

June 21, 2023/Tamuz 2, 5783 Volume 58, Issue 13



Retired Congregation Neveh Shalom Executive Director Fred Rothstein, pictured in the Stampfer Chapel at the synagogue Thursday, June 15. The chapel was part of a major renovation and expansion of the Neveh Shalom campus that was one of the highlights of Rothstein's 22 years leading the congregation's professional staff. "There's just a sense of real personal pride and accomplishment." (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

A Farewell to Fred

Rothstein closes book on two decades as CNS' director

By ROCKNE ROLL

"I believe that synagogues are the core institutions in Jewish life," Fred Rothstein said.

For the last 22 years, Congregation Neveh Shalom has had Rothstein at the core of its operations. While it's clear that he will remain a beloved figure at the shul (see sidebar), it will be in a different capacity as he retired as Neveh Shalom's Executive Director May 31.

"Our involvement and my role at Neveh Shalom has really been a wonderful thing, not only for me, but for my entire family," Rothstein said.

It was family, in part, that brought Rothstein and Neveh Shalom together. Rothstein and his wife, Nora, moved to Portland when he took on a role at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, eventually serving as Executive Director before

the family moved to Israel. When they decided to return to the United States, Nora had a destination in mind.

"If we weren't going to be in Jerusalem," Fred recalled, "she wanted to come back to Portland."

Around that time, Neveh Shalom decided to hire a full-time, professional executive director. The board conducted a nationwide search, but the answer, as it turned out, was in their own neighborhood. Rothstein assumed his duties March 1, 2001.

"It worked out perfectly for us because we loved Portland," Rothstein said. "It had become home."

One of Rothstein's fondest achievements at See **ROTHSTEIN**, page 6

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Second psychedelic gathering June 25 at EJC

By ROCKNE ROLL

An oft-unexplored but growing horizon of spiritual exploration will be the focus for the second Judaism and the Psychedelic Renaissance gathering June 25 from 10 am – 5 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons.

Just as last year, the event, hosted by Co/Lab, will bring experts in both psychedelics and Jewish spirituality from around the world and right here in Portland to explore these topics and how they speak to one another.

Co/Lab's Rabbi Josh Rose explained that there are two areas in particular the event will examine: the use of psychedelics in the exploration of Jewish mysticism, and the increasing use of psychedelics in mental health treatment, specifically addressing Jewish intergenerational trauma. Rose stressed this is an event for the curious as well as those more immersed in the subject.

"I am aware that for some people this is not necessarily a welcome topic, or perhaps it's an uncomfortable topic," he said. "Co/Lab is, in general, trying to open conversations that we think are important part

of the Jewish future and try to deepen them and find nuance within them and enlighten people, and people can make their own decisions about what role, if any, psychedelics have in their lives."

Headline speakers include Hadar Cohen, an Arab Jewish teacher of Jewish mysticism based in Jerusalem, and Yosef Rosen, who holds a doctorate in Jewish Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and teaches on Kabbalah and the history of Jewish mysticism. Cohen will also be leading an embodied movement practice during the event – an addition from last year's event to give attendees a sense of participation and mind-body connection without the use of any chemicals.

"The larger importance of the conversation for me is not about any particular chemical or drug per se, but it's about how we can change our relationship to and our experience of our religious experience," Rose explained. "It's not just going to be academics talking at people, but it's going to be just exploring every dimension of our spiritual lives, at least for



parts of the day."

Psychedelic therapy guides and other experts will be examining the growing use of psychedelics in a therapeutic context. With Oregon's recent legalization of protocols for psychedelic therapies and the expanding body of research into epigenetics and intergenerational trauma, Rose sees this as a platform to engage with a growing field in a meaningful way.

"It's not that psychedelics are the only way to treat that trauma or any trauma, but the evidence is to the efficacy of psychedelics in such treatment is not something that any anybody who cares about these issues can ignore," he said.

Tickets range from \$36-75 on a sliding scale – no one will be turned away due to cost – and are available online at colab.ticketspice.com/psychedelic.

OJMCHE reopens with party



Crowds gather to celebrate the grand reopening of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at the museum's street party June 11. Days later, Lefty's Cafe reopened at the museum, now operated by Jacob & Sons. The museum is now open 11am-3pm, Wednesday through Sunday. (Daniel Berger/Special to The Jewish Review)

Specter receives Nemer Award



The Shaarie Torah Men's Club honored Marshal Specter with the 2023 Harry R. Nemer Service Award on Sunday, June 4th. Men's Club President Steph Kotkins (left) and CST President Daniel Petcher (right) made the presentation. The award commemorates Harry Nemer z"l, who served his fellow Jews and CST so unselfishly. (Courtesy Congregation Shaarie Torah)

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New leaders take the reins at JFCS

By ROCKNE ROLL

A pair of new leaders will be taking the helm at Jewish Family and Child Service in the coming months as the agency celebrates its 75th year serving Portland's community.

Bill Treuhaft will take over as the President of JFCS's Board of Directors as Larry Holzman concludes his term, and Deputy Director Susan Greenberg will become the agency's executive director as Ruth Scott steps down at the conclusion of nearly five years in the role.

Greenberg was working in nationwide Covid education in 2020 when she connected with Scott and joined JFCS shortly after. Greenberg has previously served as the head of Holocaust Survivor Services, worked in Disability Support Services and in other budgeting and management roles at the agency. She's spent her career in fundraising and development for social service organizations, including stints at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Dental Foundation of Oregon, putting together mobile clinics to provide dental care to elementary school children.

"What drew me to JFCS was, and why I still am excited," Greenberg said, "is the fact that JFCS is not only there for the Jewish community, but we're here in multiple ways for the entire community."

One of the areas in which Greenberg sees JFCS as being a leader in the coming years is mental health support. More than a third of Jewish households in the Greater Portland area have mental healthcare needs, according to the recently released community study, and Greenberg is hopeful that JFCS can not only fill the role of providing counselors to meet the clinical needs, but to partner with other groups to take a holistic approach to mental health support.

"My goal would be to collaborate with synagogues and other agencies to fill those needs, because it's going to take the whole community to get there," she said. "And that may be like, working with the MJCC, looking at mental health from the perspec-



Susan Greenberg (Courtesy Jewish Family and Child Service)

tive of exercise and wellness."

Growing the agency's mental healthcare division is also a priority for Treuhaft as he becomes board president.

"We need to be able to develop more mental health professionals and put them in positions where they can be where people can access them," he said.

Treuhaft moved to Portland from Toledo, Ohio about seven years ago. A rheumatologist by trade, Treuhaft had also been active in supporting Jewish Family Service in Ohio, serving on their board for 20 years. He recalls volunteering to pack holiday meals at Congregation Beth Israel with a friend, Les Soltesz z"l, who was serving on the JFCS board. Treuhaft mentioned his experience in Ohio and asked if he could be of service.

"Within two weeks, I was having a meeting with Les and Lee Cordova, who was the previous president, and Larry who was the incoming president," he recalled. "Next thing I knew I was on the board."

Then, as now, Treuhaft is motivated by a deeply held belief in the power of giving back, which goes back to his parents work in social welfare in Ohio.



William Treuhaft (Courtesy)

"I felt that there was an opportunity and a need for us, as Jews, to give back to the community," he said, "and also, for us in some way to represent the Jewish community to the greater non-Jewish community, that we're a part of and say, 'We are part of this community.'"

In addition to growing the agency's mental health division, Treuhaft's goal as president is to build an increased level of financial security for JFCS to enable the agency to grow all of its divisions and identify new needs it can help meet.

"There's an awful lot of work for us to do, and we do it to the best of our resources, but we are constantly scrapping for money," he said. "If there was some way that we could get on really sound financial footing, long term, I would consider myself a huge success."

When asked if, as the new president, he would carry on Holzman's tradition of sequined dinner jackets, Treuhaft was undecided.

"I have been thinking about that," he said. "It's a nice touch. But that was Larry's thing, so I don't know that I'm going to follow in those footsteps."

Chabad's expanded Jewish Festival set for July 13 in Northwest Portland

Chabad NW Portland/Chabad Young Professionals will stage their third annual Portland Jewish Festival at The Fields Park in Portland's Pearl District Thursday, July 13, at 7 pm.

Organizer Sheina Posner explained that, amidst the Covid surges of 2021, the event started as a klezmer music festival in the hopes of bringing "pos-

itivity during a difficult time." In 2022, CYP partnered with Portland Parks and Recreation to stage a movie screening in the park that drew a crowd of 350.

This year's event continues the theme while expanding the pre-film entertainment to include a Kosher deli pop-up, a make-your-own-challah booth, and

other entertainment for all ages. This year's film is "Woman In Gold," which depicts the real-life efforts by Maria Altmann to recover a prized painting that was stolen from her family by the Nazis during the Anschluss. Altmann is played by Helen Mirren, with Ryan Reynolds as Randol Schoenberg, the attorney who successfully litigated

Altmann's case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The goal is to have a fun event open and free for all to celebrate Jewish life and culture," Posner said. "We want to bring the Jewish warmth and beauty to the streets of Portland."

For more info or to RSVP, visit tinyurl.com/nhxx8mvm.



Kesser Israel Bike-A-Thon rolls through Sellwood

Clockwise from top left: Congregation Kesser Israel's Chagall Diskind cruises down the Springwater on the Willamette Trail at the shul's Bike & Walk-a-Thon Sunday, June 11; Kesser Israel member Alan Bacharach prepares a young rider's bike for the event; Youngsters take off at the start of the event. One hundred participants set off Sellwood Riverfront Park on either a 1.5 mile course along the popular multi-use path or a walk through the adjoining wetland nature trail. The event raised approximately \$75,000 for the congregation and was followed by a congregational picnic under sunny skies. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



North Coast Shabbat brings big numbers in first '23 service

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Northern Oregon Coast is well known as one of Oregon's most scenic destinations – a perfect place to welcome Shabbat. Since the early 90s, the North Coast Shabbat Group has been making that happen, and they're back for another season, their second year of resumed in-person services in the wake of Covid-19.

The first service of the year, on Memorial Day weekend, drew 34 attendees, a post-Covid record for the group. Organizer Dr. Avrel Nudelman said that not only are there more people, but there are also more locals attending.

"We're starting to see that because people want to be part of

our Jewish community," he said. "We're the only organized Jewish group on the North Coast."

The first services were organized in 1991 by Frieda Tobin, Shirley Nudelman, and Harriet Shain. They all vacationed in Seaside during the summer and saw plenty of fellow Jews but no organized activities for them. The first services were held in Tobin's vacation house, later moving to various hotel meeting spaces and banquet rooms. Ten years ago, the group started holding services at their current location at the Bob Chisholm Community Center in Seaside.

"It's a really nice space to have, a nice big room.," Dr. Avrel Nudelman explained. "It's pretty in there."

Services are typically led by volunteers from the community, with occasional guest leaders. The next service, on June 30, will be led by Rabbi Gary Oren from Congregation Shaarie Torah. The July 28 service will be led by Neil Weinstein, nephew of Carolyn and Gary Weinstein, and the Sept. 1 service will be led by Nudelman.

"It's very informal," Nudelman said. "We're a very welcoming group. We're very diverse, open to whoever's interested."

Services begin at 7:30 pm and typically run about an hour, with kiddush and oneg following – a very important part of the affair for Nudelman.

"Then we get to talk and meet

each other," he said.

The group currently holds four services per summer but hopes to expand back to the May through October monthly schedule that was maintained before Covid. The connection of praying and socializing together has taken on an increased importance in the wake of the pandemic, and Nudelman sees how something as straightforward as a Shabbat service fills an essential need.

"I'm finding out I think since COVID, you know, people feel isolated and lonely," he said.

Services are free of charge. For more information, contact Nudelman at efraimlevi526@gmail.com or Carolyn Wexler at Carolyn.wexler@gmail.com.

ROTHSTEIN (continued from page 1)

Neveh Shalom has been the growth in the congregation's educational programs for all ages led by Mel Berwin, CNS's Director of Congregational Learning.

"I am not a Jewish educator, never pretended to be, never thought I was," Rothstein said. "But I know enough and care enough about quality Jewish education that I looked for the folks who I thought were the greatest Jewish educators and resources available and was really lucky that Mel came to Neveh Shalom and has built a program that I think is second to none."

A recounting of those that Rothstein has fond memories of working with would end up being a lengthy historical record of Neveh Shalom's clergy, staff and lay leadership over the last two decades, from Rabbi Joshua Stampfer z"l to the current congregational staff. That list includes nine congregation presidents and many more board and committee members whose contributions Rothstein treasured.

"I've never lost sight that in Jewish communal work, it's a real partnership between the professionals and the members and the lay leaders," he said. "That is not to be underestimated. It's really, to be celebrated and appreciated."

In his recollections of colleagues past and present, Rothstein did save a special mention for his partnership with Rabbi Emeritus Daniel Isaak. Isaak was the senior rabbi at Neveh Shalom when Rothstein joined the staff and remained in that role through 2015.

"He and I were able to actually partner well with one another," Rothstein said. "He knew what he wanted to focus on, and he appreciated and respected how I was able to run the other parts of the synagogue administratively. In that way, we fit together really well."

Though he was officially retired for eight years before Rothstein joined the staff, Rabbi Stampfer remained an indelible part of Neveh Shalom's fabric and of Rothstein's work.

"Even into his 90s, he came to the building every day, he would come into my office most every morning to talk to me,"



"I don't think there has ever been a day that I took my work at Neveh Shalom for granted," Fred Rothstein said. (Photos by Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Rothstein recalled. "Not only would he come up with ideas, he would then partner with me to make sure they would actually happen."

One of Rothstein's crowning achievements at CNS is the campus renovation that concluded in 2008, including the chapel which bears Rabbi Stampfer's name. From the planning, including considerations of location, to fundraising, design and construction, Rothstein was at the center of every step of the process.

"The first time I've walked into Stampfer Chapel when it was done, and even to this day, when I'm praying, or when I'm in a program, there's just a sense of real personal pride and accomplishment," he said.

Despite wrapping up a major capital improvement amidst a

global financial crisis and growing a breadth of educational and community programs, Rothstein retires from a congregation that is debt free. It's another achievement in which he takes pride – and hopes to capitalize on as he works in retirement to build an endowment for the congregation. He's also proud that Neveh Shalom has remained a unified congregation, supporting a diverse and evolving range of programs and services for the shul's broad community.

It's a community he'll remain a part of as he spends more time with Nora, the couple's three children and four grandchildren, and his beloved Los Angeles Dodgers. And it's a community that, much like his family, means the world to him.

"I don't think there has ever been a day that I took my work at Neveh Shalom for granted," he said. "It was meaningful and important to me and my family from day one, and I never lost sight of that."

Rothstein takes in his retirement celebration at Congregation Neveh Shalom with his youngest grandchild, Eitan Nelson, Thursday, June 15.





From top: Associate Rabbi Eve Posen embraces Rothstein after her remarks at Rothstein's retirement celebration Thursday, June 15, at Congregation Neveh Shalom; Rabbi Emeritus Daniel Isaak presents Rothstein with a cap from the San Francisco Giants, arch-rivals to Rothstein's Los Angeles Dodgers. The congregation presented Rothstein with a customized Dodgers jersey; Rothstein shares a hug with his son, Jeremy Rothstein.

Neveh Shalom sends Rothstein off in style

Family, friends and colleagues gathered Thursday, June 15 to pay tribute to Fred Rothstein at the conclusion of his 22 years as executive director of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

In a series of tributes, those who know and have worked with Rothstein praised his leadership, kindness and dedication to Neveh Shalom and the wider Jewish community.

Associate Rabbi Eve Posen shared that Rothstein had supported her work and ideas throughout her time at the shul – except her suggestion to rattle down Neveh Shalom's landmark Ten Commandments façade on Shavuot to deliver a d'var Torah.

"When we moved here, you and Nora opened your hearts and your home to us," Posen said. "Your steadfastness and kindness have created a sacred space at Neveh Shalom."

Kathy Davis-Weiner spoke to her time working with Rothstein at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

"He listened, he respected one's opinion, he engaged in compromise, was supportive, and deeply believed in being a Jewish professional worker," she said. "This is the kind of boss you want."

Rachel Nelson, Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Rothstein's daughter, spoke to the example Rothstein set for her and her siblings, Jeremy and Danit Rothstein, of the importance of involvement in Jewish life.

"I'm in the family business," Nelson said.

Gifts and tributes to Fred Rothstein centered on his joys outside of congregational work: family, travel, and the Los Angeles Dodgers – including video tributes from Steve Garvey and Ron Cey, who played first and third base, respectively, for the World Series-winning 1981 Dodgers. Rabbi Emeritus Daniel Isaak poked a little fun by presenting Rothstein with a cap from the Dodgers' rival club, the San Francisco Giants.

"Not only did we develop a wonderful professional relationship," Rabbi Isaak remarked, "really a friendship."

Glen Coblens and Alan Blank, speaking on behalf of the congregation's board of directors, announced that the congregational offices would be renamed the Fred Rothstein Administrative Wing, and Senior Rabbi David Kosak proclaimed Rothstein as the Chief Congregational Grandfather, announcing his new title in Hebrew.

"You like to say, 'I'm a mean old S.O.B.,' but none of us bought that line," Rabbi Kosak said.

And as if to reinforce that the sentiments shared onstage were held by everyone in the room, as Ilene Safyan finished her musical tribute to Rothstein, the entire audience joined in to sing along to the repeated last line: "because we knew you, we have been changed for good."

Supplemental Schools

Congregations throughout the Greater Portland area offer classes for children in Jewish traditions, cultural and religious practices. From providing an introduction to Jewish life to preparing for adulthood, these schools play an essential role in Jewish upbringing.

The information below was furnished by congregations and edited for clarity and length. Did we miss someone? Email editor@jewishportland.org and let us know!

Right: Nashira Project at Congregation Shir Tikvah. (Courtesy Photo)



ALIYAH and Tichon programs (Congregation Neveh Shalom)

Contact: Mel Berwin, 503-246-8831, mberwin@nevehshalom.org

Ages/Grades Served: K-12

Times of Regular Sessions:
K-6: Sunday mornings and individual Hebrew tutoring;
7-12: Wednesday evenings plus dinner.

Fees: Contact for more info on fee structure. Financial aid available.

Description: Every child deserves to feel at home in Judaism! ALIYAH is a thriving Jewish education community that brings youth together in a joyful environment and builds real literacy and a sense of meaning. Our programs are inclusive, egalitarian, and innovative. Teens stay engaged through learning and leadership opportunities. Ask us about our Israeli Pathways program, offering culturally specific and Hebrew-language learning for Israeli children!

How to Register: More information here: nevehshalom.org/learning/ or contact Berwin

Congregation Beth Israel Religious School

Contact: Elisabeth Pierson, 503-222-1069, elisabeth@bethisrael-pdx.org

Ages/Grades Served: PreK-12th Grade.

Times of Regular Sessions: Sundays, September 10, 2023-May 19, 2024. PreK-7th Grade:

9:30am-12:15pm (Virtual Hebrew/ B'nei Mitzvah study will take place in virtual small groups midweek.) 8th-12th Grade: 12:45-2:30pm. CBI Religious School follows PPS and Jewish calendar throughout the year for breaks and holidays.

Fees: Lower Elementary (PreK-2nd Grade): \$656, Upper Elementary (3rd-5th Grade): \$850, Middle School (6th/7th Grade): \$1,290, High School (8th-12th Grade): \$800. Early Bird \$50 discount available through June 30. CBI believes that finances should not prevent a student, or family, from participating in Jewish education. Due to the generous donation of Ms. Renee Holzman, we are able to scholarship students of any age and grade.

Description: CBI's Religious School has something for all ages- whether it is a playful creative class for our younger students, B'nei Mitzvah preparation, or deep discussions with clergy. With a program that runs from PreK-12th grade, our community gets to watch a student grow up and into the greater community. Our students have the opportunity to deepen their Jewish knowledge past their B'nei Mitzvah year with social justice trips (bethisrael-pdx.org/education/teen-trips/) to Washington D.C, Arizona, L.A, the South, and L.A.

How to Register: Registration is open to all Congregation Beth Israel members through our member

portal, Shul Cloud: bethisrael-pdx.shulcloud.com/form/religious-school-2023-2024.html

Kol Ami Religious School

Contact: Abner Deitle, 360-896-8088 (ext. 130), educator@jewishvancouverusa.org

Ages/Grades Served: K-12

Times of Regular Sessions: Religious School occurs on Sundays from 10 am-12:15 pm. Hebrew School and B'nai Mitzvah training occurs on Thursdays from 4:30-6pm

Fees: Tuition for school is as follows:

Religious School (K-8th grades): \$550 per child, \$490 for additional children, \$820 per child for non-members. Hebrew School: (Pre-B'nai Mitzvah, 4th-6th grades): \$770 per child, \$710 for additional children. B'nai Mitzvah Training (7th grade): \$1,280 per child \$1,220 for additional children. KAST Dues (9th-12th grades; includes annual NFTY dues): \$550 per child, \$490 for additional children.

Description: We make efforts at Kol Ami to foster an interconnected community so that kids of all ages are interacting with each other and forming relationships, from kindergarten all the way up through 12th grade. Kids can come as they are and feel ownership of their Jewish identity while enriching their knowledge base. The small size of our program has allowed us the opportunity to really cater our education

to the individual needs of our students. We're able to check in with the teachers and classes to help manage curriculum and classroom dynamics when need be.

How to Register: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/CongregationKolAmi/ReligiousAndHebrewSchoolRegistration20232024>

Mensch Community (Congregation Shaarie Torah)

Contact: Cara Abrams, cara@shaarietorah.org

Ages/Grades Served: Grades 1-8

Times of Regular Sessions: Sundays 9:30am-12:00pm

Fees: All are welcome regardless of membership. Contact us to discuss costs.

Description: Mensch Community is a consistent learning community for kids in grades 1 – 8 which also invites parents and siblings to build community. Our program is guided by four core values: Fun - We believe in supporting positive Jewish identity through developmentally appropriate learning that is joyful at its core - and therefore fun! Character - We believe in cultivating kindness and practicing being our best selves in a world full of division and isolation. Jewish wisdom offers tools and practices to cultivate these traits, called *middot*, or soul-traits. Community - We believe in creat-

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ing authentic relationships and a sense of belonging for our youth and their families, building connections with the greater Shaarie Torah community as well as the greater Portland metro community. Confidence - We believe in providing access to Judaism's wisdom through exposure, and customizing learning goals based on specific skills/areas of content important to each family. This value helps bring to life our student- and family-centered approach.

How to Register: shaarictorah.wufoo.com/forms/mphofv11znxq/

Nashira Project (Congregation Shir Tikvah)

Contact: Katie Schneider, 503-473-8227, Katie@shirtikvahpdx.org

Ages/Grades Served: PreK - 7th grade

Times of Regular Sessions: 18 Sundays/year at 10 am-noon. 6th and 7th grades meet on Saturdays, variable times.

Fees: \$460 (Members), \$725 (non-members)

Description: Nashira means "let us sing". Our mission is to help children find their own Jewish voice through exposure to the joy and richness of our texts, culture and ritual. We use a hands-on approach to appeal to a wide range of learners. We welcome all parents raising Jewish children, regardless of family background and in all expressions of human diversity. Finances should not be a barrier to Jewish education - please

contact us to discuss options that respect both your family situation and our community resources.

Havurah Shalom Shabbat, Middle and High Schools

Contact: Deborah Eisenbach-Budner, (503) 248-4662, ext. 5, deborah@havurahshalom.org.

Ages/Grades Served: K-12

Times of Regular Sessions: Havurah Shalom Shabbat School (Grades K-6) involves approximately 17 Saturday sessions, 3-5:15 pm. We start our Shabbat School year with an event in May, with the full school year running from fall (September/October) to spring (May). Middle and High School meet on consecutive Wednesday evenings. Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by class. The middle school program runs from fall to winter and the high school program runs from fall to spring.

Fees: Membership dues and a small tuition fee.

Description: Havurah Shalom is a participatory and inclusive Reconstructionist synagogue. Our supplemental K-12 education programs celebrate Jewish identity, customs, and practices; foster meaningful social connections and lifelong friendships; and involve hands-on engagement with tikkun olam, history, art, cooking, current events, and more. The Shabbat School (K-6) is based on a staff-guided, family-cooperative model, in which parents serve as teachers. Havurah

Middle School and Havurah High School classes are specifically taught by professional educators.

How to Register: Registration for Shabbat School is closed for the coming year. To learn more, go to havurahshalom.org/shabbat-school-grades-k-6.html. The Havurah Middle School and Havurah High School are open to the children of Havurah members. More information is available at havurahshalom.org.

Kol Shalom Sunday School

Contact: Walt Hellman, 503-459-4210, info@kolshalom.org

Ages/Grades Served: Ages 5-8 for Aleph class 11-12 for Mitzvah class

Times of Regular Sessions: Aleph class meets two Sundays per month 1-3 pm at Tabor-space in SE Portland; Mitzvah class meets once per month at either EJC or MJCC.

Fees: Aleph Class: Non-members \$550, Members \$250; Mitzvah class (membership required): \$375 - \$500 depending on enrollment.

Description: Kol Shalom provides a humanistic Jewish Sunday School education emphasizing Jewish history, culture and traditions including holidays. Ethical instruction is based on humanistic rather than supernatural principles. The program is humanistic, not theistic. Belief in God is not taught. A goal of the program is not to indoctrinate, but to give a solid background in Judaism so that students can make their own informed choices about

belief when they grow up. Children from intercultural families are welcome. The Mitzvah program is taught by Rabbi Mary Raskin, president of the Society for Humanistic Judaism. Classes are a major part of fulfilling Kol Shalom's requirement to become bar or bat mitzvah.

Chabad Hebrew Club (Chabad Clark County)

Contact: Tzivie Greenberg, 360-993-5222, info@jewish-clarkcounty.com

Ages/Grades Served: Ages 5-12

Times of Regular Sessions: Sundays, Oct-May at 11am

Fees: \$425

Description: At Chabad Hebrew Club we strive to capture children's love and enthusiasm for all things Jewish through an immersive and meaningful curriculum. Through crafts, STEM and storytelling we go on a journey that will leave them feeling proud in their Jewish identity, self-confident, and empowered.

How to Register: jewishvan-couverwa.com/hebrew-club

Chabad Hebrew School NE PDX

Contact: Mushkawilhelm@gmail.com

Ages/Grades served: Ages 4-13

Times of Regular Sessions: Sundays, 10 am - Noon

Fees: \$690

How to Register: jewish-northeast.com/templates/section_cdo/aid/2247701/jewish/Hebrew-School.htm



Left: Congregation Beth Israel Religious School. Above: Kol Shalom Sunday School. (Courtesy Photos)

Matza family joins OJCF Legacy Society

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation looked after the future while celebrating the present at their annual meeting and Julie Diamond z"l Legacy Society Celebration Wednesday, June 14, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

Board chair Jonathan Singer spoke to the organization's goals for the new fiscal year. "This year, we are embarking on a new strategic plan," he said, "To ensure that OJCF can continue to improve."

When it comes to making a philanthropic impact on your community, "We are here for you," Singer continued.

President and CEO David Foreman highlighted just a few of the ways OJCF has been there for the community over the last year, including \$8.7 million in community grants, \$55,000 in camp and educational scholarships and \$212,000 in grants from the community fund, including supporting the Community Security Director program along with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

"Our predecessors could not have imagined the breadth or depth of this Jewish community," Foreman said.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the meeting approved the organization's board of trustees for the coming year, adding Benjamin Ariff, Arlene Siegel Cogen, Lisa Fasolo Frishman and Ann Sacks as incoming trustees, as well as approving second terms for Jason Kaufman, Steven Kaufman and Susan Menashe.



Richard and Judi Matza receive standing ovation as they are inducted into the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation's Julie Diamond z"l Legacy Society at the Foundation's annual meeting Wednesday, June 14, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Steve Gradow will also join the board as a representative of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education while Diane Rankin will represent the Federation, Elizabeth Schwartz will represent Congregation Beth Israel and Nate Smith will represent Portland Jewish Academy.

Singer thanked outgoing board members for their service as well as Kathy Chusid, who served as a vice chair during the most recent fiscal year and will step down from that role.

"She really helped us through a lot of transitions," Singer said of Chusid. "She has been a very steady voice."

The biggest celebration was the round of applause for Richard and Judi Matza as they were inducted into the Julie Diamond z"l Legacy Society. Founded by Diamond in her role as the foundation's President and CEO in 2009, the society now counts more than 160 members who have made planned gifts from their future estates.

The Matzas both grew up in Portland and met at Lincoln High School, marrying in 1968. Born to Greek Sephardic Jewish parents, Richard has been a multi-term president of Congregation Ahavath Achim and the couple have given generously to Portland Jewish groups as well

as Sephardic communal organizations throughout their lives.

Current Ahavath Achim President Mark Berkovich introduced the couple, saying "Richard's love and dedication to Sephardic Portland is second only to his wife, Judi."

Echoing the sentiment, Richard encouraged guests to visit the congregation, saying "You will step into another world."

Matza emphasized the importance of OJCF's work and why he and Judi had devoted themselves to it.

"We Jews must take care of ourselves," he said, "and our children must learn to take care of our people and our institutions."

Rabbi Cohen receives honorary doctorate from HUC-JIR

Jewish Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen recently added another distinction to his title – Doctor.

Cohen was awarded an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, this year as a traditional honor for rabbinical school graduates on the 25th anniversary of their ordination.

"It's not meant to be a doctorate on par within the academic world," Cohen explained. "It's mainly just looking at the 25-year milestone of, 'Wow, you've made it this far, and you should be recognized for that.'"

Cohen's has not been the traditional rabbinical path; after ordination, he worked in Jewish journalism in Phoenix, Ariz., then received additional

chaplaincy training in Chicago. Those sorts of possibilities were what appealed to Cohen in the first place.

"What drew me to [rabbinical training] was devoting myself to something that didn't pigeonhole me," he said.

Cohen explained that the thing that has tied his panoply of roles together over his career has been building relationships

and connecting with people, in good times and amidst tragedy.

"For me, it just, it always goes back to building relationships," he explained. "Have I been able to connect with other people to celebrate, to mourn, to grieve, to learn, to heal? Whether it's as a formal congregational rabbi, as a journalist rabbi, as a rabbi-chaplain, it all goes back to relationships."

Values make a home for Dorothy Versman

By SYDNEY CLEVENGER

When Julie Versman was looking for comfortable elder living for her mother, Dorothy, she was thrilled to find a Jewish home in Cedar Sinai Park.

"It was important that my mom spend this time of her life in a facility where she was really comfortable, and surrounded by things that were comfortable for her, and culturally appropriate. She loved the fact that we found a Jewish place where she can go to services and enjoy Jewish food and celebrate the holidays together," said Julie, who brought Dorothy from Illinois to Portland about a year ago.

Dorothy was born in Galveston, Texas. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas in Austin, and taught second grade, marrying Daniel and raising their three children in Illinois. When Julie and her siblings were older, Dorothy returned to education teaching high school, generally with an English-related focus.

"My mom has always been an avid reader," said Julie. "She's very comfortable surrounded by books and is often seen flipping through the pages of a magazine or a book. She loves going to the library at Robison (Jewish Health Center/Harold Schnitzer Center for Living, where she lives within a household of 12), whether it's the library in Tonkin, or occasionally to the larger library across the street in Rose Schnitzer



Julie and Dorothy Versman, pictured at Cedar Sinai Park's Robison Jewish Health Center/Harold Schnitzer Center for Living, (Courtesy Cedar Sinai Park)

Manor. Those are happy places for her, and it's nice that they are available here."

When visiting, Julie often paints Dorothy's nails, or takes her outside to see the columns in front of Rose Schnitzer Manor.

"She likes to get outside for some fresh air, so we try to do that as often as possible," said Julie.

Julie appreciates that the CNA's at Robison are considerate and interested in their residents.

"My mom was always a nice dresser," said Julie. "She took great pride in her appearance and would never leave the house without her lipstick on. Here at Robison, all of the CNA's have learned that about my mother. I know my mom appreciates it."

Daniel died at age 65 in 1996, but Dorothy still talks fondly about him, gazing at his portrait on her wall.

"She's been without him so long," said Julie. "You would think the thoughts about him would have faded, but they haven't. She really loved him, and I think it's sweet. We miss him so much."

Dorothy turned 103 in April and shows no signs of slowing down.

"She is in good spirits and seems to be happy here. She's a character," said Julie. "A pistol, as we say."

To learn more about Robison Jewish Health Center/Harold Schnitzer Center for Living, visit [youtube.com/watch?v=jdCIWydRfrY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdCIWydRfrY)

Portland Jewish Academy graduates 18 to high school



Faculty members hold a tallitot over the Portland Jewish Academy Class of 2023 at the close of their graduation ceremony Thursday, June 8. Five of this year's graduates had attended PJA since early childhood. (Courtesy Portland Jewish Academy)

Published biweekly by

Jewish Federation of
Greater Portland

9900 SW Greenburg Road,
Suite 220

Tigard, OR 97223

503-245-6219

JewishPortland.org

facebook.com/JewishPDX

[instagram.com/](https://instagram.com/jewishfederationpdx/)

jewishfederationpdx/

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Circulation

To receive the Jewish
Review in your email inbox,
fill out the form at

jewishportland.org/subscribe

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Jewish Review do not
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Website: jewishportland.org

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Issue date Deadline

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JULY 26 JULY 20

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Chaplain's Corner

From vision, communal happiness

By RABBI BARRY COHEN

For this Chaplain's Corner, I share an expanded version of the invocation I delivered at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 103rd Annual Meeting on June 6.

Our Jewish community stands at a pivot point that will determine our nature for years to come. We have weathered Covid. We have navigated its primary threats, stresses and strains. We continue to adapt to its collateral damage upon our physical and psychological health, our economics, our politics, our sense of community, our interpersonal and organizational relationships. We are learning how to maximize precious resources: time, talent, energy, finances and experience.

In the midst of these challenging times and looking ahead to the exciting, potential aftermaths, we must have a sense of vision. We can turn to the wisdom of Proverbs, chapter 29, verse 18: "For lack of vision, a people lose restraint, but happy are they who heed instruction." What does this verse mean by "restraint"? It teaches us to be under control ... to set clear limits. In addition, through restraint, we express discipline over our emotions, thoughts and actions. We are aware of our biases and preconceived notions.

Where can we find the "instruction" of which Proverbs speaks? We can acquire it from one another, by sharing our wisdom, experience and knowledge. But we can also acquire instruction through *The 2022-23 Greater Portland Jewish Community Study*. How we review, discuss and mine the results of this study will offer us precious vision.

As we do so, we need to be aware of blind spots, preconceived ideas and biases. We must be curious. Curious is one of my favorite words. When we are curious, we ask questions. We are open to answers. Curiosity leads us from answers to more questions. And so the process continues. But as process leads to results, we may need to pivot if necessary to revise our hopes, goals, expectations and dreams of who we want to become.

This combination of curiosity, restraint and instruction creates a unique vision. And this vision feeds back on itself. As Proverbs instructs, through vision, we can maintain restraint. Through vision, we can determine and follow instructions that transform vision into reality. Another example of restraint: We must find a balance between using the results of the community study to pursue our organization's particular interests and knowing how to work collaboratively to pursue strategies that help multiple organizations.

We also need to think long-term, such as forming three-year and five-year plans, coupled with steps to transform ideas into reality. Now is the time to be courageous and take risks. This includes thinking beyond previous conventions of buildings, budgets and participation costs. Our working



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

collaboratively, uniting the talent, wisdom and experience of our community's and organizations' leaders and participants will only benefit all of us.

Here are some additional study results that jumped out at me: A significant number of Jews in our community define themselves as Jewish, without putting a descriptor in front of that word, like Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist or Orthodox. They are proud of being Jewish but are only willing to participate in programs and activities that interest them. The location, cost and content of that experience play crucial roles. As we plan and promote programs, activities and services, we must lower as many barriers as possible to make them affordable and accessible. We may have to provide transportation for participants and reconsider the days and times of day these events take place, in addition to any costs to participate.

Lastly, in the community study, what stood out for me as Community Chaplain? A significant number of Jewish households live in Northeast and Southeast Portland. These individuals and families are underserved. In addition, a large percentage of our community economically is living paycheck to paycheck; we must ensure our community is accessible to them, and that cost to attend is not an impediment. A significant percentage is dealing with health needs, special needs, chronic illnesses or disabilities. Many of them noted that they have a very limited support system. Another significant percentage must balance caregiving responsibilities with their already busy lives.

How can we assist them, reduce their pressure or address their unique needs? Now is the time to utilize and expand our volunteer base. How are we helping them navigate spiritually, economically, relationally? How are we there for them?

We have an opportunity to create a community that is healthy, secure, safe and vibrant. A community open to rich diversity and expressions. A community that is welcoming and adaptive and hospitable, that looks out for one another. A community where we gather, learn, celebrate and mourn. A community where we heal and thrive. And, as Proverbs instructs, a community filled with happiness for us all.

Rabbi's Corner

"What's in it for you?"

By **RABBI SHMULIK GREENBERG**

In the past few months this space has been used to highlight the activities of the many local Chabad centers. This month I want to share some behind-the-scenes and answer the question of "Why Rabbi? What is in it for you?"

In addition to the ongoing preschool, Hebrew school, synagogue, adult classes and life-cycle events, I (like every Chabad Rabbi) also spend a lot of my time encouraging one Jew and then another to do a mitzvah.

Prior to Passover, I had reached out to every local Jew whose contact info I had and encouraged them to come by and get a handmade traditional matza. One friend accepted my offer and when we met up he shared his appreciation and also expressed his curiosity.

"What's in it for you Rabbi?" he asked. "Why does it matter to you that every Jew in Clark County has one of these for Passover?"

This friend is familiar with me and my frequent invitations to put on tefillin, to join us for Shabbat, and to "at least stop by for a few minutes to hear the Shofar."

So why? What is my goal when I am encouraging you to do this one Mitzvah?

My instinctive response to his question was recalling a childhood memory. When I was even younger than 10 years old, I remember going along with my father to visit a few hospitals before Passover. He took me from bedside to bedside and we left a matza with each patient. I recalled their gratitude and appreciation for us remembering them and including them in our holiday traditions.

My father did this yearly because it was something the Rebbe (Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, z"l) had strongly encouraged. Not just from us rabbis, but from every Jew, to make sure that their Jewish friends and co-workers had a handmade, traditional matzah for their Seder.

Throughout the Rebbe's life, he had campaigned about many different mitzvahs. The matzah, the tefillin, Shabbat candles, mezuzah, just to name a few. While in the long run, a good discussion, a deepened understanding and an enhanced knowing are all goals, in the short run, what matters most is the simple act of doing the Mitzvah.

Because every single Mitzvah (fulfillment of G-d's will and desire) is an opportunity for our body to align with the will and desire of our soul. For a majority of my day, my body is answering to the call of external voices, pressures, worries and demands. But when I stop and do a mitzvah, my body is fully aligned with the inner calling of my G-dly soul, my most authentic voice.

That's what's in it for me. As a Rabbi, a messenger of the Rebbe, that is my mission statement: to assist every person I know, with one opportunity and then another opportunity, to align with his Highest Self, his Divine soul.

You too can assist others with that. Simply by sharing a mitzvah with a friend.

In encouraging us to do one mitzvah and then another, the Rebbe gifted us with a consistent reminder of who we are at our core- and with the tools to feel aligned with that voice.

This Thursday, June 22, (the 3rd of Tammuz) marks the Rebbe's yahrtzeit. Let's honor that date and gift him in return by being that reminder to a friend.

Rabbi Shmulik Greenberg is the rabbi of Chabad Jewish Center of Clark County.

***"When I stop
and do a mitzvah,
my body
is fully aligned
with ... my most
authentic
voice"***

Obituaries

SHIRONA LURIE

It is with great sorrow that Congregation Kesser Israel announces the passing of dearly beloved member Shirona Lurie a"h.

Shirona is survived by her husband Alan and daughters Leora and Lianne.

Her funeral was held June 11 at the Shaarie Torah Cemetery Chapel.

JULIAN BLOCK

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Julian Block z"l, who passed away June 10.

Julian is survived by his wife Zelda Block, son Robert Block, daughter-in-law Letty, daughter Nadine Block, son-in-law Patrick Vennebush, and grandsons Alexander and Elijah Vennebush.

Julian was preceded in death by his parents Nathan and Ruth Block and sisters Lillian Iglitz and Marilyn Block.

A funeral was held June 12th at Congregation Beth Israel.

The family encourages donations in Julian's memory to The 92nd Street Y, the Israel

Religious Action Center or other organizations that support the arts, democracy, or education.

TERRY ABRAHAMSON

Congregation Neveh Shalom regrets to announce the passing of Terry Abrahamson, z"l, who died June 11, 2023. She was predeceased by her husband, Richard Abrahamson, z"l, and is lovingly remembered by her sons Benjamin Abrahamson and Nathan Abrahamson.

The Funeral was held Thursday, June 15, at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery.

MIRA SHOYKHET

Congregation Neveh Shalom regrets to announce the passing of Mira Shoykhet, z"l, who died on June 14, 2023. She is lovingly remembered by her brother Yury (Bella Sheykman) Shoykhet and her son Alexander Apopyan.

The Funeral was held Friday, June 16, at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery.

Submit obituaries: editor@jewishportland.org

Jobs Board

CONGREGATION SHIR TIKVAH

Youth Education & Family Programming Director

The Congregation Shir Tikvah community is looking for an experienced, knowledgeable, and thoughtful part-time Youth Education & Family Programming Director. This position oversees the operation of youth and family programming from pre-K through high school. 42 Weeks/Year, average of 18 hours/week with winter & summer time off. Eligible for 401k match starting in January of 2024. Bachelor's Degree preferred plus three to five years of experience.

More information and a full job description on our website at shirtikvahpdx.org

B'NAI B'RITH CAMP Chief Development Officer

Salary: \$85,000-\$95,000 DOE, full time

B'nai B'rith Camp seeks a dynamic Chief Development Officer to broaden our donor base and lead the agency's fundraising and stewardship efforts. Bachelor's Degree + Advanced Degree Preferred and three to five years of experience.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Michelle Koplan,

See **JOBS**, page 14

Events

See more events at jewishportland.org/community-calendar

June 22: EJC Happy Hour

Happy Hour is back for the summer! Stop by EJC on Thursday, June 22nd while the Art/Lab exhibit is still groovin' and meet some of the artists, kick back with a glass of wine and enjoy the sounds of DJ fCD (Barak Kemeny) as he warms up your ears for Disco Mizrahi (coming soon!) Feel free to grab some food from the carts and eat it here, too! 21+, free, pre-registration requested at ejcpdx.org/events.

June 23: 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 jfc-portland.org/services/counseling/.

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

June 23: YA 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/.

June 25: BB Camp Friends and Family Day

Friends and Family Day, set for Sunday, June 25 at 11 am, is our unofficial Summer Camp kick off. Enjoy camp activities, meet the summer staff, have a yummy lunch, and check out our new Pavilion. Open to all, free to attend. Registration required at <https://bbcamp.org/friends-day/>.

June 25: 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.

June 27: 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. wonderingjewishpodcast.com

June 27: 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

June 29: Cedar Sinai Annual Meeting

Cedar Sinai Park's annual meeting of members is Thursday, June 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Rose Schnitzer Manor, in

Zidell Hall, 6140 SW Boundary Street, Portland. Join us for dessert and a lively performance by Rose Schnitzer Manor's Mazel Tones, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Members and Board of Trustees. Community welcome. For more information, contact Sydney Clevenger at sydney.clevenger@cedar-sinaiapark.org.

June 30: North Coast Shabbat Group

Monthly Kabbalat Shabbat services at Bob Chisholm Community Center in Seaside. See story, page 5.

July 1: Mini Menses Tot Shabbat

Welcome Shabbat with singing, dancing and sweetness. For kids 0-5 and parents. Gather in Pollin Chapel at Congregation Beth Israel at 9-10 am, Saturday, June 3. bethisrael-pdx.org/community/mini-menses.

July 1: Meditation Shabbat

The first Saturday of each month at Congregation Neveh Shalom is Meditation Shabbat. A series of practices will be incorporated into the regular sanctuary service, with the sermon slot dedicated to a focused meditation 9:30 am-noon, June 3. For information, email brohr@nevehshalom.org.

July 2: The Carpathian-Pacific Express at Corkscrew

The Carpathian-Pacific Express returns to the Corkscrew Wine Bar, 1665 SE Bybee Blvd, Portland on Sunday, July 2nd, from 7 to 9 pm. Join with some of Portland's finest musicians in an exciting exploration of

klezmer and Yiddish song, sand much more!

More info online at facebook.com/events/1236951170270627.

July 9: Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Portland

Join Polina Olsen for a tour of Portland's original Jewish neighborhoods in Old South Portland. Based on her books "A Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Portland," "The Immigrants' Children: An Oral History of Portland's early Jewish and Italian Neighborhood" and "Stories from Jewish Portland," Olsen shows you places that remain as she shares first-hand memories of people who grew up in the neighborhood. \$10. Proceeds benefit P'nai Or of Portland. To RSVP and learn starting location contact polina-olsen@comcast.net.

July 10: Send a Kid to Camp Golf Tournament

B'ai B'rith Mens Camp Association and Menashe Properties present this year's Send a Kid to Camp Golf Tournament Monday, July 10, at Langdon Farms Golf Club. Join us for a day of fun in the sun at Langdon Farms Golf Club while doing your part to change a child's life! Register by June 26 online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdfdxzaz>.

July 13: Jewish Summer Festival

Third Annual Jewish Summer Festival at The Fields Park in NW Portland, hosted by Chabad Young Professionals. See story, page 4.

JOBS (continued from page 13)

Chief Executive Officer, at mkoplan@bbcamp.org.

Rentals and Retreat Experience Coordinator

Salary: \$40,000-\$45,000 DOE, full time

BB Camp seeks a dynamic and dedicated Rentals & Re-

treat Experience Coordinator to assist in the operations of all rental and retreat services provided by BB Camp. Duties include outreach, booking, and servicing events for various rental groups. Bachelor's Degree preferred plus up to two

years of experience. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Koplan at mkoplan@bbcamp.org.

CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM

Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

Salary: \$18-20/hour, full time

Bachelor's degree plus three to five years experience required.

For more information or to apply, email Assistant Executive Director Michelle Caplan at mcaplan@nevehshalom.org.