

The JEWISH REVIEW

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Educators: Battle is between extremists and moderates

BY DEBORAH MOON

Two integrated educational programs in Israel shared views on the lingering impact 11 days of fierce fighting between Israel and Hamas will have on those working for a shared society. Despite the ceasefire, the unrest on both sides continues.

Hand in Hand, which serves more than 2,000 students (60% Arab and 40% Jewish) in its schools, offered a briefing May 20, just hours before Israel and Hamas agreed to the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire. Dror Israel, which works to create a just and equal society through formal and informal education, held a briefing May 19.

"Many people see it as a struggle between Jews and Arabs," said Hand in Hand CEO Dani Elazar. "I describe it as a struggle between extremist groups – on both sides, Arabs and Jews – and moderates. ... Between the

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Students, staff and families at Hand in Hand schools work for equality and a shared society for all Israeli citizens. The seven Hand in Hand schools offer a fully integrated educational framework for Arabs and Jews from preschool through grade 12.

"I describe it as a struggle between ... the extremists trying to tear society apart and Jews and Arabs who believe in a shared society."
~ Dani Elazar, CEO of Hand in Hand

Rachel Nelson to receive Rogoway Award



Eliana Temkin, right, makes a surprise home presentation of the Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award to Rachel Nelson.

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award will be presented formally to Rachel Nelson at the 101st Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

Following Laurie's retirement from 30-year-plus career as a Jewish communal professional, Federation created this award to honor her dedication to community and passion for Jewish life. The award recognizes a mid-career professional at Jewish communal organization in Greater Portland.

"I've known Laurie most of my life," says Rachel, a Portland native, who worked with Laurie at Federation in 2013-14. "It's such an inspiration to get an award named after someone who gave so much to our community."

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Shaarie Torah hires Rabbi Oren

BY DEBORAH MOON

Congregation Shaarie Torah has hired Rabbi Gary Ezra Oren to serve as the Conservative congregation's senior rabbi beginning July 1, 2021.

Rabbi Oren will become the 10th rabbi to serve the congregation since it was founded in 1905. He succeeds Rabbi Joshua Rose, who announced in January 2020 that he planned to conclude his role as Shaarie Torah rabbi in June of 2021.

Ordained in 2008 from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Rabbi Oren has led two large congregations in southern California, was executive director of Hillel in San Diego, and during the pandemic has served as a hospital chaplain in San Diego. Previously he was vice president of community engagement at American Jewish University/Dean of the Whizin Center for Continuing Education and was on the faculty at Ziegler.

"I was drawn to CST because of the size and potential of the congregation," says Rabbi Oren. "I served two very large synagogues, where it was difficult for me to know all of the congregants. I thrive on relationships, and CST was the both the right size to know the community personally plus has the ability to welcome in some new folks."

He adds that during the interview process he discovered, "The leadership and community members were incredibly thoughtful and kind. In the world we live in, kindness is no small thing. I believe our tradition is all about growing our souls in order to reflect goodness and godliness into our communities."

The rabbi says moving to Portland is also a draw. The family has vacationed here twice visiting sister-in-law Emly Oren, who was a founding resident of the Moishe House in SE Portland.

"Rabbi Oren was a standout among the 10-plus candidates we looked at over the course of the many months of this national search," says CST President Daniel Petcher. "All those involved – the search



Rabbi Gary Ezra Oren and his family, from left: son, Nadav, 12; wife, Sharone; and daughters, Kiwi, 14, and Ya'ara, 17.

committee, the board, the staff and the many affinity groups – feel like we found a very special rabbi who is just the right spiritual leader for our shul. ... Rabbi Oren is a person of depth and decency. In other words, a mensch."

That sentiment was echoed by Anne LeVant Prah, who chaired the rabbinical search committee, which comprised 13 members representing the wide range of ages, stages and interests of the congregation.

"He felt very haimish (warm)," says Anne, noting he is very people-centered and connects well with young and old congregants alike and everyone in between. "He is really perfect for us."

Rabbi Oren's willingness to try new things combined with his firm grounding in halacha and Torah make him perfect for the congregation's embrace of both tradition and modern facets of Judaism, Anne says.

"At the Ziegler School, I was taught to think critically and really search for the underlying values that animate our Torah and tradition," says Rabbi Oren. "I was taught that mastering our ancient sources is only one part of the process. ... It is our job to apply the wisdom of our tradition to real environments in order to become God's partners in continuing the work of creation."

Zeigler was created to train a new generation of Conservative rabbis to address the spiritual needs of a changing North American Jewry. According to

its website, the rabbinic program is dedicated to training Conservative rabbis who are not only deeply versed in Jewish texts and committed to Jewish traditional practice, but who can transmit the beauty and richness of Judaism to others.

"I love that CST has a long history of independence," says the rabbi. "I feel that CST is ready to exercise that independence to create a laboratory of Jewish living in which we experiment with all kinds of new modes of learning and praying. I know that the framework of traditional Judaism creates lives of meaning and purpose. I hope to expand how folks experience the wisdom of our tradition in ways that they may have not yet encountered."

The rabbi was also impressed that the leadership of the shul made sure young people were part of the process.

"I believe that our Torah must be a Torah Chayim – a guide to real life – and that the wisdom gleaned from our ancient texts must manifest in the public square," he says. "I can't wait to begin learning and getting active with the CST community."

Rabbi Oren will move to Portland in July, with his family following in stages. In the fall, his daughter, Kinkajou (Kiwi), 14, will join him to start high school, likely the Metropolitan Learning Center. His wife, Sharone, and son Nadav, 12, will stay in San Diego until daughter, Ya'ara, 17, graduates from high school next spring.



Dignity Grows gets grant, plans pack

Dignity Grows, Inc., has awarded three chapters including Portland a grant to purchase menstrual supplies for Dignity Grows Totes. Dignity Totes hold a month's supply of sanitary pads and tampons, toothpaste and a toothbrush, a bar of soap, deodorant and shampoo.

Women's Philanthropy of Greater Portland created the 15th chapter of Dignity Grows, a national nonprofit launched by the federation system's National Women's Philanthropy. Chapters provide monthly personal and menstrual hygiene products to women, girls and individuals assigned female at birth who cannot afford them.

Among the first new chapters across the country, Portland, Hartford and Phoenix were selected to receive a portion of the national organization's generous @thepadproject grant. The three chapters also were selected because they represent regionally diverse areas.

On June 27, volunteers will gather to pack Dignity Totes for Outside In. (Two shifts 12:30-1:30 and 2-3 pm). Registration and masks will be required.

"Our focus for this pack being the first that is open outside of Chapter members is to educate as many people as possible about Dignity Grows – who we are, period poverty, and ways to get involved and spread the word," says Wendy Kahn, the Campaign and Women's Philanthropy Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

To learn more or volunteer – men and volunteers of all ages are welcome – email Wendy at wendy@jewishportland.org or visit jewishportland.org/dignitygrows.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

**A VISION FOR OUR
SECOND CENTURY**



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PORTLAND

JOIN US MONDAY, JUNE 14TH AT 4:30
PM ON ZOOM

REGISTER TODAY:

WWW.JEWISHPORTLAND.ORG/ANNUALMEETING

Women fund connections

The Women's Giving Circle of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland granted \$26,000 to nine organizations to fund programs and initiatives that focus on women and girls, justice and Jewish continuity (see list below). (Women and girls refers to all cisgender women and girls, transgender women and girls, and non-binary people who are comfortable in female-centered spaces.)

The circle's 2021-2022 grant-making cycle was its fourth year of grant giving. In its first three years, the giving circle awarded 18 grants totaling \$60,465, which included a single grant of \$18,000 last year to the Jewish Greater Portland Together COVID-19 Relief Fund after the pandemic struck.

Women's Giving Circle is chaired by Felicia Rosenthal and Jessica Zutz Hilbert and is staffed by JFGP Campaign and Women's Philanthropy Director Wendy Kahn, who also participates in the Giving Circle.

"We feel like our entire Giving Circle navigated the uncertainty around the year with poise, grace and a whole lot of fun," says Jess.

The 17 women met virtually several times to review, discuss and fund a diverse array of grants for upcoming programming. They navigated the changing landscape of the past year, which continued to evolve between February, when proposals were submitted, and May, when deliberations and decisions were made. Felicia and Jess both say the women were impressed with the thoughtfulness around COVID protocols that each of the programs proposed to be ready for either in-person or virtual programming depending on conditions at the time of the program.

"We were blown away by all the stories shared with us during our conversations with grant applicants as to how they ever so creatively pivoted to function throughout the pandemic," says Felicia. She adds that applicants had also put a

"These grant proposals are from the community, by the community and for the community."

**~ Jessica Zutz Hilbert,
Giving Circle co-chair**

great deal of thought "into the type of programming that will most benefit their participants as we all make our way out of social distancing limitations and back into group happenings."

As it did its first two years, the circle funded the Oregon Hillel Women's Retreat. This year, Hillel held a virtual retreat but hopes to have the retreat onsite at BB Camp this coming year. Other programs funded for 2021-22 are designed to bring people together in a post-COVID world.

"I believe everyone is focused on community building, re-emerging and reconnecting," says Wendy.

The circle also provided funds for two performance pieces.

"We funded the performance pieces because of the 'woman's narrative,'" says Wendy. "Each program had a strong female representation and brings women's voices into the public arena utilizing different artistic mediums. We are thrilled to be able to be part of these artistic endeavors."

The nine programs all seem likely to occur as limitations ease and as we become re-acquainted with in-person experiences.

"We are probably most proud that these grant proposals that we received are from the community, by the community and for the community," says Jess. "We know our dollars are going to be super impactful in getting these projects off the ground, and we are sincerely looking forward to watching that happen."

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE GRANTS



Jennifer Gwartz in "Kol b'Isha." Photo by Chelsea Petrakis.

Hand2Mouth \$1,000

Provide seed money. Program still in development. Support to develop "Girls in Trouble: The Musical." This evening-length theatrical project is based around Alicia Jo Rabins' indie-folk song cycle, Girls in Trouble, a series of songs about stories of women in the Torah.

The Alberta Shul \$3,600

General support for planning innovative and creative events for eastside, underserved young adult Jews with a social justice lens.

Oregon NCSY \$2,500

Big Sister, Little Sister program at Camp Kesher with a focus on connecting and reconnecting post-pandemic/in-person and rebuilding community.

Chabad Jewish Center Hillsboro \$3,600

Support for Jewish Women's Weekly Club & Rosh Hodesh, which is the only source of Jewish connection in this geographical area of greater Portland.

Congregation Shir Tikvah \$2,000

General support sponsor of "Kol b' Isha," performance of an original work by dancer Jennifer Gwartz. The piece is a meditation on the older female voice, visibility and silences through a dance-based exploration of Jewish female modesty practices.

TischPDX \$5,000

General support for Jewish Leadership Incubator program that trains and empowers younger Jews (approx. ages 22-44) who feel marginalized from the Jewish community to re-envision themselves as leaders in our community.

The Oregon Hillel Foundation \$ 5,000

Fund annual Women's Retreat with the University of Oregon, Oregon State University and PDX Hillel Campuses.

Mittleman Jewish Community Center \$1,500

Initiate a program called "From Antiquity to Today: Are we our mothers' daughters?" for the Russian community.

Congregation Neveh Shalom \$1,800

Launch Women, Wisdom & Whiskey. A new program modeled on the successful "Dad's Night Out." The focus will be to partner with female clergy throughout Greater Portland to for a monthly one-hour social and learning opportunity that will be open community-wide.

Maayan Torah hires principal, two more

Maayan Torah Jewish Day School has hired three new leaders – General Studies Principal Darcie Young, Director of Early Learning Lindsey Voorhees and Elementary Judaics Teacher Ela O'Connor – to move the school to “an even better and brighter Maayan.” The trio are joining the school over the summer to help the school transition for a strong start to next year.

Earlier this year, Maayan Torah founding general studies principal Aviel Brodtkin announced her plans to go on leave effective June 30 (jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/maayan-torah-principal-plans-leave).

Darcie Young comes to Maayan from her role as the middle school principal at Politz Hebrew Day School in Cherry Hill, N.J. She has more than 20 years in teaching and a master's in educational leadership. Darcie has a passion for building relationships with her staff, students and families. As an ever-growing educator, she has recently trained in many areas including “On Your Feet in ELA: Standards-Based Learning that Engages” and “Scaffolding: Making Complex Tasks for All Students.” With a forte in technology integration, she is a Google-certified educator.



Having spent six years working in Politz, she understands and is familiar with many Jewish values and observances. She completed Yad Vashem's Graduate Seminar “Teaching the Holocaust” in Jerusalem. Darcie is the mother of two boys, who are both now in university. Her move to Oregon is part of her husband's professional relocation to the area. She exudes a deep desire to help each student feel like a capable learner and precious gem.

Lindsey Voorhees has more than a decade of experience in early childhood development. She will oversee the Early Childhood Education department and act as a learning specialist for kindergarten to second grade.



Lindsey comes to Maayan with years of classroom and director experience. Most recently, she served as head of school for Guidepost Montessori. Her expertise in early learning literacy will bridge students' learning from ECE into elementary school.

Lindsey is also a trained postpartum doula and former foster parent. She is passionate in her pursuit to ensure each child has a joyful start to their education career.

Currently living in Denver, Ela O'Connor brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Judaic classroom. The O'Connors are no strangers to the Pacific Northwest having lived in Seattle and were a part of the Seattle Kollel. Ela began her teaching in Torah Day School of Seattle while she was living there. She brings a passion for student engagement techniques and differentiated instruction. She will be teaching Judaics at Maayan in the middle elementary grades.



Ted Coonfield, left, and Dan Johnson unveil the bench they made to honor the work of MJCC staff during the pandemic.

Artists fete MJCC staff

A new lovingly crafted bench outside the weight room at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center is dedicated to the staff for doing “some heavy lifting” during the pandemic.

MJCC member and woodworker Ted Coonfield teamed up with Multnomah Village metalworker Dan Johnson to create the tribute bench featuring 25 pound weights forming the bench ends.

The bench sits outside the weightroom with a plaque that reads: *This bench is dedicated to the Staff of the MJCC for their tireless effort, time and energy to remain open when allowed during the pandemic and ensuring a safe environment for members. With appreciation for doing some heavy lifting.*

Ted has been a member of the J off and on for decades for a total of about 18 years. He didn't have time to visit the J while he was traveling extensively for his management consulting business and work at Kitty Hawk Air-cargo in Dallas, Texas. Ted and his wife, Meg Nightingale, have stayed in Oregon throughout the years while he commuted. Since Ted retired a few years ago, he has exercised at the MJCC almost daily (with interruptions during the pandemic).

Dan is facilities manager for Central Auto Body shops, but his passion is his Multnomah Village artistic metal shop, Laughing Dog Forge.



The two artisans met when Ted walked past Dan's shop shortly before the pandemic began. Dan called out to compliment Ted on his Pendleton jacket, and the two started to chat about their respective passions.

“I need to work with my hands ... and Dan is so talented,” says Ted. “He welds and shapes metal, and he makes me look good.”

“It's evolved,” says Ted of the partnership that has engaged the two during COVID shutdowns. “We've gotten more creative over time. I do the wood, and he does the metal.”

The two don't sell their joint art projects, they give their “priceless” creations to honor the recipients. One went to Dan Nitti, former director of Neighborhood House where Ted has served on the board.

When Ted went to the J to work out recently, he saw two women sitting on the bench. He was delighted when one of the women called the bench “functional art.”

“I like the term – I am a functional artist,” says Ted.

SHARED ISRAEL (continued from page 1)

extremists trying to tear society apart and Jews and Arabs who believe in a shared society.”

Elazar said what has been most alarming about the most recent violent outbreak is “the extremist mobs walking through the streets and wanting to attack. This was shocking for us; this never (has) happened in Israel between citizens.”

Hand in Hand Community Department Director Mohamad Marzouk is one of the founders of the Wadi Ara School, which his children have attended. He said his adult daughter, who is studying at university, felt endangered from both sides. “She was very afraid because of the missiles that came to Tel Aviv ... and because of a lot of calls from Jewish young people to go up to the street and look for Arabs.”

Marzouk said that Hand in Hand and other social structures “need to show a different model that is possible – that’s what we do in our daily work with the communities and schools.” He added, “The majority of Arabs and Jews in the country want to have a normal life to see that a different thing is possible.”

Of the some 250 people who logged on for the update, many were from Portland. Hand in Hand cofounder Lee Gordon lives in Portland, and the American Friends of Hand in Hand is headquartered here.

During the 11 days of fighting, more than 4,300 rockets were fired at Israel from Gaza, killing 12 people. The Israeli aerial and artillery campaign killed more than 230 people in Gaza, many of them civilians.

The ceasefire between Hamas



Dror Israel held a briefing about the Israeli-Hamas conflict May 19. Gilad Perry, top left in screenshot, has visited Portland to share Dror Israel's work. Dror Israel's mission is to educate and empower young people and those on the social and geographic periphery to actively contribute to their communities and to create a shared society in Israel. Through schools for youth at risk, Jewish-Arab programs, the youth movement, educational workshops, intentional community projects and national social justice initiatives, they inspire inclusivity, equality and responsibility for oneself and one's community.

and Israel has paused formal hostilities, but even after the rockets and airstrikes stopped, unrest continues in the streets.

During the Dror Israel update, one speaker concurred with Elazar's alarm over the street violence: “What is even more worrying and disturbing is the parallel violence and riots between Jews and Arabs on the streets of Israel – mainly in the mixed cities and towns.” Those are the kinds of towns where Dror Israel's 1,300 trained educators proudly work on cooperation among Jews and Arabs through youth movements, schools and programming. “This situation unfortunately

has changed dramatically over the last few days.”

Gilad Perry, who helped found Kibbutz Eshbal, part of the Dror Israel Movement, has visited Portland in the past to share the movement's work to create partnerships between Jews and Arabs.

During the update, Perry said, “We are doing this for I think now two decades. We literally see our efforts, our work go up in flames these days.” He says his “horrific fear is that the majority of people – both Arabs and Jews within Israel, citizens who are striving to create a common ground in this society – these moderate forces, com-

passionate forces will despair and will give up.”

“I think these days leave terrible scars,” he said. “Once ended, I am sure people will have to deal with deep issues to get Israel in the place it should be and can be – what we've dedicated our lives to.”

You can see the recorded briefings from Hand in Hand at handinhandk12.org/current-events-update-may-2021/ and from Dror Israel at vimeo.com/552989240 (password: may_update_2021).

You can read more about Dror Israel at drorisrael.org. Read more about Hand in Hand at handinhandk12.org/.

ChaiLight Talks kick off with rescheduled "Life After COVID"

Originally scheduled for April 26, the inaugural ChaiLight Talks: 18 minutes of inspiration will air on Zoom June 9 at 2 pm PDT. Life After COVID, the initial offering of the series, will come from three of today's great Judaic thought leaders: Rabbi Dr. Laibl Wolf, Dr. Naftali Loewenthal and Rabbi Mendel Kalmenson.

This program will be accessible by viewers throughout the English-speaking world. The target audience is anyone worldwide who seeks a new approach to viewing the world as it will become.

As we begin to emerge from the COVID pandemic, how do we prepare ourselves for the future? This critical question, as well as

others – what have we learned, what will be the new normal, what does Jewish thought teach us, how do we grow from it--will be addressed in a heartening program of hope and inspiration.

Program director Rabbi Moshe Wilhelm is the Spiritual Leader and Executive Director of Chabad of Oregon. He is the author of *248 Points of Light*.

The inaugural program will be moderated by Jewish Federation of Greater Portland President and CEO Marc Blattner.

Register for the free program at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-06KYyQT5GAOIR-Anj9sg

AWARD (continued from page 1)

Rachel is JFGP's director of educational initiatives & intergroup outreach. Her role includes convening local Jewish educators, managing the local PJ Library program and overseeing the Intergroup Outreach committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

Rogoway Award Committee Chair Eliana Temkin says this year's nominees included an impressive group of professionals.

"Other people were close, but Rachel has done an incredible amount of interesting, innovative work," says Eliana, who was working at the MJCC when she first met Rachel as a young girl. "We've seen her really develop and grow, and (we've seen) her willingness to try new things and take on new stuff."

Community members letters highlight some of Rachel's innovative work and willingness to take on new challenges:

- Rachel was an exemplary professional pre-COVID, advocating on behalf of the Jewish community, Jewish educators and Jewish families with her myriad hats. During the Covid pandemic, Rachel has taken it upon herself to run the complex array of technological processes that are required for running large-scale webinars, webinars with government officials, with educators and with many allies telling their own stories of combating bigotry and racism. Rachel has given our community the gift of her expanding radius of talents in arenas that were far beyond her stated job description. ~ Sarah Rohr, who worked as an intern for Rachel last year.

- Rachel facilitated our JCRC-Latino Network dialogue, which took place over several weeks and has led to an important connection with the fastest growing community in Oregon. She has also been instrumental in planning an exciting joint project with the NAACP (United in Spirit). ~ JCRC Director Bob Horenstein.

- Under her leadership, the volunteer-based Intergroup Outreach Committee fostered new

JFGP 101ST ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, June 14, 2021

4:30 pm via Zoom

jewishportland.org/jewish-federation-of-greater-portlands-101st-annual-meeting

relationships with ethnic- and religious-based communities. New relationships were forged and others nurtured such as those with LGBTQ+, LatinX, Church of Latter Day Saints, Black, Catholic. Rachel has been instrumental in the Intergroup Outreach Committee's creation and launch of a webinar series on Uncovering the Hidden History of Hate in Oregon and the half-day (May 26) summit to confront hate. ~ Michelle Bombet Minch, JCRC.

- Her respectful leadership style brings diverse and strongly opinionated members (of the Outreach Committee) to productive discussion and solutions. Rachel's deep love and understanding of Judaism is an extra bonus. ~ Randi Peterson, past chair of JCRC.

- I have watched Rachel's journey in the Jewish professional world for the past 15 years, working both in state and out of state in the fields of formal and informal Jewish education as a teacher and administrator. Rachel keeps her fingers on the pulse of national Jewish education initiatives and connects our Portland community to them. ~ Mel Berwin, Neveh Shalom director of congregational learning.

The award includes up to \$1,800 for a professional development experience, something Rachel is sure to use to maximum benefit for the community. She currently participates in the Mandel Teacher Education Institute and the Israel Policy Forum Conveners Program.

"I love this community, I grew up in this community," says Rachel. "I am so happy to be working in, and able to give back to, this community."

FUTURE STAFFING PLANS FOR THE KOLLEL

Rabbi Chanan Spivak - Rosh Kollel & CEO

- Halachic Questions (including Mikvah related questions); Uplift of Elder; Liaison with Federation on Mikvah; Further Availability for Personal Guidance; Partial Community Boards

Rabbi Boruch Diskind - Chief Operating Officer

- Executive Decisions on Kollel Direction; Programming Lead; Partial Community Boards

Rabbi Tzvi Fischer

- Oregon Kosher



Rabbi Chanan Spivak, who will lead the Portland Kollel after the Fischers' departure, presented a "glance" at the future of the Kollel during a community Zoom meeting May 24.

Kollel looks to future

The Portland Kollel plans to continue to build a strong Torah community and to enhance community engagement even as founding Rosh Kollel Rabbi Tzvi Fischer leaves next month (jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/kollels-fischers-to-move).

Rabbi Chanan Spivak, who will step up to lead the Kollel, emphasized that the plans he shared May 24 had been in the works for more than six months. Kollel leadership has been meeting to consider "What is Kollel going to look like after COVID?"

Rabbi Spivak said the Kollel wants to live up to its tagline to help people "discover their Jewish connection."

When the Kollel launched in

2006, about 70% of its effort was to engage the community.

"Most of our resources are being sought after from people wanting to grow," he said, adding the Kollel meets people where they are, from beginners to scholars.

For now, Rabbi Fischer will continue to lead Oregon Kosher with Rabbi Tuvia Berzow. Rabbi Baruch Diskind will serve as COO of the Kollel, with Rabbi Spivak as CEO and Rosh Kollel.

The Kollel plans to hire four couples to focus on Torah community and later to hire a fifth "power couple" focused on outreach and engagement.

The goal is to "strengthen within and build without," says Rabbi Spivak.

portlandkollel.org



JFCS annual meeting honors Renée Holzman

Carol Danish, long-time Jewish Family & Child Service supporter, presents flowers to Renée Holzman, her dear friend and this year's JFCS honoree. Carol shared her appreciation for and admiration of Renée in brief remarks, broadcast during JFCS' recent unLuncheon event – "Hope, Healing & Looking Ahead" – showcasing the social-service agency's four programs with a particular emphasis this year on children's mental health. This message was further emphasized during a conversation between JFCS President Larry Holzman, his mother, Renée, and JFCS Advisory Council member Carolyn Weinstein. Photo by Jenn Director Knudsen.

Chaplain's Corner

The Power of Cemetery Visits

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

I do not have many memories of Memorial Day from my childhood in Memphis. It was little more than a three-day weekend and a reminder that summer was drawing near. Conceptually, I learned that the day was dedicated to remembering and honoring those in the U.S. military who died in active service. However, my family had no tradition of visiting cemeteries and placing flags at the graves of those who died while defending our nation. In addition, we have no tradition of military service. My father may have served in the Korean War, but he was stationed in England.

I plan on devoting time and energy this year not only to reflect with gratitude on those who lost their lives in military service, but to visit cemeteries to honor members of our Jewish community. In general, Judaism has a rich tradition of visiting the graves of family and friends. We are encouraged to visit in the days leading up to the High Holidays in addition to our loved ones' *yahrzeit*, the anniversary of their death.

I have always enjoyed walking through cemeteries. I do not find it to be morbid but rather therapeutic on multiple levels. Cemeteries are places of sacred history. I try to imagine the people behind the names (whether Hebrew, Yiddish or English) along with their ages and particular symbols or photographs. I am also intrigued by their epitaphs.

All of the content on head-

stones or markers reveals how the deceased and their families want to be remembered.

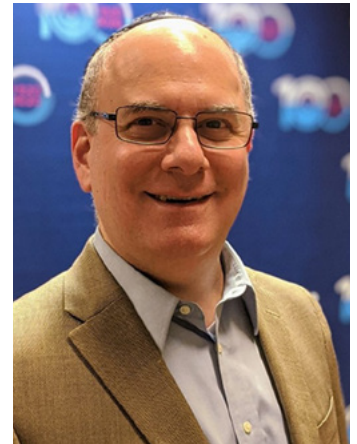
I find that my visits to cemeteries keep my life in perspective. I feel more balanced. These visits remind me how little time we have. Some of us live into our 90s; some of us die within days. Through my cemetery visits, I experience gratitude that I am even alive.

As we observe Memorial Day 2021, let me ask: How do you want to be remembered? What will be your legacy? What stories do you want to be shared about you? If you could distill your life into an epitaph, what would it be?

When I visit cemeteries, I reflect on my own death: the setting, whether I want to be alone or with others, where I prefer it will take place.

Of note, I am learning that more and more people I interact with are choosing to be cremated, and they have no preference about what their loved ones will do with their cremains. I struggle with this. I believe there is meaning and purpose to being buried in a cemetery, if possible, in a family plot. If we choose not to be buried in a cemetery or in a place where others can visit, we do a disservice to anyone who wants to remember us. There is power behind making a personal visit to the location where family and friends are buried or interred.

Through a formal visit, we have a structured way to recall memories and mark the times we shared with family and friends – whether joyous or tragic, transcendent or painful.



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

If we are comfortable, we can use these visits as a time to talk with our loved ones, share recent experiences or even visit the past to ask for or grant forgiveness. Visits to cemeteries can be a chance to ensure that the legacy of family and friends remains vibrant. These visits are opportunities to heal.

The older I get, the more I learn how little control I have over life. In that spirit, I embrace opportunities to control what I can. Visiting cemeteries provides opportunities to be grateful for my existence and grateful for those who made me who I am. These visits also encourage me to hold fast to the positive memories of family and friends and to do my best to let go of the painful past.

Though everyone is complicated, nuanced and contradictory, I have to believe that we can preserve part of their legacy to make our world a bit healthier and more peaceful.

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Upcoming issues

Issue date	Deadline
June 9	June 3
June 23	June 17
July 7	June 30
July 21	July 15

Submit news, photos
and obituaries by the
issue deadline 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. The Oregon Board of Rabbis organized the project.

Rabbis are invited to schedule a date to submit a 500- to 600-word piece. For more information, email editor@jewishportland.org.

Jobs board

The Jewish Review publishes job openings from Jewish agencies and congregations. Submit to: editor@jewishportland.org.

CEDAR SINAI PARK: Executive Assistant to CEO

Full time. Comprehensive benefit package includes 403b matching retirement plan.

Cedar Sinai Park offers great working conditions, friendly coworkers and welcoming residents. In addition, CSP offers fulfilling work, career growth and the satisfaction of knowing that you've made a difference. All eligible employees are able to receive medical, dental and vision benefits and paid holidays.

The Executive Assistant to the CEO's primary responsibility is to manage the day-to-day business activities of the CEO. This position handles confidential information with discretion; prioritizes and handles internal and external correspondence; screens incoming calls in the most professional manner; schedules meetings and maintains a daily and long-term calendar; coordinates Board meetings and materials preparation; makes all necessary travel arrangements; creates and maintains comprehensive filing systems; handles all CEO-related incoming and outgoing mail; and maintains coordination of all internal and external board participation activities. Available for flexible hours based on the needs of the job and the CEO.

Full post/application: cedarsinai.org/careers-in-healthcare/.

TIVNU: Gap Year Resident Advisor & Mentor

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

B'NAI B'RITH CAMP: Asst. Director of Programs

Full time. Salary: \$35,000-40,000 DOE plus benefits.

Location: B'nai B'rith Camp Office, Portland.

B'nai B'rith Camp seeks a dynamic, experienced assistant director of programs to help in creating a vibrant Jewish community through program innovation, development and implementation. The position focuses on building on programs BB Camp is currently implementing along with creating new opportunities for people to join the BB Camp community.

The assistant director of programs will include camper recruitment, hiring and supervising BB Camp program summer staff, day-to-day summer camp program, budget development and management, and planning for improvements and growth. The position is also responsible for the development, execution and logistic implementation of current and new family camps, family programs and new camp initiatives.

See the full job description at bbcamp.org/employment/.

Submit a cover letter and resume to Overnight Camp Director Bette Amir-Brownstein at bamirbrownstein@bbcamp.org.

Summer Camp Staff in Lincoln City

In addition to the full-time job based in Portland, BB Camp is hiring staff for this summer at BB Camp near Lincoln City. Open positions include counselors, aquatics specialists (certification course provided), Jewish educator, kitchen staff, music specialists, office manager, outdoors/nature specialists, performing arts specialists, zip line/ropes course/rock climbing specialists (certification course provided) and BB Day Camp Lincoln City director. For more information and/or to apply, contact Bette at info@bbcamp.org.



Residents celebrate Shavuot in the Goodman Living Room at CSP.

CSP residents enjoy Shavuot in person

Residents at Cedar Sinai Park enjoyed gathering in person for the Shavuot holiday. The culinary department treated everyone on the senior living campus to blintzes and cheesecake.

Residents of Robison and the Harold Schnitzer Center for Living enjoyed a special Shavuot celebration with prayers, songs, storytelling and a ritual that honored the value of being kind to ourselves and others.

Residents at Rose Schnitzer Manor enjoyed a learning fair, Erev Shavuot Services led by Spiritual Life Coordinator Cathy Zheutlin and a Yizkor Service led by volunteer Eddy Shuldman.

"I felt grateful to be able to teach in person," says Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen. "The consensus among the group was that it was surreal and amazing to interact face-to-face, not trapped in a two-dimensional computer screen."

Rabbi Cohen led a session on "Sacred (Virtual) Occasion: How we Overcame COVID." Other classes included "Food Hunger and Lust" with Lani Raider; "Writing your Ethical Will" with Laura Fendel, "Multi-media



Diane Budner looks at the Shavuot collage residents created during the Shavuot Learning Fair at Rose Schnitzer Manor.

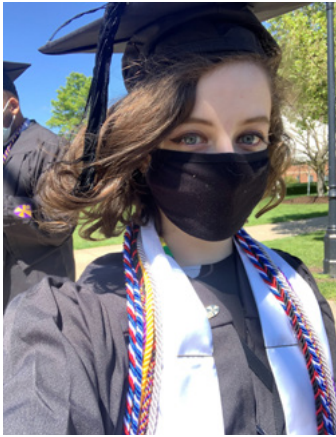
Shavuot Art" with Rabbi Sarah Rensin, "Ten Commandments" with Cathy Zheutlin and "Universal Themes of Judaism; The Story of Ruth" with Sonia Liberman.

"Sonia Liberman lives here," says Cathy. "She has been a Jewish educator all her life. I consider her one of my mentors. Her contributions to Jewish life at CSP are invaluable."

Life-cycle events

The Jewish Review publishes life-cycle announcements such as births, b'nai mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and landmark birthdays.

Submit to editor@jewishportland.org



GRADUATION Mickey Benson

Mickey Benson, daughter of Portlanders Barry and Karla Benson, graduated with honors from Albion College, Albion, Mich., May 8, 2021. Mickey was a religious studies major with a concentration in public policy from the Gerald Ford Institute with a minor in history. Mickey was awarded the Religious Studies DeVinney Family Endowed Prize for

outstanding student. She was president of Jewish education and outreach for Hillel. She also served on the President's Advisory for Intercultural Affairs and was the Umbrella Council Liaison.

Mickey is an Ezra Fellow and will be at Binghamton University, Binghamton, N.Y., for the next two years working with Hillel students.

The family are members of Congregation Shaarie Torah.

May 27: Parenting Unvaccinated Kids in a Post-Vaccine World

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Jewish Family & Child Service invite parents to Parenting Unvaccinated Kids in a Post-Vaccine World. The free Zoom program is 8 pm, May 27.

Parents are invited to hear from Dr. Erika Meyer from Metropolitan Pediatrics; Dinah Gilburd, LCSW, from JFCS; and Rabbi Eve Posen as they break down what life looks like when parents are vaccinated and children are not able to be.

www.jewishportland.org/parenting-unvaccinated-kids-in-a-post-vaccine-world

Obituaries

RAYMOND V. PACKOUZ

Ray Packouz, z"l, passed away May 18, 2021. Ray is survived by his children, Carol Spellman, Nancy Sharff and Ron Packouz. His son Ken preceded him in death in 2019.

He was born July 13, 1921, to Max and Nettie Packouz in Portland. He graduated from Washington High School and attended the University of Oregon, where he was senior class president. Immediately after graduation, he went to Midshipman School and was commissioned as an ensign. He served on the USS Chickasaw in the South Pacific during the last two years of World War II. After the war ended, he returned to Portland and married Dorothy Light, z"l. They were blessed with 72 years of marriage, four children and 42 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He and his father, Max, founded Packouz Insurance Agency. He was an avid sports fan and loved the Blazers and the Ducks (his license plate was "42 Ducks"). Ray was active in the Jewish community, served on several boards and championed many charitable causes. He was a strong, independent man with a love of life and an amazing sense of humor and wit. He will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Robison Jewish Home (Cedar Sinai Park) or Oregon Food Bank.

RICARDO BERDICHEVSKY

Ricardo Berdichevsky, z"l, passed away May 19, 2021, at the age of 67.

Ricardo is loved and remembered by his wife, Rosana; their children, David (Stephanie) Berdichevsky and Michal Berdichevsky; grandchildren Jacob and Eden Berdichevsky; and brother, Mario (Rosie) Berdichevsky.

A private interment is scheduled with Zoom shiva minyans May 20, 23 and 24. Contact Congregation Neveh Shalom for links.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends our deepest condolences to the extended Berdichevsky family.

LILY FLOOM

Lily Floom, z"l, passed away peacefully in her home in Israel surrounded by loved ones April 29, 2021. She is survived by her children, Noma (David), Jay (Sue), Tobin (Mary) and Perri (Kobi); 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many, many friends.

Lily was born Oct. 16, 1927, in Winnipeg, Canada, and moved with her husband, Harold, to Portland soon after they were married. She had an amazing career selling furniture at JCPenney's and was very involved in founding Hillel Academy Jewish school (predecessor to Portland Jewish Academy) as one of the first presidents.

She was also involved with Hadassah and loved to volunteer to help others.

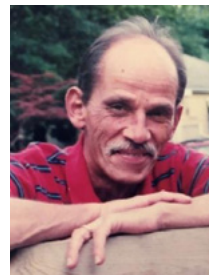
She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Harold. After her husband passed, she moved to Israel to be with her two daughters and enjoyed the last few years with them and their families and making new friends. Lily made everyone feel special and loved; she will be so missed. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the FIDF – Friends of the IDF.

RON OVERLUND

Ronald Edwin Overlund, z"l, 70, of Portland, passed away April 23, 2021, at his home after bravely enduring treatment for stomach cancer.

Ron is survived by his wife, Cori; son, Benjamin; sisters, Patty Overlund and Carol Mitchell; nephews, Bree Cuppoletti and Patrick Obrien; niece, Kim Timm; and many cousins.

Ron and his wife, Cori, had Ron's Center Deli at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center for 12 years. Ron was born June 7, 1950, in Silverton, Ore. He married Cori Lebenzon in 1986. Their son Benjamin was born in 1991. Ron worked at New Season's Market the last 14 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Leona Overlund; his daughter, Maggie Overlund; and his sister, Kathy Cuppoletti. Ron gave us much to laugh about and to be grateful for, and we will celebrate him every day. A gathering will be held later this summer.



SUBMISSIONS

Submit obituaries to: editor@jewishportland.org.

Obituaries are posted online as they are received at: jewishportland.org/obituaries.

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