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Professor Len Saxe from the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University presents the results of the 2022-23 Greater Portland Jewish Community Study at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 103rd Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 6, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland. The study, the most comprehensive survey of Portland's Jewish community ever prepared, will be released today. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

## THE ANSWERS ARE IN

Community Study shows growth, highlights opportunities

By ROCKNE ROLL

There was much to celebrate at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 103rd annual meeting Tuesday, June 6 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. But the most anticipated event of the evening wasn't the Rogoway award presentation (see page 4), the announcement of this year's Sussman Scholars (page 5) or even the election of three new members of the Federation board (page 7).

Instead, an evening's worth of anticipation – really, a year's worth – crested when Brandeis University Professor Len Saxe from the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies stepped forward to present the results of the much-anticipated 2022-23 Greater Portland Jewish Community

Study.

Saxe set the tone for the evening by recounting the census of the Israelite community documented in the Torah and speaking to the underlying purpose of the study.

"I'm going to give you a lot of facts and figures," he said, "but what we should really be thinking about is how we can use this to make a better, stronger community."

As for the size of that community, Saxe said the survey concluded that there are 56,600 Jews in the Portland area, with 11,500 of those being children. This compares to approximately 40,000 recorded in the 2009 community study and

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# Agency Spotlight

*This is the last of the Jewish Review's profiles on each of the 18 local beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 2022 Annual Campaign.*



Above: Participants in a women's art event at Chabad Jewish Center of Hillsboro display their work. (Courtesy Chabad Jewish Center of Hillsboro) Below: Chabad's location on SE Brockwood Ave. in Hillsboro. (Deborah Moon/The Jewish Review)



## Chabad of Hillsboro

[www.ChabadH.com](http://www.ChabadH.com) | 503-747-5363

**AREA OF SERVICE:** Community center with Sunday school, synagogue services, adult education, women's club, teen and senior events, and holiday celebrations.

**2022 ALLOCATION:** \$7,920

**SERVICES:** Chabad Jewish Center of Hillsboro is a place where every Jewish person is welcome – regardless of affiliation or level of knowledge. Our sole purpose is to create a warm and welcoming environment to explore and experience our heritage in a nonjudgmental and inviting atmosphere. Young and old regardless of their background, level of observance or affiliation can enhance their awareness of the Jewish faith and its traditions.

Since arriving in Oregon in 2007, Rabbi Menachem and Chaya Rivkin have been building Jewish connections and community in Hillsboro, as well as Jews in the surrounding areas including Aloha, Bethany and Forest Grove.

"We care about each individual," says Rabbi Rivkin. "No membership needed. If you are Jewish and live in the area, you are a member."

The Chabad Jewish Center of Hillsboro has acquired additional property next to the current center and plans to develop the new space over the coming year to expand its programs.

Intergenerational connections are an important component of many programs. The center's senior and teen clubs gather bi-monthly for fun activities, food, good conversation and inspiration.

The women's club also incorporates intergenerational opportunities with teens joining the women for many programs.

"We've decorated tambourines, baked a variety of baked goods, made shofars, and made Etrog jam and Havdalah spice ... and more,"

according to Chaya Rivkin. "Teens and women have been enjoying these evenings tremendously, and the teens have been forming meaningful relationships with the women."

A b'nai mitzvah club for boys and girls ages 11 to 13 meets on Sunday mornings. Learning, coaching younger kids, baking and crafting instill Jewish pride and love as they transition from kids to teens.

"It means a lot to us that the Federation recognizes and values the importance of having and supporting a Jewish Center on the west side of Portland," says Rabbi Rivkin. "It's not about the amount, (it's less than 2% of our budget). It's about the recognition of the importance of our mission and contribution to the community."

The Center has many volunteer opportunities: helping in the growing Hebrew School, deliveries and visits to local seniors, and helping with landscaping and outdoor projects. For more information, email [ChabadHillsboro@gmail.com](mailto:ChabadHillsboro@gmail.com).



## "Girls In Trouble" stage shows set for June 17-18

Alicia Jo Rabins, a writer, musician, performance artist and Jewish educator known for her work "A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff," is debuting her latest project "Girls In Trouble: A Feminist Mystery Play" in two work-in-progress shows at the CoHo Theater in Portland Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18. Each show begins at 7:30 pm.

Rabins' new production, funded by grants from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Women's Giving Circle, is an expansion of her collections of songs about the matriarchs of the Torah. With folk, bluegrass and klezmer influences, Rabins' songs come alive on stage as she weaves her own stories into those of the historic female figures of Judaism and uses her biblical knowledge to explore these stories in new ways. The songs appear on three albums; "Girls In Trouble," "Half You Half Me" and "Open The Ground." Rabins has also assembled a scriptural study curriculum centered on the songs' subjects.

The upcoming live shows will feature actors Tricia Castaneda-Guevara, Erin Leddy and Robin McAlpine, musicians Rachel Brashear, Matt Mayhall and Bryn Roberts, sets and costumes by Cynthia Star and animations by Zak Margolis.

Tickets are available on a \$10-25 sliding scale at [girlsintrouble.brownpapertickets.com](http://girlsintrouble.brownpapertickets.com). Space is limited.



# 2022-23 GREATER PORTLAND JEWISH COMMUNITY STUDY

## READ FULL REPORTS HERE

[WWW.JEWISHPORTLAND.ORG/COMMUNITYSTUDY](http://WWW.JEWISHPORTLAND.ORG/COMMUNITYSTUDY)



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER PORTLAND



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MODERN JEWISH STUDIES  
STEINHARDT SOCIAL  
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# Let's Celebrate: The What and Why of Israeli Folk Dancing

By SUE WENDEL

Thanks to a grant received by the Jewish Federation of Great Portland we'll dance together to celebrate over 50 years of Israeli folk dancing in Portland and Israel at 75 on Saturday June 24 from 4 – 10 pm at the Multnomah Arts Center.

Israeli folk dancing is an enjoyable social and recreational activity that brings people together, is good for your health – body, brain, and spirit. Learning dances gives one a sense of accomplishment, as the catchy tunes and rhythms move you along. The lyrics tell a story; some based on biblical or religious writings, others on the land and life. And we dance while enjoying an Israeli cultural tradition that has spread world-wide. What better way to celebrate Israel at 75 than through dance? Portland has a unique Israeli folk dance community that has existed for over 50 years. Many of the original dancers from 1972 still dance today! We have friendships that have flourished, dancers who have met and married, and now even dance with their own children in classes and at the weekly sessions.

There are interesting historical and cultural details about Israeli dance. Dancing is referenced in the bible (sorry, no dance step notations found), and as the Jewish people dispersed throughout the world, communities adopted dance styles from the areas they lived, such as in the Middle East, Western and Eastern Europe, and Mediterranean and Asian cultures to name a few. They danced at lifecycle celebrations and religious observances or just to unwind after a day of work on the kibbutz.

As circle, line, and couples' dances were created in the new nation of Israel, one can hear and see the characteristic styles of many groups, such as Hassidic, Yemenite, Kurdish,

and Ethiopian. Many of the dances also have movements borrowed from ballet, jazz, modern; and newer dances are even influenced by hip-hop and Western line dance. One of the best resources about the history of Israeli dance is "Seeing Israeli and Jewish Dance," edited by Judith Brin Ingber. It is loaded with archival pictures and essays from founding choreographers and dance historians from all over the world.

As Israeli folk dancing spread over the shores to America and throughout the world, it formally arrived in Portland in 1972 when the MJCC held its first dance class taught by Marna Kleinman. Even before that Bill Nelson was teaching Israeli folk dances at Reed College and running a session in Washington Park. Since then, there's been an unbroken chain of leaders who teach and run weekly sessions in the Portland metro area – something to celebrate for sure. See a history on PIFD News at [sites.google.com/site/pidfnews](https://sites.google.com/site/pidfnews).

Back in 1972, I was a shy senior in high school. Learning to dance with Marna opened the world for me. I danced in the performing group she started, and when Marna left for California to study, I took over leading the performing group and her weekly session held at the MJCC. I began teaching a beginner's class too, where I met my future husband. The whole experience brought me out of my shell, and I've had the love and joy of dance ever since. You can find more stories about other dancers in "Why We Dance" on the PIFD News website.

Here in Portland, new dancers can join a beginner's class, returning dancers (think of good times dancing at summer camp or in college) can

See **DANCING**, page 13



Alisha Babbstein, left, is applauded as she is announced as the winner of the Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award Tuesday, June 6, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

## Babbstein 'motivated' by Rogoway Award nod

By DEBORAH MOON

Alisha Babbstein received the Laurie Rogoway Outstanding Jewish Professional Award during the 103rd annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

Babbstein is the archivist for the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, which she initially joined as an intern nine years ago. The sense of welcome and belonging inspired her to stay.

"Alisha is the model museum professional, an archivist who we need to support the stories of our Jewish community and to preserve the history of Jewish Portland and beyond," said Rogoway Committee Chair Jodi Fried in presenting the award.

Babbstein wants to use the \$1,800 stipend for professional development to expand her expertise in digitization work and research, and to learn about digital exhibition curation and creation.

"By developing my skills in this area, I hope to be able to create more compelling and impactful digital exhibitions that can help to broaden the reach and impact of our work," says Babbstein.

Babbstein says she is both humbled and honored that museum co-workers nominated her for the award. "Their recognition and support serve as a great reminder of the value and significance of the work I do in the archives."

Calling the recognition "a testament to the collaborative spirit that exists within our team here at OJMCHE," Babbstein says the

See **ROGOWAY**, page 16

# Four high school grads to receive Sussman college grants

By DEBORAH MOON

Four Portland-area teens – Shayah Kosak, Eylah Mitchell, Talia Wexler and Ruthie Zeidman – have been awarded a Sussman scholarship of \$1,440 (18 times Chai) toward their undergraduate degrees. Recipients were recognized at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Annual Meeting.

Since its creation in 1981, the Sussman Fund has awarded more than 100 grants to deserving Jewish teens from the greater Portland area. Many past recipients (who received the grants anonymously in the early years) now serve in lay and professional roles in Portland Jewish organizations and congregations.

“This year’s seniors have experienced much of their high school years and extracurricular activities virtually,” says Rich Meyer, who chairs the Sussman committee in collaboration with Lois Shenker, daughter of fund founders Lillian and Gilbert Sussman, z”l. “In spite of these challenges, they have risen to the occasion, excelled academically and contributed to our community in so many ways. Each of our applicants showed that the Jewish world has a bright future.”

This year’s recipients already have deep roots in the Jewish community and a history of service.

“Receiving the Sussman grant is a tremendous honor and a meaningful call to action,” says Grant High School graduate Wexler. She is a member of Congregation Beth Israel and Regional President of BBYO’s Evergreen Region, which encompasses five states. “I intend to always dedicate a portion of my life to making it easier for people to be Jewish, and my work in BBYO is just the start.”

“My Jewish service work has been incredibly fulfilling throughout my high school experience, and in all aspects of my life – particularly my journalistic pursuits – I feel driven by my value of tikkun olam,” continues Wexler, who will attend the University of Southern California to study journalism at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. “I am so thankful to be receiving this generous support from my local community and hope that this grant will remind me to continue advocating for a world in which it is easy and fun for young people to embrace their Jewish identities.”

Mitchell, who graduated from Ida B Wells-Barnett High School, is also a CBI member. She has attended the Beth Israel Sunday School since kindergarten, and for the past three years has been a madricha (teacher’s assistant) in the art program. Since June 2021, she has been a volunteer for YouthLine, a crisis line for youth to talk to other youth. She plans to double major in psychology and studio art at Lewis & Clark College.

“It is an honor to receive the Sussman grant and receive recognition in this way,” says Mitchell.

“I am incredibly grateful, as it is going to make paying for my first year of college much easier.”

Another CBI member and Sunday School madricha, Zeidman is a graduate of Portland Jewish Academy and St. Mary’s Academy. She has been incredibly involved in BBYO, serving as VP of recruitment for both her local chapter and region, as well as writing for BBYO’s international newsletter. She has been an active youth philanthropist – first as a member of the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation and then CommuniCare, a student-directed mini-foundation. She plans to attend the Chapman University Honors Program with a major in communication studies and minors in Holocaust studies and creative and cultural industries.

“Receiving the Sussman grant is a tremendous honor, and I feel so grateful to have been chosen as a recipient,” says Zeidman. “I love being involved in my Jewish community and have always been incredibly proud of my Jewish identity. I am very appreciative of the Sussman Fund’s recognition of my involvement and leadership in our community. With support from the Sussman grant, I look forward to continuing my participation in the Jewish community throughout my time at Chapman University and beyond.”

Kosak, the son of Congregation Neveh Shalom Rabbi David Kosak, has been a madrich in the CNS religious school for five years. He is a PJA and Ida B Wells graduate and has been an OJ-CYF board member for three years. As a dining room server at Cedar Sinai Park, he has built connections with Jewish seniors. He plans to study conservation biology and world languages at Middlebury College.

“Receiving the Sussman grant is a great honor,” says Kosak. “It shows me that all of my work within our beautiful community is seen and appreciated, and is yet another item to add to a long list of ways in which the Portland Jewish community has supported me and my growth.”

Applications for next year’s scholarships open in November. Details are available at [www.jewishportland.org/sussman](http://www.jewishportland.org/sussman). For more information, contact JFGP Director of Educational Initiatives Rachel Nelson at [rachel@jewishportland.org](mailto:rachel@jewishportland.org) or 503-892-7415.

From top: Sussman scholarship recipients Eylah Mitchell, Talia Wexler, Shayah Kosak and Ruthie Zeidman. Each will receive \$1,440 to pursue undergraduate studies. They will attend Lewis and Clark College, the University of Southern California, Middlebury College and Chapman University, respectively. (Courtesy photos)





# STUDY (continued from page 1)

8,000 recorded in Portland's first Jewish community survey, conducted in 1971 by Portland State University.

While a 41 percent increase may seem drastic, Saxe explained his team did extensive data validation work to make sure that figure was accurate. One significant confirmation was that the Portland area, as a whole, has seen a 50 percent increase in residents with college degrees in the last decade, while Jews are college educated at approximately double the national average rate.

"The number is not a result of any change [in definition]," Saxe said. "The number is a result of what's happening on the ground."

That ground is, perhaps, different ground than in years past; the survey showed that 38% of Portland's Jewish households are located east of the Willamette River; another 19 percent are on the west side but not in Portland proper. (For a map of the distribution of Jewish households, along with other statistical samples,

see "Jewish Portland by the numbers," pages 8-9)

The study, which surveyed 2,560 respondents between October of 2022 and January of 2023, found that much of Portland's Jewish community is young, new to the area, not denominationally affiliated, and relatively unengaged with the institutional Jewish community. 34 percent of Portland Jews have moved here in the last decade, while the median age of Jewish adults in Portland is three years younger than national median (46 vs 49).

A majority (52 percent) of Portland's Jewish adults do not identify with any of Judaism's denominational groups. While this is 20 points higher than the national average, lack of denominational affiliation and its waning usefulness as a classification for Jewish engagement has prompted the creation of a new metric, the Index of Jewish Engagement.

"We're not asking people, 'How Jewish do you feel?'" Saxe explained. "We're asking people how they enact their



Annual meeting attendees taken in the results of the 2022-23 Greater Portland Jewish Community Study Tuesday, June 6 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Jewish identity."

Through analysis of behavior patterns, the study identified five distinct engagement groups. The Minimally Involved group, those with little participation in Jewish life on any level, make up 28 percent of Portland's Jewish adults. The Cultural group, those who participate mainly in cultural activities but don't engage much with Jewish organizations, are the plurality at 32 percent. The Ritual group, who are mostly engaged in religious activities, make up of 12 percent of the community, while the Communal group, who are distinguished by high levels of involvement in synagogues and other organizations, come in at 17 percent. The Immersed group, who are highly involved in all areas of Jewish community life, make up 11 percent of Portland's Jewish adults.

While only 20 percent of Portland's Jewish households are members of a synagogue, compared to 35 percent nationally, people reported feeling broadly welcomed in Jewish community institutions. The foremost barrier to community participation is a lack of interest in the activities available.

"Basically," Saxe elaborated, "people said to us that they haven't found their niche."

Location was the next most

cited barrier, but third was a lack of confidence in Jewish knowledge – a fear of saying or doing the wrong thing in a Jewish setting, imagined or not.

"In my business, perception is reality," Saxe said. "If people feel that, it is real."

While two-thirds of Portland Jewish adults have at least a bachelor's degree, 26 percent of Jewish households are either not able to make ends meet financially or are just managing. Meanwhile, 34 percent of Jewish households require mental health treatment – and many of the folks who need that help are younger.

"COVID had a serious effect on the mental health of those who are younger," Saxe said.

While the delivery of the study, which totals 121 pages, not including appendices, and can be viewed online at [jewish-portland.org/communitystudy](https://jewish-portland.org/communitystudy), was the culmination of a year's worth of work by the Federation and the Cohen Center, it is ideally just the beginning. Federation staff will be diving into and cross-tabulating the expansive data set for the next few months to gain insights that can guide future decision making.

"Part of the Jewish response to any set of issues is not just to think deeply about the problem, it's also to act," Saxe concluded. "I hope this is the beginning of a productive set of conversations."



Above: From left, Michelle Koplan, Lauren Goldstein and Ronnie Malka schmooze before Tuesday's annual meeting. Right: A attendee picks up a slice of cheesecake at Tuesday's annual meeting at the MJCC. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)





From left, newly elected Jewish Federation of Greater Portland board members Simon Gottheiner, Rochelle Abitz and Diane Rankin, pictured at the Federation's Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

## JFGP elects trio to board

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland welcomed three incoming members of the board of directors – two of them returning faces – and bid farewell to five departing members of the board following elections held at the Federation's June 6 Annual Meeting.

Federation members elected Rochelle Abitz, who returns to the board after living away from Portland, Simon Gottheiner, who will serve as treasurer and is also a returning board member, and Diane Rankin to the board, while saying farewell to Emily Benoit, Ronnia Malka, Alan Montrose, Nicole Sacks and Eliana Temkin.

"We're excited to welcome three new board members who represent a cross-section of our Jewish community," said Nominating Committee Chair Lauren Goldstein, the best and the brightest to work alongside the rest of our board and professional leadership to support our good work going forward."

Abitz previously served on the board for two years until 2019 when she and her husband, Ryan, relocated to New Jersey. Since returning to the Portland area, she has served on the Federation's Allocations Committee and will soon complete the Wexner Heritage Fellowship program. Abitz is a third-generation Portlander, PDX Pathways alum, former Moishe House resident, cat mom and avid gardener.

Gottheiner served on the board from 2014 through 2022 and had previously served as chair of the Allocations Committee. He is also completing the Wexner Heritage Program and will serve as the board treasurer this year. Gottheiner is an avid outdoorsman and foodie, and

he and his wife, Janine, have three children, Ava, Hadley and Liam.

Rankin is a member of the Federation's Women's Giving Circle and participated in this year's Israel at 75 Community Trip. After a 13-year career as a classical flutist, Rankin transitioned to wealth management and estate planning. She moved to Portland in 2021 to open a new office for Northern Trust, where she is a Senior Vice President and Senior Wealth Strategist. Diane and her husband, Herb, have two children and five grandchildren. She is also a golfer, reader and bridge player.

Bennoit, Malka, Montrose, and Temkin are each stepping down after three years of service on the board, while Sacks is departing after her second year for a move to Seattle.

"We thank our five outgoing board members for their many years of dedicated and thoughtful service," Goldstein said. "Each gave their time and talent to make our community better."

In addition to Gottheiner's new role as treasurer, current board members Leslie Beard and Jack Birnbach will serve as Campaign Co-Chairs for the coming year. Beard, a resident of Portland for 32 years, previously served on the Allocations Committee and was active in Women's Philanthropy. Birnbach, who will take on the co-chair role after two terms as Federation Treasurer, has also previously chaired on the Allocations Committee. He has been a Pathways mentor, a member of the Jewish Community Response to COVID-19 Steering Committee, and was last year's Nominating Committee Chair.

## Moon honored on retirement

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland gave Deborah Moon a grand sendoff at the organization's annual meeting June 6, just days after Moon's retirement after 31 years of covering Portland's Jewish community.

Moon, then known as Deborah Seldner, was hired as a staff writer at the Jewish Review Nov. 9, 1992, and worked under then-editor Paul Haist. Moon won numerous awards from the American Jewish Press Association for her coverage, as well as a Song of Miriam award for her work in the community. In 2020, she returned to a rebooted Jewish Review, leading the publication into its current e-newspaper era.

Below is a clipping from the Dec. 1, 1992 issue of the Jewish Review announcing Moon's hiring.

### Reporter joins Review

A former Colorado woman with eight years experience in daily newspapers has joined The Jewish Review as staff writer.

Deborah Seldner was a copy editor and science reporter for *The Loveland Daily Reporter-Herald* in Colorado for eight years. Before that she was the society news editor for an international monthly magazine, *Mining Engineering*.

For the past nine months she has written numerous free-lance articles for *The Columbian* in Vancouver, Wash.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in technical journalism from Colorado State University in 1981.

Editor Paul Haist said "This addition to our staff will enable The Jewish Review to very significantly increase its coverage of local issues and events."

Deborah and her husband, Gary, live near Battle Ground, Wash., with their two sons, Nathan, 4, and Joshua, 22 months. The family belongs to the Jewish Community Association of Southwest Washington.

Deborah and both boys enjoy riding the family's Arabian horses.



SELNER



# Jewish Portland by the numbers

# 45,100

JEWISH ADULTS IN GREATER PORTLAND

# 11,500

JEWISH CHILDREN IN GREATER PORTLAND

## 31,100

Jewish households

By area:

**24%**

Northeast Portland

**19%**

Western Suburbs

**17%**

North Portland and  
Southwest Washington

**14%**

Southeast Portland

**13%**

Southwest Portland

**8%**

Northwest Portland

**5%**

Other Suburbs

1 dot = 50 Jewish Households

Map courtesy Cohen Center



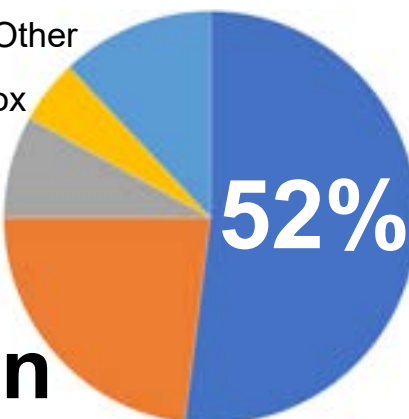
## Portland

## Jews

## By

## Denomination

12% Other  
5% Orthodox  
8% Conservative  
23% Reform

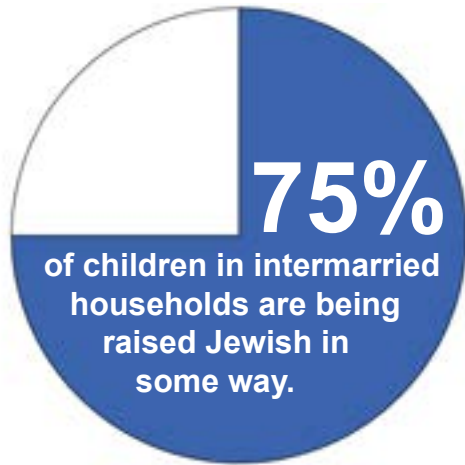
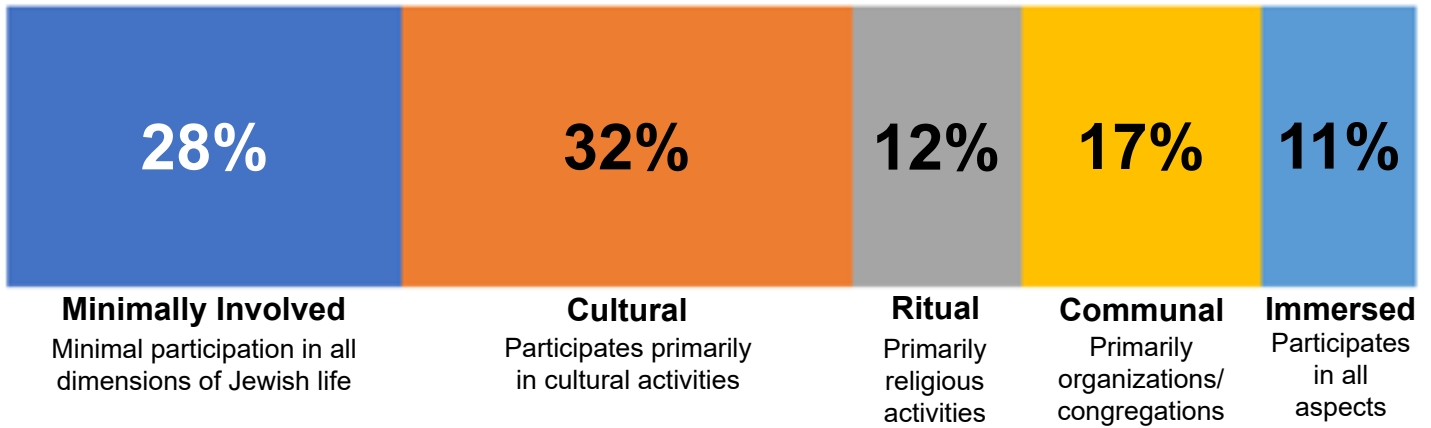


of Jewish adults in Greater  
Portland do not identify with any  
particular Jewish denomination.  
Compared to 32% nationwide



# Index of Jewish Engagement

*Focuses on Jewish behaviors, instead of self-identification*



In Greater Portland,

**7%**  
of Jewish

- individuals identify as people of color.
- adults identify as LGBTQ+.
- adults grew up in a Russian-speaking household.
- adults are citizens of Israel.

*How Young are Portland's Jews?*

**31%** of Jewish adults in Greater Portland are between the ages of 18 and 34

compared to

**29%** of Greater Portland's total population in that age bracket

and

**28%** percent of Jews in the United States in that age range.

Gender Breakdown

**49%** Male    **50%** Female    **1%** Non-Binary/Other

## Religious Observances

(percentage of Greater Portland Jewish adults)

**25%** Keep Kosher in Some Way

**27%** Fast on Yom Kippur

**58%** Attend Passover Seder

**75%** Light Chaunkah Candles

**34%** Attend High Holiday Services

**19%** Observe Shabbat Every Week

*Click the link below to see the full study online at*

[jewishportland.org/communitystudy](https://jewishportland.org/communitystudy)

# Song of Miriam Awardees Brunch is back

After a three-year hiatus during the pandemic, The Jewish Women's Round Table honored 17 women during this year's 28th Song of Miriam Awards Brunch on June 4.

The 2023 brunch named the volunteers honored during the pandemic and recognized a new group of outstanding women. Though each woman is nominated by her respective organization, the community unites to honor the women who volunteer their time and energy to ensure the continuity and vibrancy of the Jewish community of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Following are the women honored during this year's brunch:

## **Judith Arbetter, honored by Shalom Bayit (Bend)**

Over the past six years, Judith has helped Shalom Bayit navigate many transitions. She joined the Affiliation and Rabbi Search Committees before joining the CSB board – first as a member-at-large, and then as vice president. She currently serves as the head of the Policy and Procedures Committee.

## **Susan Berniker, honored by Women of Reform Judaism/Beth Israel Sisterhood**

Susan leads Beth Israel Sisterhood as well as serving on WRJ's Pacific District Social and Advocacy Team. She has deepened Sisterhood's engagement in the issue of reproductive health and rights; through her efforts, Sisterhood provides period products to the Somali American Council of Oregon. She has also taught Sunday School for a decade.

## **Shelley Kaplan, honored by Temple Beth Sholom (Salem)**

Shelley is an active member of TBS' Cha-GaT committee, which focuses on social justice and community outreach. She took the leadership role in hunger and homelessness, creating a "mitzvah meals" program that distributes meals to the homeless. She has been heavily involved with Family Promise, which provides housing support for vulnerable populations and has volunteered at warming shelters.

## **Nehama Bennett-Teasdale, honored by Shir Tikvah**

Nehama has taught in Shir Tikvah's Nashira Education Project for 10 years. While teaching, she pioneered "Hebrew Through Movement" in the Portland area. She has served as a member of the Tefillah Committee and the Education Committee, and is now on the Board of Directors. She also served on the design committee for Shir Tikvah and Eastside Jewish Commons.

## **Karen Blauer, honored by Eastside Jewish Commons**

Karen grew up in Portland and has been deeply involved in the Jewish community in



2023 Song of Miriam awardees gather for brunch Sunday, June 4, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Front row, from left: Susan Berniker, Janet Grubel, Shelley Kaplan, Judith Arbetter, Nehama Bennett-Teasdale, Martha Soltesz. Back row, from left: Estelle Golden, Ayanne Group, Karen Blauer, Sacha Reich, Etti Segal, Shira Newman, Naomi Harwin, Tamar Wyte-Lake. Not present: Jaime Gross, Kathy Chusid, Sari Sapon-White. (Courtesy Marki Maizles)

many ways. She has served on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, B'nai B'rith Camp, Jewish Family & Child Service and Cedar Sinai Park. She was one of the co-founders of Eastside Jewish Commons and is currently its board chair.

## **Kathy Chusid, honored by Jewish Family & Child Service**

Kathy has served on the JFCS board since 2015 and has been on its executive committee as secretary and then vice president. She has served on the agency's Strategic Planning and Life & Legacy committees. At the start of the pandemic, Kathy helped establish JFCS' Advisory Council. She also dedicated time to the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and Chabad of North-east Portland.

## **Estelle Golden, honored by The Next Generations Group**

Estelle serves on the NGG executive committee that guides and implements its educational and social programs. In addition, she is a member of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education's Holocaust Speakers Bureau, where she has coached new speakers. She is also the incoming president of the Congregation Kol Ami chapter of Women of Reform Judaism.

## **Jaime Gross, honored by Beit Haverim**

In addition to her work as congregation administrator, Jaime volunteers for virtually all temple events, contributing her time and baking skills to make each event a success. She also contributes time and expertise to the Technology Committee, helping it transition to and from holding services

on Zoom. She has been very involved with JAFCO, Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options.

## **Ayanne Group, honored by Kesser Israel**

Since 2001, Ayanne has been involved in Kesser Israel, starting off as the youth director. She has served on the board since 2019 and has been treasurer for the past three years. In 2018 she worked on a grant for security that provided money for both Kesser Israel and Maayan Torah Day School. Recently, Ayanne secured an education grant for youth, family and community programming that has greatly enhanced the shul's activities.

## **Janet Grubel, honored by P'nai Or**

Since joining P'nai Or in 2016, Janet has chaired the Membership Committee and has been a member of the Fundraising Committee. Serving as treasurer for the last six years, she has been responsible for a wide range of financial duties. She is a member of the Council and Executive Committee, making her part of P'nai Or's Presidential Trio, which makes the major decisions for the congregation.

## **Naomi Harwin, honored by Portland Jewish Academy**

Naomi co-chairs PJA's Kehillah Organization and plans events that build community for faculty, students and families. She is a member of the PJA ambassador group, has served as class rep for her children's classes and is a member of the executive

See **MIRIAM**, page 16



# Oregon Jewish Museum to unveil new space, permanent exhibit with multicultural street party

## Rembrandt, Pander, Dali highlight summer exhibits at reopening space

### By ROCKNE ROLL

With a pandemic closure and the preparation for a major expansion in the rear-view mirror, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education will stage a grand reopening celebration Sunday, June 11.

The centerpiece of the re-opening will be the museum's 1,000 square feet of new exhibit space on the ground floor, much of which will be devoted to a new centerpiece permanent exhibit, "Human Rights After The Holocaust," which uses the Holocaust as a foundation to discuss genocide and other human rights violations since 1945 as well as looking at the activism that is combatting hate around the world and here at home. That last part is an important facet for OJMCH Executive Director Judy Margles.

"We don't want visitors to come into this exhibition and just go, 'Oh, this is so distressing, what you know, what can we possibly do,' but to give them hope," Margles said. "So, in the activism section, we're talking about activism in Oregon, activism in Jewish communities around the world, and activism around the world."

The exhibit, designed by former United States Holocaust Memorial Museum curator Scott Miller, consists of three sections. One centers on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, established by the United Nations in 1948. Displays highlight each of its core principles and the ways they've been violated in the last three-quarters of a century. Behind that display is a discussion of genocide; how and where it's happened – and happening. Margles knows this will be a lot for viewers to take in; in a world where we compartmentalize the news, seeing the enormity of what's happening all at once is part of the point.

"In this exhibit, it's just an atrocity, after atrocity, after atrocity. And it is distressing, and it seems difficult, and it seems impactful," she said. "But I think it is going to have a point that we have a lot of work to do."

One of the most powerful individual pieces of the exhibit are five strips of cloth covered in names and phone numbers. They belong to Mansour al-Omari, a Syrian journalist who was imprisoned by Bashar al-Assad's regime for almost a year in 2012, during which time he was repeatedly tortured. When he learned that he was to be released, Margles explained, he fashioned



Salvatore Dali's "Orah, Horah" is part of the collection of his works commissioned by the State of Israel on its 20th anniversary, will be part of the "But A Dream" exhibit at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education through the summer. (Courtesy OJMCH)

a writing implement out of cloth, and wrote the names and phone numbers of 82 of his fellow prisoners on to strips of a t-shirt in a mixture of rust and blood, and smuggled them out when he was released so that he could contact the families of the men. Of the 82, four were released and are safe, seven are confirmed dead and the remaining 71 are unaccounted for.

Margles flew to Sweden, where al-Omari has received asylum, to pick up the five cloth strips earlier this year. She spent four hours with al-Omari in Stockholm.

"It was utterly transformative to me, for me to be with someone who has endured such atrocities," she said. "I did leave thinking, 'if there are people like that in this world, we've got a chance.' He is not giving up. Not giving up at all."

It's a segue into the third portion of the exhibit, which shines a light on those fighting for change. The digital panels that make up this portion of the exhibit are changeable at a keystroke, and while some of the other portions may need a little more work to be changed, the exhibit is designed to be easily updateable as needed.

"We are talking about things in the present, and things are changing rapidly," Mar-

gles said. "It's an exhibit that's live, literally living and breathing, because we have to keep updating it as things unfold. We can always hope that we won't have anything to say, right?"

The museum will also unveil two new temporary exhibits. The first, titled "The Jews of Amsterdam: Rembrandt and Pander." It combines a series of etchings produced by Rembrandt of Jewish residents of Amsterdam in the 1600s and paintings of the Jewish Quarter of Amsterdam made in 2019 by Dutch painter and former Portland resident Henk Pander, who passed away in April of this year.

"Rembrandt lived in the Jewish Quarter of Amsterdam, and really is the first artist who normalized Jews in his work," Margles explained. "These are drawings of Jews in Amsterdam. They are not vile; they are beautifully portrayed. He had wonderful relationships with his neighbors, and he is showing it in these beautiful etchings."

Pander's large-scale but delicate oil paintings detail the buildings of the same neighborhood, devoid of people, fusing the present with his recollections of childhood there during the aftermath of World War II.

The second summer exhibit is a series of works by Salvador Dali, who was commissioned by the State of Israel to create a series of paintings on the country's 20th anniversary. The exhibit is titled "But A Dream," a play on Dali's surrealist style, and includes a display of items from Oregonians discussing affairs in Mandatory Palestine in 1947, just before Israel's establishment.

"It's just a way to look at Israel, kind of through this dreamscape, and we're really posing the question what happens when dreams and reality don't quite line up," Margles said. "A lot of it is just getting visitors to make their own observations about what they're looking at."

The museum's gift shop will also reopen on June 11, while Lefty's Café, now run by Jacob and Sons, will reopen on June 14.

The grand reopening will include a multicultural street party, with a land acknowledgment statement, performances by taiko drummers and Chinese lion dancers along with klezmer music and food trucks offering food for purchase. The party begins at noon and admission to the museum will be free that day. For more info, visit [ojmche.org](http://ojmche.org).



## Kollel shares the fruit of the vine at tasting

Jeff Weitz, left, shares a toast with Marshall Spector at a wine tasting event put on by Weitz at Portland Kollel Monday, May 22. The event featured seven Israeli wines along with cheese parings and cheesecake in the spirit of Shavuot. Guest voted on their winning wines; the 2021 Jerusalem Vineyard Winery Vintage Chardonnay and the 2019 Binyamina Chosen Diamondwere selected. The Kollel looks to host another tasting in the run-up to Rosh Hashanah. (Courtesy Portland Kollel)

## School holiday equity push sees successes, setbacks

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

What began as a fluke of the calendar two years ago has resulted in a successful advocacy campaign to ensure students of all religious faiths can fully participate in their education without missing out on important observances.

Earlier this year, the Oregon School Board Association adopted a model policy titled “Religious and Cultural Holidays,” drafted by Portland Jewish Community Relations Council Chair Hank Kaplan. While the policy adoption is a milestone in the process, it’s by no means the end of the road – and the road is proving to have a few bumps remaining.

While the overlapping of important school events and religious holidays has been a longstanding issue, it was particularly noticeable to Michelle Bombet Minch, JCRC’s Immediate Past Chair in 2021 when the first day of Rosh Hashana fell on Sept. 7 – the first day of school in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District.

“Of course, they had received the holiday list of holidays and everything ahead of time,” she said, “but they never pay attention to it.”

After much advocacy from other parents, pushback from the district office and lobbying of school board members, the district ended up making Sept. 7 an in-service day for teachers.

“So ultimately, the students got the day off,” Bombet Minch said, noting that there were Jewish teachers in the district who still were stuck working on the holiday. “It was a little bit of a win, not really for the right reasons, so to speak.”

Kaplan, a semi-retired attorney, got involved and saw that, in his words, “that kind of highlighted a more widespread problem, that there’s a lot of things that schools schedule or particularly significant holidays that could easily be avoided, except in schools didn’t have any policy.”

In his research, Kaplan found that Eugene’s school district had a policy in place that covered not just the Jewish community, but all ethnic and cultural communities. With the rise of advocacy around issues of diversity, equity and inclusion in school, Kaplan saw that ensuring the ability of students to honor the rituals of their culture and faith without missing important school events was an essential part of that process.

The endorsed sample policy (available at <https://tinyurl.com/ywpc44ra>) says “Schools should avoid scheduling important events that by their nature cannot be made up (such as picture day, open house, prom, graduation, and Outdoor School) on days that conflict with major religious or cultural holidays that may impact stu-

dent attendance or participation” and that “The district will make a good faith effort to identify major religious or cultural holidays observed in the local community by consulting generally accepted sources of information.” It also provides guidelines for scheduling make-up opportunities for exams and assignments missed due to such observances. Building the draft policy and getting it endorsed by the OSBA was a major step in the process of achieving that goal.

“Let’s face it, some outside group that may or may not have any particular constituency within the district is not nearly as compelling as the Oregon School Board Association, saying to school districts, ‘we think this is best practice,’” Kaplan said.

While the OSBA suggests policies, it’s up to individual school boards to implement them or not. Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations Rachel Nelson has been one of the leaders of that effort.

“Last June, through the efforts of an Interfaith and Intercultural group, Beaverton School District became the second district in Oregon to pass a holiday equity policy,” Nelson said. “Throughout the past two years we have worked with the Oregon School Board Association on a policy that can be adopted by all school districts in Oregon. We feel that this is a great opportunity for districts to put into practice much of their equity work.”

But not every district has been as receptive. Much like in 2021, Bombet Minch said that the West Linn – Wilsonville School District has dismissed any discussion of the policy out of hand, citing a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

“I have emailed directly to the superintendent,” Bombet Minch said. “And she wrote back, essentially, she said, No, we’re not going to do those.”

The Establishment Clause reads, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...”; subsequent judicial rulings have extended the injunction to government entities at all levels.

“I sent their lawyers a memo showing them cases that clearly state that accommodating religion is not establishing religion,” Kaplan said. “I don’t know why they’re being so obtuse about this.”

A request for comment sent to the West Linn-Wilsonville district office by The Jewish Review went unanswered. Bombet Minch

See **EQUITY**, page 16



# The deep roots of David Cohen

"This is where I want to be" says third-gen Cedar Sinai resident

By SYDNEY CLEVINGER

David Cohen's family is deeply woven into the intricate tapestry that is Cedar Sinai Park.

His grandfather and mother lived at Cedar Sinai, while his aunt was a regular visitor and his cousin volunteered with resident care. All this is to say that Cohen coming to live at Robison was as natural as the sun rising.

A "bad foot" brought Cohen to skilled nursing in late 2022, and then he stayed on, becoming a member of the Tonkin household.

"It means everything to me to be in a place where my family lived," Cohen said. "I feel extremely lucky to be here. When the hospital asked me where I wanted to be, I said I wanted to be here."

"I'm third generation at Robison and I want to stay here. I know the reputation. This is where I want to be. I'm very happy here, and I think the care is excellent."

Cohen grew up in northeast Portland, graduating from Grant High School. After a stint in the army, he started working in electronic instrument repair. "That's where I first got inter-



Cedar Sinai Park resident David Cohen, left, and Community Life Director Jennifer Felberg, pictured at Cedar Sinai Park. (Andrea Lonas Photography)

ested in computers," Cohen said. "It was very interesting." He is one of the few long-term care residents who uses a computer and has an email address that he checks regularly.

A corner of Cohen's room is dedicated to his childhood hobby, leather working. Numbered boxes are stacked in an orderly fashion, and he has hundreds of tools that he's collected since high school, meticulously arranged and labeled.

"The first leather piece I made was a key holder with little rings on it with my initials on it, and that was in eighth grade in shop," Cohen said. "At the time, Tandy Leather had an item called the Lucky Seven kit. It came with a slab of marble and a piece to put under it and seven stamping tools and a holder and a

wooden mallet.

Cohen combines his leathercraft with his skill in computers, using technology to alter patterns to the size he's looking for.

"I don't even use tracing plastic anymore, which saves several steps and is good because my hand doesn't work so good anymore," Cohen said with a chuckle, his eyes twinkling.

Cohen estimates he's made many hundreds of leather pieces from the patterns and kits he's collected, many of them coin purses. Recently, he made purses for all the Robison receptionists as thanks for all of the packages they were handling for him.

"I never was officially trained," he said, "so I'm not sure I'm doing it 'correctly' or

'incorrectly.' It's just what I have found that works for me gauged around the tools that I've collected over the years."

Cohen enjoys the activities involving piano and music and sometimes bingo and the discussions on current events. He is president of the Resident Council, which meets monthly to connect the households so residents have their voice heard. And Cohen lifts weights daily to keep his hands flexible for leather work.

"Everyone here tries to help the people that have to be here as best they can. The CNA's do an excellent job," Cohen explained. "Having a nurse available 24/7 is a real blessing because there's times you need someone like that, and they're here. I hope to be here a long time."

## DANCING (continued from page 4)

jump back in, and there are regular weekly sessions for all. We're always looking for returning and new dancers.

Help us celebrate Israel at 75

and over 50 years of Israeli folk dancing in Portland! We hope you'll join us on June 24th! The joy on the dance floor, the friends you'll keep and make,

the connection to Israel – there is something for everyone, all levels, all ages!

Visit PIFD News to see all the details and to register by June

17. Sorry no walk-ins day of the event. Please email Sue if you have any questions at [pifd-news@gmail.com](mailto:pifd-news@gmail.com). See you on the dance floor!

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Deborah Moon

Rockne Roll

[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)[rockne@jewishportland.org](mailto:rockne@jewishportland.org)**Circulation**To receive the Jewish  
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# Chaplain's Corner

## Are You Ready for the Summer?

I have never been good at planning something to look forward to. Part of me wants to try to live in the here and now. I also must admit that I am not a good planner in general. Some people enjoy booking plane flights or searching the web for the right hotel at the right price. Not me. I find such exercises to be inherently stressful and out of my comfort zone.

That being said, summer is right around the corner, officially starting on June 21. If I don't start thinking about summer plans right now, I will wake up and fall will have arrived.

I bet making summer plans would be a healthy and constructive idea for all of us. In principle, I believe it is psychologically healthy to have something to look forward to and to go through the process to make it happen. (Even if I am not good at it...)

Here are some ideas. We could work on home improvement project. Perhaps a room or two needs to be freshened up. Or maybe a particular room can be completely transformed; we could create a space for art, exercise or relaxation. If we enjoy gardening and own a house, we could devote hours to our front or back yards. If we live in a condo, town home or apartment, there are still plenty of ways to incorporate plants or flowers into our living space.

Another idea is simply to plan a vacation. Where we go, how we get there and how long we stay only depends upon our budget and our sense of adventure.

A week ago, I watched an intriguing documentary about Route 66, which connects Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California. I learned about what we gained and what we lost with the development of our interstate highway system. While we can now travel much more efficiently and quickly from place to place, we have lost an aspect of our national character and personality. In concrete terms, ghost towns now dot much of the old Route 66, because of lost travelers, commerce and tourism.

Granted, many of the former businesses in these lost towns thrived by maintaining horrible stereotypes about Native Americans, and many restaurants and hotels did not serve African Americans. In that way, the disappearance of these establish-



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

ments is not a bad thing. At the same time, with the rise of the interstate system, our nation has become more homogenized and standardized ... and in many ways, cookie-cutter-boring.

As a relative newcomer to Oregon, I am curious what travelers can experience by taking off-the-beaten track roads ... those roads that force us to slow down (gasp) to 25 miles per hour. Maybe another road trip is in my future.

And that makes me ask, if we choose to travel, with whom will we go? This summer could be a wonderful opportunity to reach out to family or friends who live 2-3 time zones away and catch up by hitting the road.

Too many of us wait for sad chapters to reunite – such as illnesses or funerals. Why not plan a

reunion for reunion's sake?

We could also devote part of the summer to ourselves. Why not find a way to spoil ourselves, guilt free? What would that look like?

Here are a few projects I may tackle this summer: Through the years, I have collected hundreds of books and built a personal library. I think the time has come to consolidate and donate part of my collection. I also have a collection of LPs; while I have the components to digitize my collection, I have yet to get around to it. Making my music collection more user-friendly would be a good project. I can also use Meetup to join an outdoors group or to find some tennis partners. Last but not least, my kids are graduating high school this June. We should plan something fun to do together before they begin the next exciting chapters in their lives.

Let's all have memorable, meaningful and healthy experiences this summer.

***I bet making summer plans would be a healthy and constructive idea for all of us.***

## Rabbis' Corner

In addition to the Chaplain's Corner, the Jewish Review offers space for the community's rabbis to share their thoughts on the week's parsha or current events. Rabbis are invited to schedule a date to submit a 500- to 600-word piece. For more information or to request a date, email [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org).



## June 9: Community Connection on Zoom

Drop-in group hosted by Jewish Family & Child Service's Counseling Services every Friday at 10 am on Zoom. It is a space for anyone in the community to connect with others and share.

Find Zoom link at [jfcs-portland.org/services/counseling/](http://jfcs-portland.org/services/counseling/).

## June 10: Moishe House at the Rose Festival

Moishe House Portland invites young adults to experience the Rose Festival together 12:30-2:30 pm, June 10. What's a better way to kick off summer than with fried food and being flung through the air in a metal box? Let us know you're coming; email [moishehousepdx@gmail.com](mailto:moishehousepdx@gmail.com).

## June 11: OJMCHE re-opening/street festival

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education is Re-Opening its galleries with a Cultural Festival Street Party. See story page XX.

## June 11: Kesser Israel Bike-A-Thon

Join Congregation Kesser Israel for its first Bike-A-Thon on Sunday, June 11, at Sellwood Riverfront Park on the Springwater Trail, a car-free dedicated bike trail. The Challenge Ride starts at 9 am followed by the family ride check-in at 10:30 am. A picnic-style brunch will be from 11:30 am -12:30 pm. For more information, call 503-222-1239 or email [shannon@kesserisrael.org](mailto:shannon@kesserisrael.org).

## June 11: Spring into Summer Art Sale

ORA NW Jewish Artists and Eastside Jewish Commons present the Spring into Summer Art Sale from 10 am to 3:30 pm, June 11, at the EJC, 2420 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. The sale will feature 17 ORA artists offering artwork including paintings, jewelry, garden art, glass, ceramics and woodwork. For more information, email [oraartists@gmail.com](mailto:oraartists@gmail.com).

## June 11: Jewish Community Orchestra Season Finale

The Jewish Community Orchestra presents their 48th season finale at 3 pm, June 11, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland. This concert is dedicated to our Principal Bassoon and longtime Board Member Cara Brauner, who passed away suddenly on April 20. JCO concerts are family friendly and wheelchair/walker friendly. Learn more about JCO and the concert at [facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069143977917](https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069143977917). Tickets at the door: \$15; \$10/ seniors; \$8/students.

## June 11: Israeli Folk Dancing at SWCC

Enjoy Israeli folk dancing at the Southwest Community Center with session leader Rhona Feldman from 2:30-4 pm every Sunday. More information at [sites.google.com/site/pifdnews](https://sites.google.com/site/pifdnews).

## June 12: Israeli folk dancing at Leedy Grange

Enjoy Israeli folk dancing at Leedy Grange weekly on Monday nights, 7:30-10:30, with session leaders Sue and Donna. [sites.google.com/site/pifdnews](https://sites.google.com/site/pifdnews).

## June 13: EJC presents Gentle Yoga

Sido Surkis leads yoga in a light-hearted and trauma informed class that allows people to experience their own yoga every Tuesday at 10 am at the Eastside Jewish Commons. Her focus is in supporting people to discover their own strengths, flexibilities and groundedness through Gentle Yoga. \$10. [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events)

## June 13: Wondering Jews Podcast

Portland-based co-hosts Josh and Roy drop a new podcast at 6 am Tuesdays every two weeks focusing on Jews and cannabis. [wonderingjewspodcast.com](http://wonderingjewspodcast.com)

## June 14: Oregon Jewish Community

## Foundation Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation will be at 5:30-7:30 pm, June 14, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. OJCF will honor Richard and Judi Matza, the 2023 Julie Diamond Legacy Society Honorees. To register, contact Noah Rosenberg at 503-248-9328 or [noahr@ojcf.org](mailto:noahr@ojcf.org).

## June 15: Neveh Shalom Annual Meeting/ Fred Rothstein Retirement Party

Please join Congregation Neveh Shalom for its annual meeting at 6 pm, June 15, at the synagogue, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. Afterward, celebrate Fred Rothstein's retirement and the 22 years he served as Neveh Shalom's Executive Director. For more information, call 503-246-8831 or email [mcaplan@nevehshalom.org](mailto:mcaplan@nevehshalom.org).

## June 15: "Gin with Ryan Reynolds"

Moishe Pod-West Portland presents "Gin with Ryan Reynolds" from 5-7 pm, June 15. Mr. Reynolds probably won't be there to drink with us, but we're still excited to visit the [Aviation American Gin](http://Aviation American Gin) distillery, of which Mr. Reynolds is a co-owner. RSVP at [moishepodwestpdx.com/events](http://moishepodwestpdx.com/events)

## June 15: Supporting Israelis and Core Values of Democracy

In the midst of Israel's legal "reform," how can Americans and other non-Israelis both criticize the Israeli government and support the broader ideas of peace and democracy for the state of Israel? Dr. Moshe Rachmuth discusses ideas for creative protests that promote peace, democracy and human rights. 7 pm, Tickets \$3-8 online at [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## June 16: EJC Noon-time Concert featuring Anne Weiss

Join us for our free concert

series with top Portland musicians! Pack a lunch or stop by one of the many pods at 24th and Glisan, bring your food in (no pork or shellfish please) and come and hear the music! Noon - 1 pm. Free. [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## June 16: Bye-Bye Bakersfield book launch

Award-winning local author Jan Baross will read at the Portland book launch of her new novel "Bye-Bye Bakersfield" from 7-8 pm, June 16, at Rose City Pub on 1329 NE Fremont St. The new novel is the story of a resilient Jewish girl growing up in redneck central. [janbaross.com](http://janbaross.com)

## June 20: OJMCHE Annual Meeting

Join Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education virtually/online for the museum's annual meeting on Zoom at 5 pm, June 20. For more information and to register, visit [ojmche.org/events/](http://ojmche.org/events/).

## June 23: Young Adult Shabbat & Thorns game

Join Jews Next Dor at 6 pm, June 23, for a Shabbat picnic followed by watching women's soccer with 25 Jewish friends in their 20s and 30s. The evening starts with Shabbat on the Plaza at Congregation Beth Israel. [RSVP by June 16 at bethisrael-pdx.org/community/jnd/](http://RSVP%20by%20June%2016%20at%20bethisrael-pdx.org/community/jnd/)

## June 23: Young Adult Sha-barbeque

Moishe Pod-WestPDX hosts a Sha-Barbeque from 5:30-7:30, June 23 (rescheduled from June 2). Spend Shabbat with the Pod fam around the grill and learn about the blending of cultures in the American south that produces some mouthwatering kosher cooking. RSVP at [moishepodwestpdx.com/events](http://moishepodwestpdx.com/events)

## June 24: Israeli Folk Dance Community Party

Celebrating over 50 years of folk dancing in Portland and Israel at 75! See story, page 4.

# Obituaries

## PHYLLIS ROBERTS SPIELMAN

Congregation Neveh Shalom are saddened to announce the passing of Phyllis Roberts Spielman, z"l, mother of member Loren R. Spielman, on May 30 at her home in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Loren, his wife Michelle, and their children Julia and Micah will remember Phyllis as a loving parent, a devoted grandmother, and a passionate advocate for equality, justice, and the rule of law.

The funeral will be held at Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, NY.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends our deepest condolences to the extended Spielman family, along with our prayers that a clear and loving recollection of Phyllis will remain with her family and friends.

May the family be comforted along with all other mourners in Zion and may the memory of Phyllis Roberts Spielman, z"l be for them a blessing.

Submit obituaries: [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

## Burial Societies

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

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

## MIRIAM (continued from page 6)

committee of the PJA Board of Directors. Naomi is a volunteer coach for PJA's "Girls on the Run" team that inspires girls to build confidence through interactive lessons and physical activity.

### Shira Newman, honored by Shaarie Torah Sisterhood

After moving to Portland in 2012, Shira worked on a number of Sisterhood projects and became chair of the Education Committee. She is currently Sisterhood treasurer and has recently worked on a number of ad-hoc Sisterhood projects. She continues to help in many ways including baking and selling hamantaschen for the Sisterhood's fundraiser. She also helps Chabad make and deliver meals for Shabbat and holidays.

### Sacha Reich, honored by Havurah Shalom

Sacha served on Havurah's Steering Committee as the head of the Spiritual Life Cluster and currently chairs High Holiday Planning for the seventh consecutive year. Sacha founded and ran the Jewish Theatre Col-

laborative developing original works of theater. She also has worked as an educator at Portland Jewish Academy and been on the cultural staff at Cedar Sinai Park.

### Sari Sapon White, honored by Beit Am (Corvallis)

Sari has used her skills as an educator to teach and serve as principal at Sunday School and tutor b'nai mitzvah students. She contributes her strong singing voice to Shabbat and holiday services. In her travels to Prague and Warsaw, she taught members of re-emerging Jewish congregations there to layn torah and came home to share her experiences at Beit Am presentations.

### Etti Segal, honored by Congregation Neveh Shalom

Etti holds various roles as an educator at Neveh Shalom, from the preschool to Hebrew-language-for-adults classes. She was a founding member of Keruv Levavot, a nonprofit that builds ties between Israel and the local Jewish community and civic groups. She helped organize a Mimouna celebra-

## ROGOWAY (continued from page 4)

award "motivates me to continue striving for excellence and to contribute meaningfully to the collective success of our team."

Babbstein received her bachelor's degrees in women's and gender studies, and biology from the University of Oregon, and her master's of library and information science, archival management from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is on the boards of both Northwest Archivists Inc. and the Council

of American Jewish Museums.

"The work I do at OJMCHE is personally and professionally fulfilling," she says. "Sharing stories that are often untold or overlooked is a powerful experience."

Despite Babbstein's largely behind-the-scenes role at OJMCHE, the community has not, as Fried said, overlooked her professional dedication and "crucial role ... to keep our stories alive."

## EQUITY (continued from page 12)

remains undeterred. With two new board members set to take their seats this summer, she's hopeful that she can get the board to vote to take up the issue.

"It's frustrating," she said,

"but I'll keep going."

Families looking to advocate for holiday equity policies in their school districts, or those having trouble doing so, can contact Nelson at [rachel@jewishportland.org](mailto:rachel@jewishportland.org).

tion (a Moroccan post-Passover tradition) as well as the Yom Hazikaron (National Remembrance Day) event held at Neveh Shalom.

### Martha Soltesz, honored by Cedar Sinai Park

Martha's commitment to tikun olam began during her childhood in Mexico City. In Portland, she started volunteering at Cedar Sinai Park's Rose Schnitzer Manor Independent and Assisted Living 10 years ago, when her mother was a resident. Martha leads singing for the residents on Mondays and serves on the Quality Management and Corporate Compliance Committee.

### Tamar Wyte-Lake, honored by Mittleman Jewish Community Center

Tamar Wyte-Lake is a public-health expert who has been involved at Mittleman Jewish Community Center and Portland Jewish Academy for many years. She joined the MJCC and PJA boards in 2020 and was a member of the Medical Advisory Team during the Covid pandemic, when the J

sought to address public health while remaining open. She also works to ensure that "green" initiatives remain a focus of the Facilities Committee.

During the pandemic, JWRT and the Jewish Review collaborated to profile the outstanding women volunteers who had been selected by their organizations. Those profiles are online at [jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/song-of-miriam-awards-part-1](http://jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/song-of-miriam-awards-part-1) and [jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/SOM-2022](http://jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/SOM-2022).

JWRT is a group of women representing organizations and congregations in Oregon and southwest Washington. Its mission is to strengthen our Jewish community by honoring the excellent work of women volunteers and bringing the community together to celebrate Jewish life. JWRT's two annual programs include the Song of Miriam Awards held in the late spring to recognizing Jewish women volunteers and a Community Havdalah service at the Rose Schnitzer Manor held in the winter.