

The JEWISH REVIEW

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Rabbi Cahana shares refugee woes



Congregation Beth Israel Rabbi Michael Cahana happily sorts Portlanders' donations of baby formula, disinfectants and antiseptics that he carried to Poland for Ukrainian refugees.

BY RABBI MICHAEL CAHANA

Our rabbinic mission for Ukraine was called "Hineini" – "Here I Am," the biblical answer to G-d's call. Twenty-six Reform rabbis and cantors from across the United States and Israel traveled to Krakow, Poland, to answer the call of need.

Refugees of Putin's brutal war in their home country are streaming into Poland. More than three million refugees, almost all of them women and children, have arrived since the start of this war less than two months ago. Krakow alone, a city of 800,000, has absorbed 150,000 refugees. Yet, when you drive around the city, you see no bread lines. No one is sleeping on the street. There are no refugee camps. The people of Poland have opened their homes and their hearts to their neighbors to the east. They feel strongly the biblical commandment not to stand "idly by."

But the need is still great.

We came to Poland just before Pesach to work with the Jewish Community Centre of Krakow. Being the nearest city to Auschwitz, the Holocaust feels very present in Krakow. The JCC was founded in 2008 by England's Prince Charles in

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Seniors mark freedom at 2022 seder

Editor's Note: At the time of writing on April 16, there were approximately a dozen positive Covid cases reported at Cedar Sinai Park. Contact tracing determined that the seders were not the precipitating factor for the RSM and RJHC/HSCL positives.

BY SYDNEY CLEVINGER

The Passover holiday at Cedar Sinai Park was met with much excitement and wonder!

"This year, we were all together under one roof and it felt completely different than the last two years," said Rose Schnitzer Manor resident Sonia Liberman, 88. "This Passover felt like redemption, like we just came out of Egypt, but we emerged from coronavirus instead. It was like a beautiful tree flowering in springtime. It was wonderful."

Passover has long been a joyous tradition at Cedar Sinai Park, with families in previous years joining the weeks-long preparations of cleaning



Seniors celebrate Passover together at Rose Schnitzer Manor in 2022.

and matzah making, and multiple guests invited to first night seder dinner and other activities. But the Covid-19 pandemic meant Passover 2020

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Paul Margolis with his Leica.

Photographer to share impressions of Israel

Join Israel360 in person at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm, May 4, as documentary and fine art photographer Paul Margolis shares his stunning black-and-white exhibit of Jews, Christians and Muslims in Israel.

Israel360 is a series that considers many aspects of Israel. The May 4 program is co-sponsored by Israel360, Jewish National Fund USA and Nefesh B' Nefesh.

Margolis' photos of Israel show merchants, fishermen, rock festivals and other compelling scenes that capture the vibrancy of daily life in Israel. Margolis will share a PowerPoint of his work and conduct a Q and A about his use of black and white film rather than digital, his personal connection to Israel and his approach to documentary photography. He has exhibited his Israel images and presented the PowerPoint to audiences on the East and West Coasts, as well as in France and Israel.

A documentary and fine art photographer, as well as a writer, Margolis picked up his first camera at age 9. He has worked as an editor, teacher, photojournalist and commercial photographer. Largely self-taught as a photographer, he has an M.A. degree in teaching from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a B.A. in history from Bard College.

His subjects include people living on the margins of society, vanishing Americana, historic architecture and the vibrancy of life on the street. He uses traditional cameras in his work, and he still hand-processes and prints black and white film for the classic look that it gives.

His projects have included documenting the small Jewish communities of Cuba and Ireland, as well as Jewish poverty in New York City. He also did the photography for a historical guidebook to the Lower East Side of Manhattan that was published by Columbia University Press. Over the past four years, Margolis has been traveling to Israel to record everyday life there.

Vaccination required; masks optional. For more information and to register, visit nevehshalom.org/israel360/.

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Change the world and acquire peers, leadership skills & \$350

Want to change the world? If you are ages 20 to 24, the Jewish Federations of North America have just the program for you.

In 2020 a cohort of seven Portland-area young adults completed the three-week fellowship to become Jewish Changemakers.

"Not only is it a great opportunity to network with other young Jews across the country, but it's a great way to discuss topics and issues that interest you, and develop a sense of belonging within the broader Jewish community," says Melina Berber-Suarez, who was part of the Portland cohort.

She encourages her peers to check out this year's two sessions. Applications close May 20 for the undergraduate session June 13-30. Applications for those in grad school or post college close June 24 for that session July 25-Aug. 11.

The Jewish Changemakers Fellowship is a virtual leadership development experience for Jewish young adults that focuses on career development, making a difference in the community and connecting with peers. The program begins with a three-week intensive session. Changemakers alumni have access to ongoing opportunities for leadership, mentoring, career advancement and community engagement. Through the fellowship and alumni engagement, Changemakers grow their skills and contacts needed for success in a competitive job market.

Participants who achieve the program requirements of approximately 7-12 hours a week for three weeks earn a certificate of completion and a \$350 stipend.

"The Jewish Changemakers program definitely exceeded my expectations with as many amazing speakers and rabbis who came, and the different organizations and opportunities I did not realize were available amongst the Jewish world," said Portland participant Ezra Saville in 2020. "I signed up for Changemakers because I wanted to have an experience of learning from many amazing Jewish leaders within the global community focused on social change. Learning about these perspectives from a Jewish lens and context is important to me, as someone who sees social justice being part of my Jewish perspective, instead of separate from my Jewish identity."

Melina adds, "I decided to sign up for Changemakers because I thought it would be a great way to obtain leadership skills that are specific to being a young Jewish leader in this day and age."

Following the program, Melina made *aliyah* and is now a lone soldier (soldier with-



After Changemakers, Portlander Melina Berber-Suarez made *aliyah*. "I currently live in Israel, one of the world's most well-known places for conflict and clashing views. I find myself using a lot of what I learned from the program... I definitely feel that because I had a chance to participate in the Changemakers program, it helped me better understand what it means to take someone else's ideas into account," she says.

out immediate family in Israel) in the Israel Defense Forces. She says she referred a few of her friends to Changemakers and encourages other young adults to apply.

"I am currently serving in the combat search and rescue unit," writes Melina. "Although I face challenges every day and extremely miss my family and community, I feel very grateful I made the decision to serve in our homeland. ... I attribute a lot of my motivation and success to programs like these, my family/community and synagogue Beit Yosef. These are the things and people that truly helped me to become the Jewish changemaker I am."

For more information and to apply for one of this summer's sessions, visit jewishchangemakers.org.

JFCS honors survivors Eva and Les (z"l) Aigner

BY JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

Providing stability and hope. That is what Jewish Family & Child Service does for our Jewish and greater Portland communities via its four programs: Disability Support Services, Emergency Aid, Holocaust Survivor Services and Counseling.

"Jewish Family & Child Service is a community organization. We are here for the community, and we are strongest when the community is here for us," says Board President Larry Holzman.

On May 19, our community can ensure JFCS' strength. That date marks Sips & Sweets, the agency's annual fundraiser, honoring Eva and Leslie, z"l, Aigner; featuring Lisa Schroeder, Mother's Bistro & Bar founder and chef; and celebrating JFCS, its clients and its supporters.

Sips & Sweets is a hybrid event. People can choose to attend in person at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center or at home via livestream. The event is free, but registration is required and in-person seating is limited. Doors for the in-person event open at 7 pm, the livestream begins at 7:30 pm and the evening concludes at 8:30 pm.

Also featured during the event are an invocation by Shaarie Torah Rabbi Gary Oren; prerecorded remarks by Congress-

SIPS & SWEETS

What: Jewish Family & Child Service's annual fundraising event

Where: In person at the MJCC or online

When: 7 pm, May 19, online 7:30

Featuring: Honorees Eva and Les (z"l) Aigner, and Lisa Schroeder of Mother's Bistro & Bar

RSVP: While this is a no-cost event, registration is required by May 5. RSVP at jfcc-portland.org/sips-and-sweets-2022.

woman Suzanne Bonamici; red and white sips provided by Durant Vineyards, Stoller Family Estate and Brian Carter Cellars; and a variety of sweets by Century Catering.

Ken Klein of KleinFilms is producing a video that highlights Holocaust Survivor Eva, 85, and her late-husband, Les, who died in August 2021. The pair, who escaped Hungary in 1956 and made Portland their home beginning in 1957, spent decades speaking publicly both in and out of state about the Holocaust and the evil of hate. They also were instrumental in the 2004 construction of the Oregon Holocaust Memorial and the creation of legislation in 2019 that mandates Holocaust education in Oregon.

Eva – a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother – credits JFCS with the stability and hope she and Les experienced arriving in Portland in the late-1950s. They possessed few belongings, no English-language skills and precious little money.

"We truly had nothing but a change of underwear," says Eva, who has been a JFCS client for 65 years.

JFCS provided the young, traumatized couple with gently used clothing and household items to get a start in their small apartment.

"To the average person, it wouldn't mean that much," says Eva. "To us, it meant the world. Jewish Family & Child Service was always a godsend to us and a blessing."

JFCS is so grateful to Sips & Sweets presenting sponsors: The Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Family Fund of the OJCF, Jordan Schnitzer, The Holzman Foundation, Larry Holzman, Elayne and Len Shapiro, and Martha Soltesz.

Next year marks JFCS' 75th year! JFCS is seeking anecdotes about the agency since its founding in 1947, including how you may have benefited from our services. To share and possibly be featured in a video, contact Jenn Director Knudsen, JFCS communications manager, at jdirectorknudsen@jfcc-portland.org.



OREGON JEWISH MUSEUM AND
CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Join Us for Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day

MEMORIAL SERVICE

7pm, Wednesday, April 27

at Congregation Beth Israel with the participation of the Oregon Board of Rabbis, Holocaust survivors, and their descendants.

READING OF THE NAMES

10am - 5pm, Thursday, April 28

in Pioneer Courthouse Square, a public recitation of Holocaust victims' names, ages, and birthplaces read by community members and elected officials.

UKRAINE (continued from page 1)



Twenty-six Reform rabbis and cantors from across the United States and Israel traveled to Krakow, Poland, to bring assistance to Ukrainian refugees at the Krakow Jewish Community Centre. They returned to their communities to share the refugees' stories.

response to his meeting with several Polish Holocaust survivors. Since Poland's transition to democracy in 1989, there has been a resurgence of Jewish life, but care for the survivors has remained an important mission for the JCC.

However, since the war in Ukraine began, the JCC has remade itself into a social service organization providing direct services – food, clothing, housing – to refu-

gees and partnering with other nonprofits to be a frontline aid organization meeting refugees where they are and providing for their immediate and longer-term needs. As Jonathan Orenstein, the New York-born Executive Director of JCC Krakow, said to us about their new mission, "Because the world stood silent when we were in need, we cannot stand silent today."

My colleagues and I were there with two



Rabbi Cahana and his son, David Cahana, outside a humanitarian aid center near the Poland/Ukraine border.

purposes: to bring much needed supplies and funds, and to bring back our witness of the refugee crisis.

The mission was planned with little notice. In just the few weeks since I put out the call for supplies, we were overwhelmed with the response. We packed five large duffel bags with baby formula, disinfectants and antiseptics. I was able to carry about half of the total items donated. The rest were given to the local group [Positive Charge PDX](#), which shipped all of the items to Poland. Alaska and Lufthansa airlines generously waived any excess baggage fees. I also carried a check for over \$60,000 donated from across our community. Thank you to everyone who donated. Your generosity was echoed by communities from all across the U.S. Collectively our group brought some 2 tons of supplies and over \$750,000!

My adult son, David, joined us as well, bringing his professional experience working with the houseless here in Portland and in Ann Arbor, where he now lives. He also carried supplies donated by a Portland resident.

There is much to tell about the experience: The festive atmosphere at the border was



Donated clothing and toys are attractively displayed for refugees to find what they need.

Continued on next page

PSU events explore Polish Jews and Ukraine's history

This spring, the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at Portland State University planned two programs that offer a timely exploration of the Jews of Poland and the history of Ukraine.

Together, the events celebrate the release of the first English translation of Nobel-prize-winner Olga Tokarczuk's *The Books of Jacob*. This epic novel tells the story of Jacob Frank, a real-life messianic figure in 18th-century Poland, who led thousands of his Jewish followers into Catholic baptism.

"The book weaves together the lives of Poles and Jews, women and men, peasants and nobility, priests and rabbis, rulers and visionaries, in an unsettling tapestry of earthy beauty and poignancy. The landscape and history of Ukraine feature vividly in this brilliant narrative," says Michael Weingrad, Professor of Judaic Studies, Portland State University.

The exploration began on April 10, when Johns Hopkins University's Pawel Maciejko, an authority on the history of the 18th-century

Polish-Jewish religious leader, discussed "Jacob Frank in His Time and Ours." The event was the Judaic studies department's annual Lorry I. Lokey Program.

Next up is PSU's Sixth Annual Levy event on May 15 at 11 am on Zoom. PSU's Judaic studies program will host a worldwide discussion of the book. The event is called "Everybody Reads: Olga Tokarczuk's *The Books of Jacob*." Professor Weingrad will moderate a distinguish panel with Jennifer Croft (the book's translator), Haim Watzman and Bozena Shallcross.

According to the Guardian, "Tokarczuk is wrestling with the biggest philosophical themes: the purpose of life on Earth, the nature of religion, the possibility of redemption, the fraught and terrible history of eastern European Jewry. With its formidable insistence on rendering an alien world with as much detail as possible, the novel reminded me at times of *Paradise Lost*. The vividness with which it's done is amazing."

The Levy event is presented by PSU's Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies with the support of the Lawrence Levy and Pamela Lindholm-Levy Judaic Studies Programming Fund.

Registration is free at pdx.edu/judaic-studies/2022-levy-event



UKRAINE (continued from previous page)

palpable as volunteers from Poland, Israel and the U.S. rushed to greet each refugee family crossing into Poland. The mission was to bring them food, toys and transportation to one of several nearby humanitarian aid centers. There they registered and received donated items from around the world to serve their needs along with further transportation to wherever they wanted to go.

The most beautiful of these centers we toured was set up in an abandoned shopping mall in Krakow. There, volunteers of all nationalities sorted donations in the back. The front area where refugees entered was set up like any lovely department store – clothing on racks sorted by type and size, shoes filling shelves lining the wall, toys and baby supplies in bins within easy reach. There was a beautifully decorated and brightly lit play area for children and dressing rooms to try on clothes. The only things missing were cash registers. Refugees left with the things they needed and with their dignity. This, I thought, is how all aid for all refugees and for the houseless should be.

Also important was how lovingly and joyfully the volunteers from around the world went about their tasks. Young people from Israel dropped their busy lives and jumped

on a plane for the privilege of greeting refugees at the border. In classic Israeli fashion, they had the prime real estate for their welcoming tent – right at the border fence! I met a woman from Colorado who volunteered with a Norwegian group called “[A Drop in the Ocean](#).” We clergy from the United States helped host a pre-Passover seder with volunteers from Israel, Poland, Mexico and an Evangelical group from Canada who were helping refugees who wanted to make *aliyah* to Israel.

Most moving were our conversations with the refugees themselves. Among them was a young woman, Nastya Lasna, from the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv. Before the war, Nastya was preparing to open a vegan bakery, which sounded very Portland. As the Russian bombardment neared, she fled with her 5-year-old daughter, forced to leave her husband and parents behind and carrying no more than a single suitcase. She found her way to Krakow and is now working at the JCC, helping other refugees. Through tears, she told us of the first Shabbat she and her daughter celebrated at the JCC and how much it meant to hear her daughter laugh and sing for the first time since their ordeal.

Nastya comes from an Armenian and Jew-



Ukrainian Refugee Nastya Lasna with JCC Krakow Executive Director Jonathan Orenstein give a presentation to a group of Reform rabbis and cantors. Several days later, she and her parents were interviewed by the New York Times.

ish background. She said to us “this is the third genocide in my family.” But she is strong and confident, and with the help she has received she knows she will make a new life for her family in Krakow. Just after we left, we learned that her parents had escaped and joined her in time to celebrate the seder together at the JCC. “Once we were slaves, now we are free” must have resonated so strongly with their family.

We asked Nastya what message we could carry back to our U.S. communities. Without hesitating, she said, “Your help makes a difference. And now we know that we have friends.”



Thank You

to the over 800 donors to our special Ukraine Fund.
Together we raised \$390,000 for life-saving services for
those being impacted. Contributions can still be made at
www.jewishportland.org/ukraine-crisis

TOGETHERNESS & JOY (continued from page 1)

was spent with residents watching an online seder and eating a meal in their own rooms to ensure safety. For Passover 2021, residents at Rose Schnitzer Manor, Harold Schnitzer Center for Living, and Robison Jewish Health Center masked and gathered in nine different small dinner seatings over two days, with large plastic shields set on each table to separate everyone by six feet.

This year, there were no plastic table shields and no masks and no staggered seatings. Rose Schnitzer Manor residents sat in tables of fives and eights, and enjoyed a seder meal and service in person led by local singer-songwriters Amy Shapiro and Jeffrey Olenick. Residents at Harold Schnitzer Center for Living and Robison Jewish Health Center connected on Saturday, April 16, for their seder, led by Ronnie Schacter and Avrel Nudelman, O.D.

Families were not invited to join the festivities as a health precaution, but the boost in activities before and during Passover this year were a reassuring step toward pre-Covid times, said Cedar Sinai Park Spiritual Life Director Cathy Zheutlin. Residents were able to enjoy a *b'dikat chametz* the Thursday before Passover, searching for hidden leavened bread in the Manor kitchen, and a Friday Passover activity assembling seder plates.

Throughout Passover week, there were also music presen-



This year, seniors were able to resume the tradition of hunting for *chametz* before Pesach.

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SEDER 2020: With communal activities suspended during the coronavirus crisis, Amy Shapiro and Jeff Olenick recorded a video seder for CSP residents to enjoy in their rooms with the seder meal delivered to each resident.



SEDER 2021: CSP residents were separated by plastic panels at last year's seders. Nine small seders were held across the campus to permit social distancing.



SEDER 2022: This year Amy Shapiro and Jeff Olenick returned to CSP to lead an in-person seder in the dining room at Rose Schnitzer Manor. Two group seders were held on the senior living campus.

tations, movies and facilitated discussions open to all residents. Shabbat services on April 22 were led by Cedar Sinai Park's former Spiritual Life Director Jemi Mansfield. Jewish Educator and Cedar Sinai Park Board Member and Volunteer Eddy Shuldman was set to lead the final Passover Shabbat service and *Yizkor*.

"For those celebrating at their Rose Schnitzer Manor home, the traditions are in our bones," says Zheutlin. "Everyone Jewish grew up with the same stories and prayers and rituals, and the familiarity of them is comforting."

"Like many Jewish holidays,

Passover is about telling stories and challenging ourselves to make the world a better place," she adds. "There is a lot of room for conversation, self-reflection and thought about the state of the world, all while discussing the meaning and experience of freedom."

Liberman, a former Jewish day school educator who has lived at Rose Schnitzer Manor for eight years, says the Pesach from her childhood was the "most-happiest time of year" because she fondly remembers the "beautiful preparations" by her father, mother, grandmother and other relatives.

"I think the holiday Pesach

unites people and families more than any other Jewish holiday," she says. "We have to tell the story and feel free to express our thoughts and worship our religion. It's not easy to be a Jew in this world. But we persevere. We are the victors."

"Freedom does not come on a silver platter," adds Liberman. "We need to be watchful, speak up, and guard the freedoms we have. Judaism's message is that we should all remember our responsibility to keep our freedoms so there will never be slavery again for us, or for other people. All people deserve democracy, freedom, and compassion."

Genealogical society offers programs and resources

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon has a full calendar of monthly programs scheduled for 2022. JGSO is devoted to developing, preserving and distributing Jewish genealogical knowledge and materials to others who may be searching their Jewish roots.

May's program is Stolpersteine/Stumbling Stones: The Act of Remembering at 10:30 am, May 22, on Zoom. The free program will be led by Judy Vasos, a family historian who has been researching and recording family stories for 30 years.

Stolpersteine, Stumbling Stones and Stones of Remembrance refer to small plaques placed in the sidewalk in front of the last residence of choice of people who were deported and murdered by the Nazis. The inscription on the stone begins with "Here Lived" and follows with the name, date of birth, when and where deported, and date of death as a memorial for the person murdered. Initiated by artist Gunter Demning in Germany in 1996, now more than 70,000 stones have been placed in Europe and beyond.

The program will explore the history of the stones in Germany and Austria, the differences between German and Austrian stones, and how to honor a family member with a stone. Judy will show a short film, "From Nuremberg to Auschwitz," about her personal experience of having a stone laid in Germany.

Judy and her husband, Tony Baczewski, traveled to Nuremberg in 2015 to participate in the ceremony to honor Tony's maternal grandparents with the laying of a Stolpersteine. They also participated in a ceremony in 2018 for a stone placed in Vienna, Austria, for Tony's paternal grandmother. Judy is the author of *My Dear Good Rosi: Letters from Nazi-occu-*

pied Holland, 1940-1943, based on the letters Tony's maternal grandparents wrote from Amsterdam to their daughter, Rosi, in New York before their arrest and murder at Auschwitz. All JGSO events for the year currently are planned as virtual.

In addition to monthly programs, JGSO distributes emails about meetings, JGSO activities and other information of interest to Jewish genealogy researchers. Email Janice Sellers, JGSO President, at JGSOregon@gmail.com for a free subscription to the emails.

JGSO draws on print and electronic resources including those from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. One of JGSO's aims is to share resources, techniques and data for researching family histories, both locally and worldwide, with other individuals and genealogical organizations.

JGSO maintains a library at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. The holdings include more than 50 basic works about finding Jewish ancestors, newsletters from around the world, microfiche data published by Avotaynu, The International Journal of Jewish Genealogy and back issues of Avotaynu. Access to the library's resources is free. There are also 128 Yizkor books that can be accessed through the Portland State University library.

All online programs feature automatically transcribed closed captions. Register for the May 22 program on the JGSO website at sites.rootsweb.com/~orjgs/index.html. For membership questions, email JGSOregon@gmail.com. Members can receive help with genealogy research through the JGSO Help Desk at genportland972@gmail.com.

Events

See more local events at jewishportland.org/community-calendar

April 29-May 1: Portland Klezmer Festival

Bubbaville presents the inaugural Portland Klezmer Festival April 29 through May 1. Enjoy a weekend of concerts, workshops, dancing and communal music-making as we celebrate Eastern European Jewish music and culture. The festival will feature music by Midwood, Michelle Alany and the Mystics, Yankl Falk and Varda. Programs will be held in a variety of venues.

For a full schedule and performer profiles, visit bit.ly/pdxklezmer.

April 30: BB Camp's Second Century Bash

B'nai B'rith Camp's Second Century Bash on April 30 will be an enchanted evening of BB Camp memories and songs in person at the Loft in Portland and virtually from anywhere in the world.

It's too late to get tickets for the in-person black tie gala, but free virtual tickets are available by April 28 at bbcamp.org/bash.

April 30: Moishe House films for young adults

Portland's Moishe House is hosting a film series for young adults. The next film will be shown at the house on Portland's east side at 8 pm, April 30. For information on the next film or other programs, email moishehousepdx@gmail.com.

May 1: Yom Ha'atzmaut at the MJCC

Come out and celebrate Israel's 74th year of Independence 12:30-2 pm, May 1. Join in Israeli music, dance, crafts, food and more. Free. Israeli food will be available for purchase. The event features an incredible concert with the Israeli music cover band TLV. Info and registration at oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events.

May 1: Moishe Pod-West PDX live music

Young adults are invited to support live music with jazz quintet Cowboys & Frenchmen, led by Moishe Pod resident Owen Brod-

er. Enjoy the music and Portland's best pizza at The 1905. Shows start at 7:30 and 9:30 pm.

RSVP at moishepodwestpdx.com/events/cowboys-frenchmensches by April 30, and Moishe Pod West PDX will cover a portion of your ticket. For details, email moishepodwestpdx@gmail.com.

May 5: Film fest wraps up with "Romaniotes"

"Romaniotes," the final film in the 15th Annual Sephardic Film Series, will screen at 7 pm, May 5, at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 6686 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland. Films are followed by a guest speaker and Sephardic desserts.

The English-language film "Romaniotes" explores the distinct Greek-Jewish community of the city of Ioannina, with customs and traditions different from the Sephardi and Ashkenazi. Post-film discussion: Marcia Haddad Ikonopoulou, director of Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum, and Ethan Marcus, director of the Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood Foundation.

Admission is free. Registration and proof of vaccination required. [RSVPs](#) are required as space is limited. For information or registration information, email info@ahavathachim.com.

May 12: Hear GOP Gubernatorial Candidate

Learn where Christine Drazen, a Republican frontrunner in the race for governor, stands on the issues of importance to both the Jewish and general communities at noon, May 12, on Zoom.

On May 17, Oregon's registered voters will select the candidate that they believe should be their political party's candidate to run for governor in the general election. The Jewish Community Relations Council has hosted gubernatorial candidates – Democrats State Treasurer Tobias Read and former House Speaker Tina Kotek, and independent former Oregon State Senator Betsy Johnson.

You can [register](#) for the May 12 Zoom and watch recordings of the previous events at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-community-relations-council.

Solomon's Legacy looks at homelessness May 3

On May 3, Jewish legal professionals and students will explore "Homelessness: The Complex Legal and Moral Challenges for our city, state and country."

Solomon's Legacy Society is an affinity group of Jewish attorneys, judges and law students created by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. Solomon's Legacy is named for the late, longtime Oregon U.S. District Court Judge Gus Solomon, the first Jewish federal judge for Oregon, and for the biblical King Solomon, who was renowned as a wise judge.

Seeking wisdom on the challenging issue of homelessness, Solomon's Legacy will convene a panel to consider "What is our shared responsibility to one another?"

In January 2019, Multnomah County found 4,015 people experiencing homelessness. The number of unsheltered people – those living on the streets – was a record-high 2,037. Since Covid arrived, homeless populations have visibly increased. Numbers from this year's count, 2022 Point in Time, are expected to be released later this summer.

Governor Kate Brown recently told the



Above is one of many tent cities that line sidewalks and streets around Portland.

United in Spirit interfaith coalition focused on homelessness that she estimates there are about 16,000 unsheltered people in the State of Oregon. A lead organizer of United in Spirit, JFGP Community Relations Director Bob Horenstein, says about 10,000 of those unsheltered are believed to be in the greater metro area. Since it will take years to build enough affordable housing for that many people, shelters that provide safety, hygiene and services are currently a key priority.

This panel discussion brings together legal experts working in our community on one of the most complex and challenging issues of our time. The panel will be moderated by Solomon's Legacy Chair Marshal

Spector, who is an attorney with Gevurtz Menashe, and Professor Rebekah Hanley of the University of Oregon School of Law. Speakers will be attorney Marc Jolin, former head of the Joint Office of Homeless Services of the City of Portland and Multnomah County, and Ed Johnson, director of litigation at the Oregon Law Center.

The hybrid event will be available on Zoom and in person for a limited number of participants from 11:45 am-1:30 pm, May 3. Registration is required for the free event. Spector and his co-sponsoring attorney and mediator, Rob Shlachter, have donated a box lunch for in-person attendees.

Registration is available online at jewishportland.org/solomonslegacy.

It is *not* enough! Time to invest in clean energy

Melding Passover symbols and climate action, Jewish leaders from [Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action](https://dayenu.org) and Havurah Shalom's Climate Action Team and Portland Extinction Rebellion held up matzah and urged Chase Bank to 'move their dough' out of polluting fossil fuels.

"When we call on Chase Bank and other institutions with far too much power and far too much wealth, we do it from a place of deep recognition of the sacredness of all life everywhere," says Havurah Shalom Rabbi Benjamin Barnett.

Emphasizing the urgency of the moment and lifting up the symbols of Passover, community leaders condemned the plagues that "fossil fuel pharaohs" – coal, oil and gas companies – have inflicted on us.

"It's not just others who will suffer, it's all of us and our future that will drown," says Congregation Shir Tikvah Rabbi Ariel Stone. "We are all in this together! Pharaoh, let our planet go!"

Matzah, a symbol of freedom that the Israelites ate as they fled Egypt, represents the urgency of the moment.

"Like our biblical ancestors in Egypt, we cannot wait for the dough to rise, we must confront the climate crisis now," according to a press release from Dayenu. (The group takes its name from the seder song *Dayenu*, literally "It would have been enough.")

The action was part of Dayenu's broader



On April 22, dozens of Jewish climate activists and allies gathered in front of a downtown Portland Chase branch to demand Chase Bank end its investments in polluting fossil fuels.

All Our Might campaign, in which hundreds of American Jews nationwide demand that our country's largest financial institutions, as some of the top global investors in fossil fuels, take decisive action and fulfill their zero emissions commitments. The campaign calls for financial institutions to make bold investments in clean energy.

Dayenu's mission is to secure a just,

livable and sustainable world for all people for generations to come by building a multi-generational Jewish movement that confronts the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action. "Join us in saying: *Dayenu*: we have had enough! But we also have enough. We have what we need to transform our world."

For more information, visit dayenu.org.

Climate Corner

Jewish environmentalism has a long history

BY SARA SAFDIE

Happy Earth Month from the Climate Action Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland! We plan to share tips and resources for healing the Earth in a periodic Climate Corner in the Jewish Review.

Earth Day began on April 22, 1970, in response to Rachel Carson's best-selling book, *A Silent Spring*. Published in 1962, her book helped inspire the modern environmental movement. That first Earth Day led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air Act; two years later, the Clean Water Act; and the next year, the Endangered Species Act.

In recent years, more than a billion people have participated in Earth Day globally. All of this has been a great start, but we need to do much, much more to combat climate change.

There is a long history of Jewish environmentalism. This year, for example, is a *shmita* year, a once-every-seven-year event – a Shabbat for the land, including observing social justice. In Deuteronomy, there is the concept of *ba'al taschit*, an injunction against waste, which states that if one besieges a city in war “you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them, for you may eat from them, but you shall not cut them down.” In the 19th century, Rabbi Samson Rafael Hirsch stated that “*lo taschit*,” do not destroy, “is the most comprehensive warning to human beings not to misuse the position that God has given them as masters of the world and its matter through capricious, passionate or merely

thoughtless wasteful destruction of anything on Earth.”

We hope our committee is following in this long tradition.

We also have the Talmudic story of Honi, a man who plants a carob tree, telling a stranger that it will take 70 years to bear fruit. When asked why he is doing this even though he won't see the fruit in his lifetime, he states “I found carob trees in the world; as my forefathers planted these for me, so I, too, plant these for my children.” Just so, we are working to preserve a livable Earth for those who follow us.

Our committee would like readers to let us know how we can help you be a better steward of our land. What would you like to know more about that you can do to further *lo taschit*? In other words, what would you like to see us address or provide more information about in this Climate Corner?

You can send your suggestions or questions to Rachel Nelson at the Federation (rachel@jewishportland.org). We will do our best to come up with answers to your queries. You may also contact Rachel with questions about the Climate Action Committee or getting involved with its subcommittees (Legislative and Interfaith Work; Education: preschool-12th grade; and Community Engagement and Programming), or if you'd like to attend a committee meeting. We look forward to your questions and welcome all new members.

Sara Safdie is a member of the Climate Action Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. The 2-year-old group is committed to the important work of tikkun olam, healing the Earth.

Gather hard-to-recycle items for May 15 event

If your spring cleaning turns up a broken blender or an old cassette collection from college, don't toss that stuff in the trash. Those disposable finds may be recyclable at the James Recycling Drop Off Event at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center on May 15, between 10 am and 12:30 pm. The event is hosted by the Climate Action Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

Materials being collected include hard-to-recycle items, such as:

- Plastics #1 PET clamshells and other clear, #1 plastic items
- Plastics #2, 4, 5, 6
- Styrofoam blocks or sheets, including packing peanuts, cups, meat trays and egg cartons
- Plastic utensils, straws, bread clips
- Plastic screw-on caps
- CD and cassette tape cases
- Empty contact lens blister packs (foil removed)
- Empty tape dispensers
- Small appliances less than 30 pounds
- Laptops, desk towers and other small electronic items
- Power cords
- Holiday/string lights
- Cell phones, battery chargers, batteries and other accessories.



A detailed, visual list of what will be accepted at the event can be found at jshrecycling.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Event-List-Updated-June-2021.pdf. Items that can be put into curbside recycling bins will not be accepted. For details on what goes into curbside recycling, go to jshrecycling.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/curbside.pdf.

Please do not bring squishy foam, pet food bags, #5 bags or cello-

phane-type bags. Also, no TVs, microwaves, computer monitors, printers or vacuum cleaners.

All items must be clean, dry and sorted, and bags of recyclables should be labeled with the recycling number for quick identification. To learn how to sort items properly, watch this short video: jshrecycling.com/recycling-drop-off-event/.

The cost to recycle each grocery bag or 5-gallon container of sorted plastics is \$3; recycling Styrofoam costs \$3 per 39-gallon garbage bag. Payments will be accepted in cash at the event or online at jshrecycling.com/make-a-payment/.

Two local, eco-friendly companies also will have products for sale at the event. Simple Sundries offers cleaning and personal care products packaged in reclaimed and refillable containers. The company also will be collecting used plastic pumps. Oki Doki creates bags made from used billboard materials.

There is no drop-off of bags from vehicles. Event-goers should expect a wait as they transition between recycling stations and may find it easier to cart recyclables in wagons or bring a friend along to help with the load.

The event will be managed by James Harris, 24, and his mom, Kathi Goldman. With help from Denton Plastics, Agilyx Corp., a Metro grant and a crew of volunteers and staff, the duo have been in the recycling business for seven years. Not only does James Recycling offer monthly drop-off events, the company also provides a weekly pick-up service that complements curbside recycling in some Portland neighborhoods.



Recycle items such as these at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center on May 15.

Chaplain's Corner

What Really Counts?

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Have you noticed how obsessed our nation is with counting? We are always counting something, and usually the results of the counting are stressful, anxiety-inducing or even dire.

Political polls are reported almost daily: approval ratings, the likelihood of re-election, proposed numbers of Senate and House of Representatives seats, predictions on legislative votes.

We count the temperature of the Earth and levels of carbon dioxide and nitrogen. We count the quality of the air. We count the predicted number of hurricanes.

We count our cholesterol, blood pressure and O₂ levels.

We count speed limits and drive past radar detectors that count how fast we are going. We count how long it will take to get from place to place. For reimbursement, we count the miles we drive for work.

We count the number of hours we work, and even break these hours into categories and sub-categories. We count overtime, sick time, maternity leave, paternity leave and vacation days.

We count to evaluate our budgets. We count the cost of college, levels of financial aid and potential scholarships. We count what we must pay for our mortgages or rent. We count what we contribute to retirement accounts. We count how much money is in our investments, and how it is distributed.

We count our Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. We count inflation rates. We count how long we will have to work until we can retire with some sense of comfort.

We count the number of shootings and overdoses. We count the number of Ukrainians murdered by Russians. We count Covid infections and deaths. We count the number of houseless in Portland.

I could go on. This only scratches the surface of what we count each and every day. We seem hardwired to count. At times, I find this overwhelming.

As I write these words, I am even counting the minutes I have left to submit my column, because it is Friday, and I am working on deadline.

As a people, we just began a different kind of



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

chaplain@jewishportland.org

counting. We count the number of days in between Passover and Shavuot. We thus link our freedom from Egyptian slavery to our accepting the covenant at Mt. Sinai. In all, we will count 49 days until sundown, June 4, when Shavuot begins.

This kind of counting is healthy, because it offers relief from the stressful, anxiety-inducing or even dire counting of our daily lives.

Within the covenant is the gift of Shabbat. From sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, we have a day that could be completely free of counting. At its best, Shabbat is not a conventional block of time. Shabbat is not about doing but about being. Shabbat is not about accomplishing but about experiencing.

I do my best, every week, to try to create boundaries around Shabbat and block out of my mind any kind of counting. I acknowledge that for many of us, we cannot experience Shabbat from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. In that case, we can create boundaries around a different day. A running joke in the congregational rabbinate is that Shabbat is a workday. A rabbi's true Shabbat is her or his "day off."

As we count the days in between Passover and Shavuot, we are reminded of the gift of Shabbat. We are taught to keep our urge to count in a healthy way. Let's learn to count in a healthy way.

Finally, if we have to count, let's remember what truly counts in our lives: quality relationships, health, values, physical and mental capabilities, opportunities to fulfill our potential and moments when we transform our world into a sacred place.

Jobs board

JEWISH CAREER HUB

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's job board for the ongoing listing of job opportunities in the Jewish community currently features 24 Jewish job openings. See all of the openings at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs.

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| Issue date | Deadline |
|------------|----------|
| May 11 | May 5 |
| May 25 | May 19 |
| June 8 | June 2 |
| June 22 | June 16 |

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

Rabbi's Corner

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

Agency Column: OJMCHE



The City of Portland donated the land for the Memorial in Washington Park.



The Oregon Holocaust Memorial, dedicated Aug. 29, 2004, serves as a permanent reminder of the Holocaust – the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews and millions of others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators 1933-1945.

Memory demands we raise our voices

BY JUDY MARGLES

Yom HaShoah, the Jewish Remembrance Day that memorializes the millions of victims of persecution and mass murder during the Holocaust, begins at sundown on Wednesday, April 27, 2022. In Israel, air raid sirens will blow throughout the country, announcing two minutes of silence, during which Israeli Jews stand silently in place – traffic stops, pedestrians stop and all stay quiet to remember the dead.

Here in Portland – as in Jewish communities around the world – we will gather to read the names of the men, women and children confirmed to have died at the hands of Nazi Germany and its European collaborators between 1933 and 1945. There is no definitive list of those who perished. The list we read here in Portland comprises names archived at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust remembrance center in Jerusalem.

Memory, remembering and memorializing have always been central to Jewish identity. During the annual holiday celebration of Passover, which ended last week, we remember the Exodus from Egypt; at Shavuot in mid-June, we will remember the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Jews have a 4,000-year history, and we continue to survive, in part, by remembering our history through these narratives. Remembering the Holocaust has become yet another traditional way to save history from oblivion.

The genocide of European Jewry succeeded in part because of the state-sanctioned ideology of hate, the teaching of contempt and the demonizing of the other. The Holocaust did not begin in the gas chambers – as has been said many times, it began with words. What began as the catastrophic effects of racism are now the chilling facts of history.

Last month brought us news of the bombing of the Babi Yar memorial in Kyiv, causing the deaths of five Ukrainians. This awful news resonated with Jewish memory in an especially difficult way. In September 1941, Nazis massacred nearly 34,000 Jews over a 36-hour period at Babi Yar; in 1941 and 1943, between 70,000 and 100,000 people, including nearly all of Kyiv's Jewish population, were destroyed.

Recent atrocities in Bucha, Ukraine, are tragically reminiscent

YOM HASHOAH 2022

Service: Wednesday, April 27, 7 pm, at
Congregation Beth Israel

Reading of the Names: Thursday, April 28,
10 am-5 pm, at Pioneer Courthouse Square

*Sponsored by the Oregon Jewish Museum and
Center for Holocaust Education, Congregation
Beth Israel and the Oregon Board of Rabbis.*

of Nazi *Einsatzgruppen* (roving killing squads) who carried out the so-called “Holocaust by bullets,” in a Blitzkrieg across the Ukrainian countryside.

The utter magnitude of the Holocaust shook the very foundations of modern civilization. Moreover, as we sadly know, genocide continues elsewhere in the world to the present day. In our interconnected world, how might remembering this atrocity contribute to our understanding of our responsibility to one another? At the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, we study the Holocaust to examine our connections to each other. We study the Holocaust to sustain the memory of millions whose murders silenced their human voices, in the name of inhuman hatred. Such remembrance bears witness to the destruction of European Jewry and demands that we raise an obligatory moral and political voice against contemporary acts of racism, injustice and cruelty – wherever and whenever they occur.

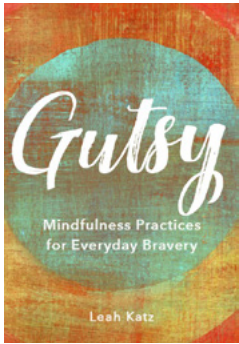
At Yom HaShoah – 77 years after the liberation of Jews and others – we hold the memory of six million Jewish victims and millions of other victims of the Holocaust in our hearts. On this day, we honor survivors both locally and everywhere on our precious, endangered planet.

Judy Margles is the Director of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

New book is *Gutsy* Obituaries

Submit to: editor@jewishportland.org

Gutsy: Mindfulness Practices for Everyday Bravery by Portland clinical psychologist Leah Katz, Ph.D., will be on bookshelves May 3.



"I started writing *Gutsy* a few years ago, long before the world was turned topsy-turvy by Covid," says Dr. Katz. "I set out to write this book to help others get unstuck, discover

er and connect to what is most meaningful to them in life. It is inspired by the work that I do as a clinical psychologist, as well as from my own personal story."

Originally from New York, Dr. Katz completed her doctoral training at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology. She draws on her training as a psychologist and her experience leaving an ultra-Orthodox Jewish culture to offer tools and insights for getting "unstuck" from society's unrealistic and often harmful expectations for women. She is now a member of Congregation Ahavath Achim, a Sephardic congregation, and is participating in the 20-member Portland cohort of the Wexner Heritage Program, in which participants study Judaism and leadership for two years.

"Western society too often trains women out of feeling innately confident in who we are and in the wisdom we hold inside. Instead, we are handed down a set of expectations about our bodies, our disposition, our religious identification, our sexual orientation, our mothering and our career choices," according to the back cover of her book. "By learning to identify what is holding us back, and adopting a mindset of joy, gratitude, and resilience, we can fulfill our dreams – and, really, fulfill ourselves. It's time to get gutsy and create the rich, vibrant life we have always wanted."

Dr. Katz uses a hybrid of cognitive-behavioral, ACT and mindfulness techniques in her therapy work. She has gone on several mindfulness retreats and incorporates mindfulness concepts into her practice.

She frequently writes for *Psychology Today*, but *Gutsy* is her first book. She shares daily mental health-related tips and insights on her website, drleahkatz.com, and on instagram, [instagram.com/dr.leahkatz/](https://www.instagram.com/dr.leahkatz/).

Published by Broadleaf Publishers, *Gutsy* will be available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Target and all other major book retailers. Locally, it also will be carried by Powell's, Annie Bloom's and Broadway Books.

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NORMAN WAPNICK

Norman Wapnick, z"l, passed away April 23, 2022. He is loved by his wife, Susan Wapnick; his daughters, Janice (Mike) Shainsky, Karen (Joel) Salzberg and Cindy (Paul, z"l) Buker; his siblings, Kay (Julian) Kien and Helene (Bob) Sokolsky, z"l; his grandchildren, Jen and Beth Salzberg, Steven (Kayla) and Charlie Buker, Sam (Blair) and Zack Shainsky; and his great-grandchild, Syllas Shainsky.

He was a longtime member and past-president of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

A memorial service will be held at 11 am, April 27, at Congregation Neveh Shalom in the Stampfer Chapel.

CRAIG ABRAHAM

Craig Abraham, z"l, passed away April 23, 2022. Craig is loved and remembered by his wife, Kathy Abraham; daughters, Melissa (Dan) Rubin and Holly Abraham (Robbie Long); and grandchildren, Jack and Leo Rubin, and Nya and Robbie Long Jr.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends its deepest condolences to the extended Rubin/Abraham/Long family.

PETER WOLLSTEIN

Peter Wollstein, z"l, passed away in Los Angeles at age 88. He was a longtime member of Congregation Neveh Shalom. Pete is loved and remembered by his wife, Judith Geller Wollstein; daughter, Linda (Brent Kruschevsky) Wollstein; son, Bruce (Barbara) Wollstein; grandchildren, Elizabeth (David) Lohrmeyer, Katherine Wollstein, Joann (Patrick) Corrigan, Brandon Bieber and Samantha (Kayla) Bieber; and great-grandchildren, Samuel, Kristen and Rebecca Lohrmeyer and Quinn, Liam and Evan Corrigan.

The funeral was held in Portland April 24 at Neveh Zedek Cemetery.

DONNA WINKLER

Donna Winkler, z"l, (Deborah bat Chonie v'Naomi) passed away April 13, 2022, at the age of 89. She is survived by her children, Erik (Annette Dempsey) Richmond, Michael (Sue) Richmond, Kimberly (Mike) Reynolds, and Merrill (Mary) Richmond; her grandchildren, Grace, Owen, Emily (Andy), David (Annie), Leslie (David), Sean (Christy) and Ben; and her great-grandchildren, Jonah, Louis, Madison, Olivia and Nathaniel.

Donna was surrounded by family and loved ones at the time of death. The funeral was April 15 at Shaarie Torah Cemetery.

The family suggests donations to the American Red Cross, where Donna was a Super Volunteer.

SUSAN WOLFF DESMOND

Susan (Susie) Wolff Desmond, z"l, passed away on April 11, 2022. Susie was survived by her husband, Thomas Desmond; her son, Joel Lavin (Anna Spickerman), and daughter, Emilie Bennett (Andre Bennett); her grandchildren, Lila and Solomon Lavin and Nina and Ava Bennett; and her brother, George Wolff (Karen Wolff).

A celebration of Susie's life and a brunch reception will be held on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 11 am at Congregation Beth Israel, 1972 NW Flanders St. All are welcome.

Donations in Susie's memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Association and to Maple Creek Miniature Schnauzer Rescue.

KAREN FISHEL

Karen Fishel, z"l, passed away March 1, 2022. She is survived by her brother, Brad Fishel (Susan); her nephews, Simon (Shannon) and Noah Fishel; her grandnieces, Nora and Quinn Fishel; her cousins, Barb Lovre, Julie Leuvrey, Dan Saltzman, Jeff Saltzman, Bernie Druck, Jackie Druck, and Peggy Spott; her sisters-of-the-heart, Barb Attridge, Tami French, Sandra Etlinger and Linda Schaefer; and by multitudes of other friends who loved her dearly.

Karen was born in Portland on March 28, 1948. She grew up at Congregation Beth Israel. Karen was a longtime supporter of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

Early in her career, Karen worked at Nike, but her passion for helping others less fortunate soon took her to the nonprofit sector, serving on boards and fundraising for various causes. The ultimate expression of her life's passion was co-founding Dress for Success Oregon in 1998 with her good friend, Barb Attridge. As co-founder of Dress for Success Oregon, Karen devoted herself to creating a space where women could redefine themselves, emerge from poverty or addiction or abuse, gain self-confidence and self-worth, and fulfill their dreams of success.

Karen raised significant funding for Dress for Success. In 2016, she was honored with the Portland First Citizen Award with Barb Attridge for founding Dress for Success.

In addition to Dress for Success, Karen sought to have a meaningful impact on our community, particularly helping women and children, and animals. Her beloved Tibetan Terriers, Acey and Archie, filled her life with joy and connection.

The perfect tribute to celebrate Karen's life – a fundraising event in her honor for a cause she loved – will be at the annual Dress for Success gala May 13. To attend or make a donation in Karen's honor, visit avstream.me/celebratesuccess.