School of Public Policy, University Honors College and Provost's Fund for Excellence, as well as the Carson Lecture Series, The Center for the Humanities, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the City of Corvallis, Congregation Beit Am and Oregon Hillel.

Michala Katz, Oregon Hillel's Zidell Family Springboard Fellow, has led the process of connecting Holocaust



Memorial Week with Hillel in what's turned out to be a natural pairing. Katz just found out about the Holocaust Memorial Program at OSU last year, and is excited to be a part of its efforts.

"There's a lot of great things happening at Oregon State, but I think a lot of people don't know about them," Katz said.

Oregon Hillel Interim Executive Director Andy Gitelson had worked with Kopperman in the year's leading up to the pandemic as OSU's Hillel program transition from being faculty-advised to professionally staffed.

"Michala has been meeting with their team throughout the year," Gitelson said. "We think that this is a unique opportunity for us."

The week starts Monday, May 6, with a 7 pm program on anti-Mexican mass violence and ethnic cleansing along the Great Plains by OSU assistant professor of history Joel Zapata. Programs on genocidal events outside the Holocaust have long been an important part of Holocaust Memorial Week as a reminder that the Holocaust was not a historical aberration but a threat that must be vigilantly guarded against.

"I always viewed that as an important element so that people are aware of events in their own lives, not just in history," Ritzheimer said. "It's an ongoing effort to fight against these tendencies."

"The more that we have a broader scope, looking at some of the kind of dynamics in these large-scale mass persecutions,

we can understand the warning signs of genocide and the abuses of power by governments even before things escalate to genocide," Hubler added.

"The Holocaust wasn't the first [genocide] in human history," Gitelson noted. "The piece that we really hope sinks in is that if we can be aware, we can all learn from our past right to not repeat it."

Helping illuminate that specific part of the past will be a presentation from Eva Aigner and her daughter Sue Johnson Wednesday, May 8 at 7 pm on campus and by livestream. Aigner narrowly avoided being murdered by Nazi-aligned militiamen as a child in the Budapest ghetto while her husband, Les Aigner, z"l, survived Auschwitz. (See "Survivors serve, are served by, community," Page 6) Johnson will present her father's story, while Eva Aigner will speak at Oregon State again following an appearance in the late 90s.

"I first learned about Ava and her story through watching one of the videos when she and last came to speak at OSU," Hubler said. "It'll be great to bring her back to OSU after 25 years."

"I remember going to Hebrew school, and we'd have several survivors in the community that we were at and we regularly throughout the year were able to hear live testimonies and bear witness to survivors of the Holocaust. It's a very fleeting opportunity these days," Gitelson said. "Because Oregon Hillel is committed to reaching all students, our hope is that we will bring in non-Jewish students that maybe haven't interacted with this content and learn Holocaust education."

The week will also feature a Tuesday, May 7 discussion with Wendy Lower, a history professor at Claremont McKenna College, centering on her 2021 book, "The Ravine: A Family, a Photograph, a Holocaust Massacre Revealed" about the 1941 Miropol Massacre, and a panel discussion from the Eighth Social Justice Student Conference on Friday morning via Zoom.

All events are free and open to the public, though registration is required. All but Prof. Zapata's presentation will be available virtually. Registration and more information about the week's events and the Holocaust Memorial Program is available at holocaust.oregonstate.edu.



A night for a vision

From left, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education Edecutive Director Rebekah Sobel and keynote speaker Jill Wine-Banks take the stage at the museum's "Celebrating Our Vision" gala Sunday, May 14, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. (Andie Petkus Photography for OJMCHE)

JFCS 'Night of Hope' is May 9 at Sentinel Hotel

By **JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN**
Jewish Family & Child Service

Heart and hope are at the center of Jewish Family & Child Service. These themes also anchor this year's annual event: A Night of Hope, a Night with Heart.

JFCS invites you and your family to join them for a hope-filled evening of giving and celebrating from the heart while honoring its clients and you, our supporters.

The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, in the Governor Ballroom of Sentinel Hotel in downtown Portland. On sale now, tickets are going fast and are available at \$100 each, with special pricing at \$40 each for guests under 30 years old. Martha Soltesz and Jenna Hasson are this year's generous lead sponsors.

Punctuating the party will be delicious heavy appetizers and desserts by Jake's Catering, lovely wines, a photo booth (with props, of course) and innovative string music – from Bach to Beethoven, from Pete Townshend to Taylor Swift – performed live by the Portland Cello Project.

A Mitzvah Moment will offer the opportunity to support Portland's only Jewish social-services agency and its mission-driven work to improve the quality of life and self-sufficiency of the Jewish and broader communities throughout the Portland metro area in accordance with Jewish values.

Register online at jfcs-portland.org/night-of-hope.

Glickman Award applications open through Apr. 26

The Jewish Review Staff

Applications are now open through April 26 for the Mittleman Jewish Community Center's Harry Glickman Scholar Athlete Award. Any Jewish student athlete who has lived in Oregon for the past three years and is a junior or senior in high school is eligible. Two winners are selected and recognized at our Awards Ceremony, this year, happening Sunday, May 19 at the MJCC. The award is named in honor of Harry Glickman, z"l; founder of the Portland Trailblazers and President of the club from 1987 through 1994, as well as founder of the Portland Buckaroos of the then-professional Western Hockey League, Glickman is known as the "Father of Oregon Professional Sports." More information and application available online at oregonjcc.org/sports/glickman-award-application.



Click the logo for the latest episode of The Jewish Review Podcast

Jewish Teen survey live through May 17

The Jewish Review staff

BeWell, the Jewish Federation of North America's youth mental health and wellness initiative, is partnering with Stanford University to conduct a survey of American Jewish teens (7th-12th grade) and mental wellness. This is a comprehensive study to better understand the intersection of Jewish culture and tradition, family dynamics, and systemic communal influences, including the sources of stress and strategies for thriving that characterize life among American Jewish teenagers. Find the survey online at tinyurl.com/BeWellJewishTeenSurvey.

FAIR

(continued from page 4)

tions on the people who labored in them. He's devoted much of his retirement years to organizing for sustainability and climate awareness – an offshoot of both his career and his Jewish values.

"Our teachings say we have to begin the work; we may not be there to finish it, we may not complete the work, but we have to take it on," Heumann said. "This is the crisis that is going to be overwhelming everything else, and if we don't help future generations live more sustainably, then we will have failed them miserably."

The fair is free and open to all. Organizers advise attendees that photo ID and bag checks will be required to enter the MJCC. More information, including a list of participating organizations, is available online at facebook.com/events/1479349655984559.

'From Near and Far' at Pittock Mansion through July 7

The Pittock Mansion

The Pittock Mansion Society proudly announces the opening of its latest exhibit, "From Near and Far: Chinese and Jewish Americans and the Making of Portland, 1840s-1930s." This exhibit will be showcased at the Pittock Mansion from Mar. 11- July 7, 2024, and is included with the general admission.

This captivating and educational exhibit tells the story of two of Portland's earliest non-Native settlers, shedding light on their often overlooked yet pivotal roles in shaping Portland into the city it is today. It focuses on how Chinese and Jewish Portlanders' contributions to business, agriculture, politics, and industry transformed Portland from a 2.1 square-mile stumptown into a thriving city. In the face of different, but overlapping challenges and prejudices, Chinese and Jewish Portlanders developed ways to care for their own communities. Featuring a captivating array of rare historical photographs and artifacts, the exhibit offers a nuanced portrayal of both the ceremonial and everyday aspects of Jewish and Chinese American life.

"It's an honor to be able to tell the early history of Chinese and Jewish Portlanders at Pittock Mansion, because these communities have been as instrumental to the development of Portland as prominent and powerful men like Henry Pittock. 'From Near and Far' helps to reinforce the idea that many different people laid the foundations of Portland," explained Jennifer Fang, Ph.D., Director of Interpretation and Community Engagement at Pittock Mansion.

This exhibition is produced by Pittock Mansion Society as part of its Pittock Connections Annual Exhibit Series and is sponsored by The Ritz Family Foundation.

The Pittock Mansion Society extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, the Portland Chinatown Museum, and Norm Gholston for their invaluable contributions to the exhibit. Through their shared knowledge and loaned photographs and objects, these esteemed collaborators have enriched the narrative of "From Near and Far."

More information about this exhibit can be found at pittockmansion.org/exhibits.

KAHN (continued from page 2)

"I'm playing pieces that were that were written for me at from my [Regional Arts and Culture Council] debut in August as well as Israeli and Jewish folk songs," Kahn said. "I'm a firm supporter of the State of Israel, and it's important to me to get this cultural music into the ears of audience members."

It's fitting then, that an Israeli-American musical leader was a big part of the launching of Kahn's music career. A native of San Jose, Calif., Kahn played with the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra and worked with conductor Benjamin Shwartz, who Kahn has remained in touch with through the years.

"It was a good move by my parents to let me do that on Shabbat in my senior year," Kahn jokes of his time with the SFSYO.

His musical influences extend far beyond classical, as he recently performed a selection of Argentine tango pieces written for flute and guitar and transposed for trumpet. His work has branches outside music, as well. Kahn is launching a venture called *Pardes* that should be launching later this year – as well as preparing for other performances, writing and teaching.

"We're dedicated to creating localized paradises, microclimates of health, safety, and peace through immersive creative experiences, artistic experiences for people," Kahn said of his *Pardes* venture. "It's influenced by Jewish mysticism. *Pardes* is the root of the word paradise. It is the orchard; the original metaphorical paradise on earth."

Anamnesis will be available for purchase, both as a download and a physical CD, at aaronkahnmusic.com.

Elders integral to Human Resources Director's professional journey

By SYDNEY CLEVENGER

Cedar Sinai Park

The grandparents of Geneva Jacobs-Dougal, PHR, RCFA, along with elders she cared for at a young age in the Portland community, have helped shape her professional journey as Cedar Sinai Park Human Resources Director. Those early experiences with seniors also motivated Geneva to obtain her Oregon license as an Assisted Living/Residential Care Facility Administrator, which she recently received from the state.

"I am always wanting to continue to learn and grow, and I was up for the challenge!" said Geneva.

"The assisted living/residential care facility administrator training was really interesting, and helped me understand operational and human resources issues at Rose Schnitzer Manor, and how we can better help the administrator and team members," said Geneva. "I wish I had taken the training sooner!"

"I think the training will help me support the current administrator [Rachael White], and the building and management at Rose Schnitzer Manor Assisted Living. With my training, I can now better help them prepare for [state] survey to ensure we meet all of the constantly changing requirements and the documentation and records needed.

"I gained a better understanding about the roles and expectations of the administrator and her team, which is useful information for human resources. And in a pinch, I could step in as administrator!"

Geneva's grandfather, Edwin Reed, with whom she lived with as a child with her mother, Donna Brown, and grandmother, Alberta Reed, moved to Portland after World War II and worked for the Morris Printing Company. The Morris Printing Company, owned by Morris Ail, had many Jewish clients, including Robison Jewish Home. When Morris Ail became cantor of Neveh Shalom, Geneva's grandfather purchased Morris Printing Company from Mr. Ail.

"Mr. Ail was like a second father to my grandfather," said Geneva. "And when my grandfather bought the company, he kept all of the same clients,

many of whom remember the printing company, and my uncle, and my mom helped there preparing birth announcements and bar mitzvah invitations."

"While I don't remember my grandfather coming to Robison, I remember the print shop and I have heard much about his connection to Robison. We also lived just two miles from the Home, up Beaverton Hillsdale Highway so I was always aware of it."

Geneva attended Raleigh Park Elementary and Whitford Middle School. As a 17-year-old, she was one of the first certified nursing assistants in Oregon, based at Camelot Care Center in Forest Grove.

Out taking vitals one day, Geneva came across two women sharing a hospice room and "one was at peace and the other was agitated," she said. "The poor woman who was scared, I sat with as long as I could and tried to comfort her."

"I'm really interested in grief, dying, and death, and how we can support elders making that transition."

The end-of-life experience struck her deeply, and was another stepping stone in guiding Geneva's view of senior services and their purpose and need for compassion through the aging process.

Geneva traveled frequently with her grandparents; at one point she lived with family while attending school in Canada. Returning to Oregon, Geneva attended St. Mary's of the Valley for a year, and finished high school at Sunset.

Geneva began working in the shoe department during the grand opening of the Walker Road Fred Meyer in 1990. For the next 25 years, she worked off and on for Fred Meyer in different departments and different stores, with her last stops in Human Resources and Public Affairs. During that time, she attended Portland Community College for an associate's degree, and Linfield for a human resources certificate.

Deciding to return to school for a bachelor of arts, Geneva cashiered part-time at Fred Meyer while completing her degree at Marylhurst University in interdisciplinary studies, with an emphasis in business, human resources, and psychology.

Out dragon boating one weekend, the

wife of former Cedar Sinai Park Chief Executive Officer David Fuks, DeAnn, encouraged Geneva to consider working at the Home.

The Robison Jewish Health Center/Harold Schnitzer Center for Living was in the middle of an enormous remodel at the time, and there was no need for a human resources person, so Geneva took a position at OHSU as a human resources coordinator at the School of Nursing. In 2015, she received a PHR (Professional in Human Resources) through the Human Resources Certification Institute.

"And then I was taking the bus up to OHSU, and saw on the human resources network that there was a position at my level open at Cedar Sinai Park," she said. "When I saw it, I was like . . . the culture is great, the position is great . . . I'm going to apply."

Geneva joined Cedar Sinai Park's human resources department in January 2016 as a generalist. With construction on the nursing home still in the final stages, Geneva was on the human resources team that interviewed and hired all of the certified nursing assistants for the dual-certified skilled nursing facility.

"We hired a ton of people once skilled nursing was fully open," she said. "One of our new employee orientation meetings had 52 new people!"

"It was easier to hire a lot of people at one time than it is now."

In late 2017, Geneva became senior human resources generalist, and then Human Resources Director in 2020.

Geneva's interest in end-of-life care remains, and she recently completed her 40-hour end-of-life doula training.

She is married to Matt, and they will celebrate 25 years of marriage in August. Matt's dad, Ronald, stayed at Robison a few years ago while recuperating from surgery, and then at the Manor for respite.

"That brought me to a whole different experience of the organization," noted Geneva.

Geneva and Matt like to travel when they can, though she considers herself a homebody. Geneva also enjoys gardening, and flash fiction reading and writing.

"I love the people here and the culture. I think it was all meant to be."

Passover 5784

Kindling the spirit of Pesach



Rabbis Laurie Rutenberg and Gary Schoenberg kasher their wood-fired oven for Pesach; they'll host a matza making party Sunday, Apr. 21 and a pair of seders. More details about this and other community events for the holiday, check out Passover Happenings on page 13. (Courtesy Gesher - A Bridge Home)

Where to find the foods of Passover in Portland

By **KERRY POLITZER**

For *The Jewish Review*

It's Passover season, one of the most delicious times of the year. Here is our round-up of where to buy the tastiest holiday treats for 2024.

Are you cooking this year? Find inspiration from Fred Meyer Grocery at its [Passover page](#), where you'll find recipes for smoked brisket and flourless chocolate cake with sweet wine sauce and fresh berries.

The Safeway on Barbur Boulevard (8145 SW Barbur Blvd., 503-452-6068) offers the biggest selection of kosher-for-Passover items in Oregon: dairy, meat, dry foods, and matzo. The frozen section includes brisket with sauce as well as several frozen side dishes, while the dry section contains several mixes for side dishes.

Trader Joe's Passover offerings will likely vary by location,

See **FOOD**, page 15

Tips for (nearly) painless Pesach prep

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

Pesach, or Passover in English, is one of the most anticipated holidays of the Jewish calendar. While much of this anticipation is positive anticipation of the celebration of the Jewish people's emancipation from bondage in Egypt, it's also anticipated in a stressful way, as the preparation for the holiday can be an immense task.

Meira Spivak, Oregon NCSY Director and the author of "How to Make Pesach in 5 Days," explains that part of what makes the preparation so difficult is the amount of cleaning required. It's a cleaning that goes far beyond tidying for houseguests.

Jewish law states that *chametz*, the Hebrew term for leavened grain products or their antecedents, not only can't be eaten during Passover, but must also not be possessed by Jews during the holiday. Often, a family's stock of *chametz* will be symbolically sold to a non-Jew for the duration of the holiday. Some families like the Spivaks, however, prefer to remove the *chametz* from their home by cleaning.

When one's household includes small children who often leave bits of snacks in inconspicuous places, like under furniture, that means cleaning everywhere.

"You literally have to turn

your couch upside down because they put crackers in there," Spivak explained. "By the time you come to the seder, your house is sparkling."

Preparing the kitchen is its own ordeal, because, traditionally, nothing that has had contact with *chametz* can be eaten from or off of during the holiday. Some families solve this by having a second, separate kitchen that remains in a permanent kosher-for-Passover state. Otherwise, everything in the kitchen must be prepared for the holiday. Surfaces like quartz, granite or stainless steel can be koshered by a process that includes throwing boiling water on them. Porcelain sinks and other more porous countertop surfaces must be covered for the holiday. Some companies sell countertop covers expressly for the purpose of making a kitchen Passover-ready. Jodi Fried, a co-founder of the "Power Up for Pesach" workshop series and member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Board of Directors, takes a different approach.

"We're old school. We get shelf liners from Walmart and use some duct tape and cover the countertops," she said. "The funniest thing about our kitchen over Pesach is because we have a porcelain sink, we cover the

See **PREP**, page 15

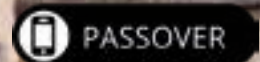
PASSOVER HAPPENINGS

Resources for your family's Passover observance gathered by Jewish Federation at www.jewishportland.org/passoverhappenings

CHAG SAMEACH!
HAPPY PASSOVER!



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland





Model of a modern Matza maker

Children and families mix up the unleavened bread of the coming season at Camp Gan Israel of SW Portland's Model Matza Bakery event Sunday, Apr. 14 in West Linn. (Courtesy Chabad of Lake Oswego)

Add meaning with mikvah this passover

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

One of Passover's most memorable traditions is the four cups of wine consumed during the course of a *seder*. But another tradition often observed before Pesach makes use of a different liquid: water, specifically the waters of a *mikvah*.

Rabbi Chanan Spivak, the *Rosh Kollel* of the Portland Kollel, explained that a purifying immersion in a *mikvah*, ritual bath of living water, typically collected from rainwater, is standard practice for many before all Jewish holidays, including Shabbat. But a pre-Pesach immersion takes on an extra significance.

"Because the Pesach offering was brought by the entire Jewish people, the entire Jewish people took part in eating the Pesach offering," Rabbi Spivak said. "So they would have to be prepared for that with spiritual purity beforehand."

While the absence of a Temple in Jerusalem means that sacrificial offerings are no longer made and ritual purity is no longer as necessary, it's still a step that many find meaningful as they prepare for this and other Jewish observances.

"It is reflecting a spiritual reality that that is the ideal state that a person is in," Rabbi Spivak continued. "A person does what they can. This is what's available to me. I'm putting in an effort to try to get myself as close as possible to be able to appreciate it."

That sense of getting ready to receive the sacredness of the holiday is an idea

echoed by Lucy Marshall, the Senior Director of the Rising Tide Open Waters Mikveh Network, a community of *mikvaot* that are committed to an inclusive and welcoming approach to Jewish ritual immersion as a way to mark life transitions; Rachel's Well Community Mikvah, owned and operated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, is a member of Rising Tide.

Marshall connects the body's journey through the waters of the mikvah to the passage of the Jewish people through the Red Sea as they escaped Egypt during the Exodus.

"There's this sense of moving through the water into this transition, into freedom and liberation," she said. "We can bring that connection with our immersion in the mikvah."

She goes on to observe that, while many Jewish rituals sanctify an object like a kiddush cup, the ritual immersion makes the human body a holy object.

"We're sanctifying our bodies, and so instead of doing just like a blessing over wine and drinking the wine and making that a holy vessel, our bodies are the vessel that we're blessing and we're doing the ritual with our full selves," Marshall said.

With all the challenges that the lead-up to Passover presents, Marshall said that many have found immersion in a mikvah to be a valuable buffer between the stress of the planning and the celebration of the holiday.

"Passover takes a lot of preparation

in our homes. Many of us change what dishes we're using or we get rid of certain foods, and we have to buy new foods and prepare big meals and inviting people over or traveling. It can feel busy and like a lot of long to do lists," Marshall said. "Mikvah provides a moment of pause and intentionality to really like soak in the moment and acknowledge where we are in Jewish time and feeling like we're at this moment to really connect with the core themes of the holiday."

Rabbi Spivak framed it in a metaphor: Just as a person who's going to a wine tasting cleanses their palate to fully appreciate the complexities and uniqueness of a wine, so someone entering a holy period like Pesach can cleanse their "spiritual palate" with immersion.

"If a person has cleansed their palate, there's nothing impeding the wine from changing its taste," Rabbi Spivak explained. "They'll be able to be in tune with the experience."

Rachel's Well Community Mikvah is running open pre-Pesach immersion hours for men from 2:30-4:30 pm Monday, Apr. 22 and again before the concluding days on Sunday Apr. 28, 2:30-4:30 pm; no appointment is needed, but donations are appreciated and can be made at jewishportland.org/mikvah. Others interested in pre-holiday or other transitional immersions can email mikvahpdx@gmail.com to schedule an appointment, a minimum of 5 days prior to the preferred date.

PREP (continued from page 12)

whole thing with foil; the tap, the faucets and everything. “It always makes me laugh just thinking about what other people think about my kitchen at that moment.”

The appliances must be prepared too – Spivak runs the self-cleaning cycle on her oven and scrubs out the freezers. She also swaps out her dishes for a whole new set – the presence of which surprised a non-Jewish insurance adjuster who visited following a fire at the Spivaks’ home six years ago.

“He was looking at our kitchen. We have meat dishes, dairy dishes, and Shabbat dishes. Then he goes downstairs. He asks, ‘What’s this?’ I said, ‘Oh, this is our Passover stuff,’” Spivak recalled. “He opens it up. It was literally dairy dishes, meat dishes, pots, pans, the entire kitchen.”

Once the kitchen is prepped, the cooking starts – and doesn’t seem to stop.

“I choose to do almost everything before,” Spivak said. “I don’t want to cook on holidays, I want to enjoy myself, so I do a mad rush of cooking everything before.”

In her book, Spivak drills down her Pesach prep to five days – this includes rooting out any *chametz*, preparing the kitchen and making the food she’ll serve over the holiday. She starts with desserts and anything else that can be frozen, then moves on to meats, then vegetable dishes and salads. This, of course, necessitates having a menu planned in advance, groceries ordered (an added hurdle with the challenge of acquiring kosher-for-Passover foods in Portland) and focusing the cleaning process on its primary goal of removing traces of *chametz*.

“People confuse Passover cleaning for spring cleaning and it’s really not,” Spivak said. “We’re looking for Cheerios. We’re not looking for towels to be neat.”

Even with all the planning and advance coordination in the world, getting everything done can be overwhelming. Meditation and other self-care practices are valuable resources,

Fried explained, as is the right mindset.

“It’s easy to get very caught up in the moment,” she said, “but it’s also important when we’re in that state to give ourselves the permission to take a step back and do the things that we need to in order to be okay mentally.”

Fried explained that having the kids home from school in the run up to the holiday, cooking some of the most elaborate meals of the year, and the weight of expectations can make things even harder to handle. One of the ways she manages that stress is understanding that perfection is beyond reach.

“We have to kind of balance what we think we have to do with our sanity and what we actually have to do,” Fried explained. “In reality, if there’s a crumb under the couch, it’s okay.”

Both women find a lot of meaning in the spiritual themes of the holiday, and focusing on those ideals makes the stress of preparation more bearable.

“Every holiday has its own spiritual energy, and the energy of Passover is the time of redemption,” Spivak said. “Even though it’s so much work, you know that you’re about to embark on this spiritual time where you’re able to tap into personal redemption, communal redemption. There’s a lot of possibilities, a lot of potential for growth.”

“Something that I find myself thinking a lot about this time of year is, ‘How can I help to make the world a better place or to make my community a better place?’” Fried said. “That’s a question to really lean into this time of year because ultimately, that’s what needs to happen. The world needs to become a better place in order for the redemption to happen, in order for *Moshiach* (the Messiah) to come and we’ll all go to Israel, and we’ll all live happily and the world will be peaceful.”

Spivak’s book can be purchased at oregon.ncsy.org/pesachbook. All proceeds will go to support Oregon NCSY.

Learn more about Power Up for Pesach at powerupforpesach.org - recordings of this year’s workshops will be available through Passover.

FOOD (continued from page 12)

but *The Jewish Review* has confirmed that the California grocery chain’s location in Garden Home (7215 SW Garden Home Rd., Portland) is carrying a selection of kosher meats and poultry as well as Kosher wines and matzo.

Eastern European eatery Kachka (960 SE 11th Ave., 503-235-0059) is holding a Seder on April 24. [Ticket purchases](#) benefit HIAS (a global Jewish nonprofit that assists and protects refugees of all faiths). The four-course meal includes housemade matza, a “Seder Plate” of zakuski, (traditional eastern European appetizers) and house-made, grape-based vodka infusions.

[Sweet Lorraine’s Latkes and More](#) will serve a special Passover menu, during which time they will forgo their usual fare for tzimmes, vegetarian matzo ball soup, matzo brei, matzo toffee, coconut macaroons, smoked salmon dip, and more.

New Seasons (various locations, order at catering.newseasonsmarket.com) will feature a variety of favorites including chopped liver, gefilte fish, matzo ball soup, salmon with spring onions, brisket with tomatoes, tzimmes, beet salad, sweet or savory kugel, and Passover torte. For those who want to cook the main dish at home, there’s Country Natural beef brisket and Mary’s organic whole fryer chickens.

Chef Noah Jacob, formerly of Jacob and Sons, is now applying his cooking talents at [Zupan’s Markets](#) (various locations). Jacob has been hard at work crafting a tantalizing menu of chopped chicken or faux chicken liver, charoset, potato kugel, matzo ball soup (three matzo balls a portion!) housemade gefilte fish, deviled eggs,

Elephants Delicatessen is offering a menu of Passover favorites for pickup. Order online at elephantsdeli.com/holidays/order-online-holiday/#/restaurants/elephantsdeli-1/8437/menus/45661 by 2 pm Saturday, Apr. 20 for pickup on Monday or Tuesday, Apr. 22-23 from 10 am-6 pm at one of four select Elephants locations. Options include brisket with tsmimmes, chicken marbella bianca and salmon with cucumber dill sauce, as well as sides, desserts, and Elephants famous matzo ball soup.

Online grocer Seattlekosher.com is making Passover [deliveries](#) to Portland. Order from a menu of meats, dairy, baked goods, and candy and sweets. Deliveries are made to two locations: Chabad of Northeast Portland (3310 NE Shaver St.) and Chabad of Southwest Portland (6612 SW Capitol Hwy.

A zissen Pesach/Pesach Alegre/Happy Passover!
Associate Editor Caron Blau Rothstein contributed reporting to this article.

Let's talk about swatting

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date	Deadline
APR 17	APR 11
MAY 8	MAY 2
MAY 22	MAY 16

By JESSICA ANDERSON

A couple of weeks ago, a swatting event occurred at Mittleman Jewish Community Center and Portland Jewish Academy. It was an unsettling event for many people who witnessed the police response and for those who subsequently heard about it and had to wait and wonder about what was happening. Previously, I discussed bomb threats and emergency planning but only touched briefly on swatting. Given our recent swatting incident, I thought I would talk a bit more about it and important concepts to remember.

“Swatting” is the act of making false emergency calls, often directly to 911, to trigger a response from law enforcement. Swatting is unfortunately extremely common. It’s so common, that if you hear about a threat event happening at a location, (just as with a bomb threat) you should always keep in mind the high likelihood that it is a hoax event. In our case, Portland Police were notified of a threat to MJCC/PJA by an outside crisis line. In the absence of knowing if it was real or not, Portland Police responded appropriately, dispatching cars directly to the building as they called to let staff know of the threat. As the event unfolded, the Portland Police investigation indicated it was a hoax threat.

Upon receiving the call, MJCC called for a “Lockout.” A Lockout is called when it is believed that the threat is outside of the building. A Lockout means that everyone stays inside the building while an issue outside the building is resolved. If you hear that a



Jessica Anderson is the Portland-area Director of Community Security. She was previously an FBI agent for 24 years. This position is funded by SCN (the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America) and a local three-way partnership of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Endowment Fund and multiple Jewish organizations in the region.

building is in a Lockout, this is important, useful information that the possible threat did not make it inside the building. Despite the stressful information, this is a good initial outcome. Conversely, a “Lockdown” is called when the potential threat may be inside the building, or when the Police or management want everyone to stay in place, inside the room they are currently in. It’s important to be familiar with the terms “Lockout” and “Lockdown” and the ways they are used and implemented. In this instance, after the initial Lockout, the police recommended a precautionary Lockdown so they could do a sweep of internal rooms. The entire event was resolved in about an hour with no evacuation or closure of the building.

The experience was stressful for many people; Jewish neighbors witnessed the police response and wondered what was happening, staff and others in the building had to respond to ten emergency vehicles descending on the property, and parents worried about their kids. These are perfectly normal reactions, particularly for a community that has not experienced a swatting event before. One of the hardest

elements to endure in an event is not knowing exactly what is happening. In the age of cell phones and social media, word travels fast about events and this information can often be incomplete and incorrect. As every event unfolds, be it a hoax or real, a community may need to sit in an extended, uncomfortable space of not knowing. We on the outside desperately want to know what’s happening for lots of legitimate reasons, and at the same time we may have to sit and wait a long while to get updates or accurate information. Additionally, our community leaders are aware that they may have to make response decisions and lead in a vacuum of information.

MJAA and PJA staff handled the swatting incident outstandingly. As unfortunate as these incidents are, they are opportunities to assess our procedures, hone skills, and improve processes. Ideally, drills (and not the hoax-induced kind) will be part of our yearly community security processes. If you have any questions or comments about this swatting event or our community response, please contact me at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org or 872-273-9214.

The most repeated phrase: 'It's Complicated'

Editor's Note: With many members of the Portland Jewish community visiting Israel to volunteer, support the Israeli people and bear witness to the ongoing war, The Jewish Review is making space available for those who wish to share their stories of visiting the region. If you would like to share a 400-500 word account of your recent journey to Israel, please email editor@jewishportland.org for more information.

By **RABBI ARIEL STONE**

By the end of the 5 days our solidarity mission spent together it was almost a joke; would the next speaker say “it’s complicated.” As it turned out, every single one did, sooner or later, during their presentation.

Between March 11 and 15 I visited with Israeli and Palestinian intellectuals, politicians, peace activists, educators, faith leaders and educators. The mission was organized by Mejudi Tours, which is noted for offering a “dual narrative” approach to visiting not only Israel and Palestine, but also Ireland, Morocco, and even Washington D.C. (where they include Democratic and Republican guides!).

I joined the mission because I was anxious to be in Israel and to see my family and friends; I was not expecting much in the way of new information or, honestly, encouragement toward hope. I’m grateful to Aziz Abu Sarah, co-founder of

Mejudi Tours and one of our guides, for surprising me for what I learned and for the access to so many who are making a difference on the ground.

In Bethlehem, we met with activists from Combatants for Peace - an Israeli Jew and a former Hamas member - who spoke together of their shared conviction, stronger now than ever, that security can only be achieved through peace, never through war.

In Jerusalem the venerable Israeli peace activist Gershon Baskin, instrumental in the release of the hostage Gilad Shalit from Hamas captivity in 2011, soberly shared his inside information that freedom for any of the remaining Israeli hostages is a dim prospect.

The intellectual Mahmoud Muna shared statistics that show more and more Palestinians applying for Israeli citizenship; he believes the Palestinian state project has failed. Baskin, in contrast, believes that now is the moment for a two-state solution, and hopes that President Biden will push for it, since Netanyahu has lost all credibility.

In Al Eizariyah (Bethany) Milad Vosgueritchian, the founder of House of Hope, a Waldorf-style trauma-informed elementary school that teaches children nonviolence, is devas-

See **ISRAEL**, page 19

Climate Corner

Looking after 'the birds and the bees'

By **SARA SAFDIE**

It seemed like a very long winter, one that would never end, but then more daylight began to fill the skies, making clear that Spring was finally arriving. Now with the longer days and (mostly) warmer temperatures, many of us are thinking about returning to our gardens. For most people, gardening brings joy and even a few bragging rights, like “Look at how many tomatoes I’ve grown!” While we can all gain satisfaction and shut down our over-busy brains while working with the soil that’s spewing up the weeds that were waiting all winter to come back from dormancy, we must remember that there are other factors at work that help to produce those beautiful, healthy raised beds and flowers, namely, the birds and the bees.

Birds and bees, not to mention worms and beneficial

bugs—the pollinators—are the essential parts of our food supply. We need to treat them with the respect they deserve and to keep them coming around to do their good work in our yards. For their sake, and our health, do not use chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides! I will not list specific brand names, but they’re mostly found in hardware and big box stores rather than in local nurseries.

Due to climate change and the widespread use of such chemicals, there’s been a serious decline in pollinators, especially honeybees and bumble bees. These pollinators also happen to be fascinating to watch as they go about their work. Do plant what they love and find beneficial. Our property has a lot of lavender and rosemary, both of which are too strong

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Jobs Board

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

Marketing in a time of divisiveness

By DANIEL BERGER

As marketing director at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland since September 2022, I have spent a good portion of my time listening to and learning from my colleagues. They have so much experience and knowledge – it’s like an advanced college seminar class every day!

As I recently learned through the results of our extensive 2023 Portland Jewish Community Study, my experiences growing up are maybe not as unique as I might have once thought.

I had Jewish grandparents who came to the United States from Russia and Poland in the 1920s. They worked hard. They became successful. One side kept kosher, the other was not as religious but observed all the major holidays. As a side note, I owe them all such a great debt for everything I have today and miss them always.

My parents, however began the move away from actively participating in Jewish life, leaving my sister and I knowing we were Jewish, yet we did not engage in any holidays or observances.

We didn’t have a bar or bat mitzvah - although I recall attending many of my classmates’ celebrations. And as it turns out, we both gravitated towards Jews in music (shout out to Geddy Lee of Rush!), art (Chagall), literature (Philip Roth and Michael Chabon), and more without realizing that influence until becoming adults.

I mention all this because when I began working at the Jewish Federation, which I had never heard of before working here, that was my base knowledge.

This actually was to my benefit as I began to think about how many other folks in Portland are Jewish, but may not have a day-to-day connection with the community. *I was the person I wanted to engage!*

I’ll admit – that sometimes it is challenging.

The 2023 Community Study Report showed that there are close to 57,000 Jews in the Portland Metro area. Nearly 30% are minimally involved in Jewish life.

The questions focus on how do we reach people beyond the sphere we already have interactions with? How do we make becoming involved in Jewish life easier (perhaps even the perception of safety), lowering barriers which can be financial or even situational? How do we engage younger Jews in ways that attract and retain them? The answers are multi-faceted and do not and cannot fall under a “one approach fits all” method.

Over the last 18 months, the profile of the Jewish Federation on our social media and website presence has seen significant data driven growth and, more importantly, interaction and cohesiveness, with a voice that I hope is calm, informative, and educational (and even occasionally entertaining!).

Social media has such great power for connections and influence, but can also turn deeply dark and ugly at times (TikTok is a prime culprit here). The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is not positioned as a social media influencer (along the lines of say Paris Hilton); neither do I think quick memes do the issues we are dealing with any justice.

The current situation in Israel is an example where memes undercut the complexity of the situation. As Jewish professionals we should strive to provide resources, context, and perspective that can lead to thoughtful discussion and debate. Unfortunately, this is not always achievable.

I also like to think that the content we provide should ask people to critically examine their ideas and preconceived notions – not for its own sake, but to build a stronger community.

How do we (*meaning I*) market to a portion of the population who have anti-Zionist views based on false tropes and narratives? Can we even do so? Is it worth the risks of drawing hateful attention to our channels?

I don’t necessarily know – I’m asking.

Please feel free to reach out to me with your thoughts at daniel@jewishportland.org.

Daniel Berger is Growth Marketing Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.



Click the logo for the latest episode of The Jewish Review Podcast

ISRAEL (continued from page 15)

tated by the deaths of friends in Gaza, but insists that he will never give up on the power of love. The separation wall runs through the backyard of his apartment building.

In Jerusalem, Rabbi Anton Goodman of Rabbis for Human Rights is running a Ramadan food drive for friends in the West Bank who are unable to get to jobs since the war, when many travel permits were revoked for Palestinians throughout Israeli-administered territories. Before we can make peace, he says, we have to sustain life.

Perhaps the most stunning story I heard was conveyed by our Palestinian guide: “a well known story in the Arab world.” Muammar Ghaddafi once stood up at an Arab countries summit and addressed the Palestinians: “you are fools

to fight in the holy land! Just call the country Isra-tine or Fala-el, and be done with it.”

What I brought back was a sense of how little we in the U.S. really know. This, I’ve decided, is good: we might refresh our sense of hope by realizing that there is so much more we can learn - and learning can bring new ways of thinking, new abilities to empathize with each other even across such a bitter divide as that which separates Arab and Jew in these days. Perhaps even new hope for a time when we will see that the real separation is between those who defy our common humanity, and those who will continue to lift it up, no matter what.

Rabbi Ariel Stone is Rabbi of Congregation Shir Tikvah.

CLIMATE (continued from page 15)

for me to even get close to, but I’ve left them intact because of the enormous numbers of bees they attract.

Try not to work the soil after a rain as it breaks up soil structure and disrupts the work of beneficial microbial bacteria. In general, do not till, or work the soil since that releases the carbon that has been stored there. Instead, add compost mixed with organic fertilizers to the top and gently work it into the soil below. Provide food for birds, which are also pollinators. Allow fallen leaves and lawn clippings to decompose on the ground and let flowers go to seed without cutting them back. This helps with carbon storage, improves soil health, and enriches your yard with the colors and songs of a variety of birds. If you find aphids, again, don’t use

chemicals! Most nurseries sell lady bugs that will gobble them up, although they won’t stick around after the aphids are gone. You can also try a strong stream of water to hose them down. There are organic products available to take care of snail/slug problems.

This year, Earth Day coincides with the night of the first Seder. Let’s celebrate both with a twist on “Next year in Jerusalem,” to “This year, chemical free,” moving from the bondage of the old ways of gardening to more climate-friendly ones. Chag sameach!

Sara Safdie is a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council's Climate Action Committee, an educator and an adherent of organic/regenerative gardening.

Events

Find the latest on community events this Passover at

[jewishportland.org/
passoverhappenings](http://jewishportland.org/passoverhappenings)

jewishportland.org/subscribe

RUBY SACHTER

Ruby Sachter, nee Gerber, z"l, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2024, in Seattle, Wash. at the age of 88. She was born on August 31, 1935, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Ruby was a devoted wife to her late husband Dave Sachter and a loving mother to her daughters Elaine Sachter and Sheryl Sachter Rudolph. She took immense pride in her 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Ruby enjoyed a fulfilling career as an interior designer and co-owner of Southwest Furniture. She was a trailblazer in balancing career, motherhood, and volunteer work. Ruby's dedication to her family and community was evident in her involvement in raising funds for Cedar Sinai Park and serving as Board President.

In her leisure time, Ruby found joy in playing mah jong, pan, Jazzercise, and traveling. Her compassionate nature shone through in her commitment to caring for the elderly in the Jewish Community.

Services for Ruby Sachter were held on March 22, 2024, at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery in Portland under the care of Holmans Funeral Service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Cedar Sinai Park (Senior Living) or Mary Schwartz Summit (Senior Living) to honor Ruby's memory.

Ruby's legacy of strength, kindness, and dedication will forever be cherished by all who knew her.

JASON MATIN

Jason Leo Matin, z"l was born to Ron and Margaret Matin in Portland, Ore. From early childhood, Jason was an adventurer and always on the go. He was bicycling, swimming, and going on adventures with his childhood friends from a very young age. He fell in love with lacrosse and was a formidable competitor when lacrosse was new to our area.

He graduated from Lake Oswego High School and attended San Diego State University where he studied recreation management and tourism. After starting up a skateboard camp in Lake Oswego, Jason worked in different tourism ventures throughout Southeast

Asia. A highlight was crewing on a boat transporting world class surfers to open ocean waves in the Indian Ocean.

Jason was incredibly outgoing, charismatic and often the life of the party. He made friends easily and enjoyed living a life of travel and adventure that many of us only think awaits us after a long career. Jason appreciated family connection and was so happy to have Linda and Ping Ping in his life.

Jason struggled with alcohol addiction and despite multiple attempts at abstinence, he eventually died as a result of complications related to his alcohol use disorder.

Jason is survived by his fiancée, Linda Muensomdee and his stepdaughter, Ping Ping; as well as his mother, Margaret Matin; brother, Jordan; and sisters, Michelle and Marlo.

A memorial service was held at Beth Israel Cemetery Tuesday, April 2. A celebration of life followed at the Multnomah Athletic Club. Donations to Project Lemonade in support of foster youth.

LIDIYA BELONozhKO

It is with sorrow that Congregation Kol Ami announces the recent death of Lidiya Belonozhko, z"l, the mother of Nelya Pavlenko. There was a Life Celebration service for her on Tuesday April 2, at ARK Ukrainian Baptist Church. Our Condolences to the Pavlenko family, Nelya and Vitaliy and their children Olivia, Sarah, Ezekiel, and Abigail as well as to Nelya's extended family on their loss.

ALLEN MAJEFSKI

With sorrow, Congregation Kol Ami announces the death of Allen Majefski, z"l, the brother-in-law of our member Paul Dicker. Allen was married to Paul's sister Lynne. Funeral services and interment will be Dallas, Tex.

KARIN STOLZ

Beit Haverim mourns the passing of our beloved member and co-president, Karin Stolz, z"l.

Karin passed away Sunday, Mar. 31, surrounded by her loving family and friends.

Karin was simply the heart and soul of Beit Haverim. Karin dedicated the past eleven years to serving the temple and its members. Her presence will be deeply missed, and her legacy will continue to live on through the work she did and the lives she touched.

Please join us for Shabbat services on April 19 for "The Music Karin Loved."

PAUL CONTORER

Dr. Paul Contorer, z"l, was born in Chicago, Ill., and previously served as a doctor in the United States Air Force. He was head of Dermatology at Kaiser NW Permanente from 1966-1995. Known as "Doc" to his granddaughters, Paul was a wristwatch and fountain pen enthusiast, who enjoyed playing piano, reading mysteries and exploring the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. Paul is survived by his wife of 59 years, Beverly; his sons, Joseph (Jason) and David (Beth); and granddaughters, Danielle and Maya. The family suggests donations be made in his honor to the Jewish Free Loan. jewishportland.org/jewish-free-loan.

ESTHER PERKEL

It is with tremendous sorrow that Congregation Kol Ami announces the death of our member Esther Perkel Saturday, Apr. 6.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Apr. 10 at Neve Zedek Cemetery

Esther was the mother of four as well as a grandmother and great-grandmother. The Perkel, Moody, and Staley families will mourn this loss deeply, we extend our deepest condolences to them all.

MICHAEL KURNOFF

We are sorry to inform you of the passing of Michael Kurnoff, z"l. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Shirley Kurnoff, his children, Lee (Howard) Lazarus, Janine (Simon) Gottheiner, Bryan (Alora Alexander) Kurnoff, and his grandchildren, Jacob & Zoe Lazarus, Ava, Hadley & Liam Gottheiner, and Nathaniel Kurnoff. The funeral was Monday, Apr. 8 in Simi Valley, Calif.