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Polina Olsen, center, introduces participants in her July 9 walking tour to the original South Portland library building. The tour, based on her book "A Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Portland," served as a benefit for P'nai Or of Portland. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Walking Through History

A visit to South Portland shines light on Portland's Jewish history

By ROCKNE ROLL

Few people know Portland's original Jewish neighborhoods as well as Polina Olsen. She literally wrote the book on them.

Olsen, the author of "A Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Portland," led participants on just such a tour on Sunday, July 9, as a benefit for P'nai Or of Portland, taking attendees through South Portland and recalling what was while examining what remains.

In its heyday in the early 20th century, there were around 6,000 Jews living in an area roughly bordered now by Interstate 5, South Barbur Boulevard, South Bancroft Street and Southwest Hall Street. That number constituted about a third of the total neighborhood, the rest were mostly Italian.

"It was a close and largely self-contained neighborhood," Olsen said. "There were kosher butcher shops and bakeries, a Jewish orphanage and

an old age home. social activism, an immigrant benevolent society. There were schools, a library with Yiddish books and the Neighborhood House, which was the community focal point."

Olsen moved to an adjacent neighborhood while working for Hewlett-Packard and became curious about the area, which she knew was historic but could find little information about. She borrowed a digital camera from work, made a collection of images from the area and looked for someone who could help her make sense of what she was looking at. That put her in touch with Gussie Reinhardt z"l.

"I ended up seeing her every week or two for the rest of her life," Olsen said, "and she told me all about the neighborhood where she grew up." Reinhardt was just the first interview. A small

See TOUR, page 9

INSIDE

Self Advocacy in Healthcare

- page 2

PBJ 40 Under 40 honorees – page 2

Burgess to head Tamim Academy

page 4

Chabad Summer Yeshiva starts Aug. 1

- page 4

Lefty's reopens at OJMCHE – page 5

Cedar Sinai's catering manager is everywhere

- page 6

Pride Parade unites Portland community

- page 7

Reporting antisemitism

- page 8

Chaplain: The Ideals of Independence

- page 10

Life cycle: Amrock
- page 11

Obituaries: Goshiyevic, Cohen, Vidgoff, Mikota, Turner, Barns

- page 11

Jobs: Solomon Schecter, OJMCHE, Congregation Beth

Israel – page 11

Events – page 12

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"Self-Advocacy in Healthcare" comes to EJC

By JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

Laurie Fendel became an end-of-life expert the hard way.

George, her husband of 55 years, has had brain cancer three times in 20 years and has endured more than 50 hospitalizations. His longevity despite scary diagnoses is in part due to Fendel's self-described pitbull-esque advocacy in a healthcare setting. It's advocacy work that is not easy and that she loves educating others about.

Fendel, who works as an end-of-life doula, will team up with Jewish Family & Child Service to offer "Self-Advocacy in Healthcare: How you can navigate the system."

"This is my way to give back," she says, reflecting on the opportunity she has had "to have George for longer and to enjoy our children and six grandchildren together."

The free educational and conversational opportunity takes place Wed., July 19, in the Atrium of the Eastside Jewish Commons, from 11 am - 12:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is required, as space is limited. Funding for

this event is made possible by the Jewish Federations of North America and The Sephardic Foundation on Aging.

Laurie's talk focuses on three key navigation tools to help you – or a dying loved one – through the healthcare maze: How to get what you need; how to advocate for both yourself or family members; and possible solutions to problems.

"These are all situations where we have to push," Fendel said.

"My goal is for attendees to learn how they can get the best care while managing a treatment plan and serious illness," said Fendel, who has been an end-of-life doula through a Jewish lens for seven years and has spent decades successfully maneuvering the oft-overwhelming healthcare system. Learn more about Laurie's work at www.Jewishendoflifedoulapdx.com.

Co-facilitating the session is Missy Fry, LCSW, CAGCS, aging and adult services clinician with JFCS.

"One of the most common challenges we're hearing from community members is around navigating the current reality of



Laurie Fendel (Courtesy Jewish Family and Child Service.)

healthcare services," Fry said.

To register, please contact Fry at 503-226-7079 ext. 133 or MissyFry@jfcs-portland. org.

Forer, Scheinman, Singer make business journal's 40 Under 40

From left, Max Forer, Dan Scheinman and Jonathan Singer were recognized in this year's Portland Business Journal 40 Under 40 for local leaders. Forer works as sports and business attorney at Miller Nash LLP, where he was made a partner earlier this year; he also serves as President of Oregon Hillel. Scheinman is founder and CEO of Priority Partnerships, creating sports and entertainment sponsorship opportunities for brands across the Pacific Northwest. He founded the firm last year after 12 years with the Portland Trail Blazers. Singer is a named partner at Barg Singer Hoesly PC and has won numerous awards for his work in commercial real estate; he is also the chair of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and has held numerous high-level roles in Jewish community organizations around Portland. The trio will be recognized along with the rest of this year's 40 Under 40 class at the Sentinel Hotel tomorrow, July 13. (Courtesy photo)



LET'S CELEBRATE

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023 PARADE BEGINS AT 11:00 AM STARTING AT THE NORTH PARK BLOCKS





JEWISH PRIDE GREATER PDX IS NUMBER 110 AND WILL BE ASSEMBLING AROUND 10:30 AT NW PARK AND NW FLANDERS. WATCH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR ANY UPDATES TO LOCATION!



Questions? Please email: rachel@jewishportland.org

Burgess named Tamim Academy principal

By ROCKNE ROLL

Shelley Burgess hadn't initially planned to return to being a school principal, but she happened onto a job posting that caught her attention. That started the process that culminated in her appointment as Principal of Tamim Academy of Portland beginning this fall

"Mrs. Burgess brings a wealth of experience, a passion for education, and a deep understanding of students' needs," the school, previously known as Maimonides Jewish Day School, said in an email announcing her hiring. "We believe she will build upon the foundation laid by [outgoing] Principal [Karen] DeNardo and bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and a commitment to the holistic development of our students."

Burgess' career began in San Diego as a teacher and resource coach before being promoted to principal.

"I was hired to help turn around the student achievements and staff morale and things that were going on at that school," Burgess said of her first principal role. Her success in those tasks led to her promotion to a role as Director of Student Achievement, in which she coached principals, and later as Assistant Superintendent of Educa-



Shelley Burgess will be Principal of the newly renamed Tamim Academy of Portland starting this fall. (Courtesy Shelley Burgess)

tional Leadership.

After five years as assistant superintendent, Burgess stepped away to share her skills and experiences with a broader audience. She wrote "Lead like a PIRATE: Make School Amazing for Your Students

and Staff" with Beth Houf and "P is for PI-RATE: Inspirational ABC's for Educators" with husband Dave Burgess.

A desire to be closer to her son brought her to Portland and clicking on the job posting she saw led to her meeting with Rabbi Chaim Wilhelm.

"I really love their energy and I love the vision that they have for this school," Burgess said. "It's really exciting what they are working to build. I'm excited to be part of it."

From the establishment of the preschool program to the relocation to Northeast Portland, Burgess sees a passion for the work of educating Jewish youngsters come through at every level of the school – a quality she shares.

"I'm very passionate about educating children and also working with and coaching and supporting teachers," Burgess said. "It's fun to join in partnership with other really passionate people about the work that they're doing and that sense definitely came across to me and with every person that I spoke to."

Tamim Academy is enrolling for the coming school year. To apply, visit tamimportland.org/apply.

Chabad brings Summer Yeshiva program to Portland

By ROCKNE ROLL

Looking for a little taste of the yeshiva experience close to home, with a touch of vacation vibes? Chabad of Oregon has you covered with the upcoming Summer Yeshiva program in collaboration with Yeshiva Tiferes Bachurim of Morristown, NJ.

Rabbi Yaakov Wagner will be leading a group of eight yeshiva students for the 15-day program based in Portland Aug. 1-15, with other students coming over for shorter periods. Yeshiva Tiferes Bachurim specializes in educational programs for students who did not grow up in religiously observant households. While some of Wagner's students are pursuing careers in rabbinical work, others are working to deepen their Jewish understanding before moving into other career paths.

"For the students, it's amazing," explained Rabbi Wagner, "because aside from obviously

continuing their Jewish studies over there and continuing to be involved both in their own personal development and outreach, they're going to get the opportunity to see the other side of the country."

Rabbi Wagner and his students will be hosting study sessions on a wide variety of subjects from the Torah, the Talmud and Hasidic texts, both in group settings and one-onone. Rabbi Wagner explained an example of the Talmudic questions up for discussion, whether it's better to perform a mitzvah as quickly as possible or as beautifully as possible, saying "If a person is doing the circumcision for his baby, on the eighth day after the baby is born, and he has two wavs that he can do it. You can either do it first thing in the morning, as soon as possible as early as possible, or he could do it later in the afternoon, and have a larger crowd presence. So again,

this is just one example out of many, which we're going to analyze and discuss."

It's not all studying, though, with plenty of socializing on tap and celebratory shabbat dinners as well, plus daily prayers. Those interested are invited for as much or as little as they like – from a full two weeks of study, a Friday night meal and some Shabbos schmoozing, or anything in between. The event had originally been planned for Seaside, but logistical difficulties have necessitated a relocation to the Portland area - final details on locations are still being worked out as of press time.

Rabbi Wagner met Rabbi Moishe Wilhelm, head of Chabad Oregon, more than two decades ago – a road trip from Los Angeles with a group of yeshiva students from Toronto where his brother was teaching brought him to Portland. This is the third summer that Rabbi

Wagner has returned to Oregon to teach at Rabbi Wilhelm's invitation. For the majority of the students coming, it will be their first time in Oregon. Rabbi Wagner is hopeful that both his students and local participants will form new connections with one another that can stretch the breadth of the continent.

"That's definitely a large part of the objective, as I understand it, for the summer, is just to give them hopefully a connection which will be furthered, even after when the students leave," Rabbi Wagner said.

"I know that the experience of people coming not only just studying, but even just to come and meet other people, make a friendship," Rabbi Wilhelm added. "I think that's a tremendous benefit of the kind of environment really."

For more information, reach out to Rabbi Wagner by text or WhatsApp at 862-579-711.

Lefty's Cafe returns to rave reviews

By ROCKNE ROLL

While so much is new at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (See "Oregon Jewish Museum to unveil new space, permanent exhibit with multicultural street party," June 8, 2023) one thing that remains is Lefty's Cafe in the lobby. Even that has a new twist, though, as the eatery is now operated by Jacob & Sons Delicatessen, a local purveyor of Jewish foods.

Very local, as it turns out – the firm's 10,000 square foot manufacturing space is just blocks from the museum.

It's a match years in the making. Noah Jacob recalls receiving an inquiry from the museum about setting up shop there when he was just getting started in Portland after working in delis and Jewish catering in San Francisco. Covid pushed everything down the road until now, when a brand-new space at the museum and the manufacturing kitchen nearby made for a perfect match.

Jacob and Sons products sold at Lefty's are the same items that you can pick up at any of the growing number of other outlets that sell the company's products – but Lefty's gives the firm a showcase for their products, giving a delicious new life to the idea of a "serving suggestion."

"If you buy a bialy or some lox from Zupans, you may take it home and not know exactly how to make a Bialy with lox," Jacob said. "So this is an opportunity for us to kind of showcase the way that they're supposed to be, you know, produced at home."

The response has been sensational, Jacob said. Not only has the reopened Lefty's fed museum goers, but existing Jacob & Sons customers have gotten a surprising, exciting new experience with lunch.

"They've come just to eat and now they're also kind of falling in love with the Jewish Museum," Jacob said. "They're calling me after their brunch and they're saying 'Wow, I had a great brunch with Jacob



Above: Jacob & Sons chocolate babka is available either by the slice or as full loaves at the reopened Lefty's Cafe at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Below: A serving of Jacob & Sons classic whitefish salad. (Courtesy Jacob & Sons)

& Sons, but what a really cool museum I had no idea that was there."

With the closures of Kenny and Zukes and Kornblatt's, the reopening of Lefty's fills a void in Portland's Jewish eatery scene – though a different one, as unlike the delis, Jacob & Sons and Lefty's operate in the appetizing tradition, the meatfree dairy side of the Jewish eatery ecosystem.

"What we're focused on is the fish and the bread," Jacob said. "We also obviously, in order to be able to sell these products together, do the dairy. So you've got the schmears and the whitefish salad and the tuna salad."

Lefty's offers breads by the loaf, including their Korn Rye, challah and babka. The babka is also available by the slice for those who can't wait for a taste of chocolatey goodness. Salads include the fish varietals along with potato and egg, and the sandwich selection features bagels and bialys with shmear and optional lox, tuna melts and the surprise best seller - egg salad



on rye.

"It caught me off guard," Jacob said. "I had no idea it was going to be the hit that it is."

The menu will be changing as time goes by. The currently-offered sturgeon lox will go away after Jacob & Sons receives kosher certification, and Noah said he's working on a soft-poached egg bialy that's reminiscent of Portland's tradition of runny-egg breakfast sandwiches. Chocolate egg creams are already on the beverage list, but a blended version is in the works.

"We're trying to modernize the menu a little bit and offer

some specials and see what people are into," Jacob said.

Signs are all pointing to success in the weeks following their opening, and Jacob is thankful that the partnership between Jacob & Sons and the museum has been such a natural fit and so mutually beneficial for his firm, the museum and the Portland culinary scene in general.

"In this economy, in this environment, opening a restaurant is really daunting," he said. "Because of the symbiosis of it, it just made it so much easier and a better thing for both of us to be able to do this together.

Cedar Sinai's catering manager is everywhere

By SYDNEY CLEVENGER

It's not always easy to chase down Margaret Leontyev. She not only moves fast, but the longtime Cedar Sinai Park catering manager has many different projects that she is working on, all at the same time.

"Events are a big part of my job," said Leontyev. "We organize and prepare everything, set up and then clean up afterwards. For some events we will also help serve as well."

Leontyev opens her spreadsheets to share the hundreds of invoices she codes, signs, and tracks monthly for both sides of campus, and then sends to accounting. She loves crunching the numbers. Each month she also creates reports on spending. Human Resources Director Geneva Dougal says people are always talking about Margaret's wonderfulness and how amazing her spreadsheets look.

"If Margaret's ears are itching," said Dougal, "it's because people are always saying nice things about her. She is brilliant."

Leontyev and her husband, Andrey, came to the United States from Lithuania in the late 1990s to join Andrey's six sisters and two brothers who had earlier moved to the states. In 2014, Andrey's mother (who is now 93), also joined the rest of her family as she flew in from Ukraine.

Cedar Sinai Park was the first job offer that Leontyev received in the United States. Formally trained as a civil engineer in Lithuania, Leontyev started as a server at Rose Schnitzer Manor when it opened its doors in January of 1998. Ten years ago, she became catering manager, and in January of 2023 she celebrated her 25th year at Cedar Sinai Park—what is also Rose Schnitzer Manor's 25th anniversary.

"I like it here," said Leontyev. "The philosophy of Jewish facility to respect, to love, and to be kind; I truly support what we stand for. And the friendships that we have formed with everyone truly makes this job so fulfilling and rewarding."



Cedar Sinai Park catering manager Margaret Leontyev, pictured at the dining room at Rose Schnitzer Manor. (Courtesy Cedar Sinai Park)

It's probably no surprise that when Leontyev leaves Cedar Sinai Park for the day, she goes home to cook.

"I'm always cooking," she said. "We have a big family [three grandchildren now] and a fruit tree orchard. We are planting tomatoes and cucumbers and I am canning, making sauerkraut for winter."

"Margaret is always helping, even if you don't ask," says server Dusanka, over the whirr of the blender. Dusanka has also been with Cedar Sinai Park in food service for many decades, working alongside Leontyev.

"Margaret is so dedicated. She always jumps in to help and she makes sure everything is done. I've seen her line up tables and tablecloths in Zidell Hall; and they have to be just right before she is satisfied. Margaret will never walk away from an event until it's perfect."

PJA receives climate action grant to reduce food waste

By ROCKNE ROLL

Portland Jewish Academy has received a \$2,000 grant from Adamah to grow its food waste reduction and composting program.

The grant was one of eight such awards from Adamah's climate action fund, and the only one that went to a day school. Adamah was created this year from the merger of the Hazon and Pearlstone organizations – the name is Hebrew for "earth."

PJA Principal Merrill Hendin explains that the program stems back to the school's involvement in Prizmah Center for Jewish Day Schools and their role in the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition. Schools were asked to create and implement concrete steps to address emissions and climate issues – PJA began looking at food

waste as an area in which they could have an impact.

"The grant will help us purchase proper equipment for composting and help us create an outdoor environmental classroom," Hendin explained. "We will start on this in September."

The coalition's goal is to work toward zero emissions, and PJA's focus on combatting food waste both at the school and in the broader community plays directly into that. Hendin is already looking forward to ways their efforts can expand.

"We're also saying, 'OK, think about your plastics," Hendin said. "Bringing that awareness to people, even doing collections; collect all of the plastic containers that you use to eat in a week. What does that look like?"









From left, Kol Shalom and Congregations Neveh Shalom, Shir Tikvah and Kol Ami participate in the 2018 Portland Pride Parade (File photo)

Pride Parade unites Portland community

By ROCKNE ROLL

Pride Month may be over, but the year's biggest event for Portland's LGBTQ Jewish Community is just around the corner as the Portland Pride Parade returns Sunday, July 16 as part of a weekend-long festival, with Jewish Pride Greater PDX leading the way in organizing community-wide participation.

Jewish Pride Greater PDX was formed in 2016 by Liza Milliner after she returned from an LGBTQ trip to Israel organized by the Jewish Federation of North America. While she knew from her own experience that the local Jewish community as a whole, and many of the synagogues in particular, were accepting and supportive of LGBTQ Jews, it was difficult to see that outwardly presented.

"I kind of came back to Portland and said, 'OK, if I'm a newcomer to Portland, how does this community look for a new person?" Milliner, who is now President of Congregation Neveh Shalom said. "If I'm an LGBTQ person coming in, how do I know where to go and how welcoming Portland is?"

Congregations, including Neveh Shalom, were already marching in the parade, but Milliner wanted to pull them all together. She enlisted the help of Michael Jeser z"l, then working with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, and Rachel Nelson, the Federation's Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations, and the first community-wide participation at the parade was the next year.

"I don't know how many different groups we had," Milliner said of the 2017 parade. "I remember we took up probably two or three city blocks from start to finish and that was a really great moment."

This year's event will include contingents from Congregation Beth Israel, B'nai B'rith Camp, Camp Solomon Schechter, Eastside Jewish Commons, Havurah Shalom, Congregation Kol Ami, Mittleman Jewish Community Center, Neveh Shalom, One Table, the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, P'nai Or of Portland, and Portland Jewish Academy, as well as individual Jewish participants.

"It's a really strong message to say, that 'Here's the Jewish community all coming together as one," Milliner said. "I think it's even more important to show the Jewish support that is out there."

The event is not only an opportunity to outreach to LGBTQ Jews and help them find comfortable homes within organized Jewish life, Milliner said, but an important demonstration to the broader community that Jewish Portland is a supportive, accepting community. It's also a lot of fun,

"We have time while we're waiting to take off and start," Milliner explained. "It's a great time to catch up with people that you might not have seen since last Friday [at Shabbat services] and just see people in the community."







Jewish participants in Portland's 2018 Pride Parade march through downtown. This year's event is set for July 16. (File photo)

Milliner also is hoping to make an even bigger impression in years to come.

"There's always been a desire of mine to put together a big float," she said.

All who are interested can join this year's parade; Jewish Pride Greater PDX is entry 110 this year and will be assembling at the intersection of Northwest Park and Flanders streets in downtown Portland at 10:30 am on parade day Sunday, July 16. More information is available at facebook.com/jewishpridepdx or by contacting Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org.



From left, contingents from Congregation Beth Israel, P'nai Or of Portland, and Havurah Shalom participate in the 2018 Portland Pride Parade. (File photos)

"See Something, Say Something" to combat antisemitism

By ROCKNE ROLL

While the phrase "See something, say something," is the cornerstone of messaging that encourages airline passengers to report anything suspicious to authoritie and is well known to American airport goers, its applications go father. Security and community relations experts in the Jewish community agree that it's also an essential response to seeing hate speech, incidents of antisemitism or any other kind of bias – the kinds of events that are happening at record levels in recent years.

The Anti-Defamation League says that reports of antisemitism were up 36% in 2022. But that number doesn't capture the full

reality of the situation for one simple reason.

"It's so vastly underreported," explained Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Regional Security Director Jessica Anderson. "All bias crimes really are vastly underreported, including those to

But reporting incidents of hate goes beyond crimes –

the Jewish community."

knowing about activity that doesn't rise to the level of criminal activity is still important.

"If you get an antisemitic leaflet on your driveway, you should report that," explained Bob Horenstein, Director of Community Relations at the Federation, "because it may only be your house, or maybe it's all of your neighbors; maybe there's a pattern somehow that law enforcement can figure out who's doing this, what to do about it, how to respond to it."

Horenstein works closely with students, parents and staff of schools that have had reports of antisemitic incidents.

"We've been dealing with about half a dozen schools," he said. "It's not just the half a dozen schools, but if we don't know what's happening in a particular school, then we're not there to help."

Incident reports don't just affect the individual situation – each report is a critical data point in addressing the overall problem of antisemitic incidents.

"We can't make effective laws, policies, do advocacy work without knowing how extensive the problem really is," Anderson said. "And if we're all walking around with a sort of a false idea about how bad or bad or not bad it is, then that it's harder to make those kinds of policy and laws and decisions."

Anderson's work is funded by Secure Community Network, the official safety and security organization of the

Jewish community in North America, and a local three-way partnership of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Endowment Fund and multiple Jewish organizations in the region.

For individuals reporting incidents, the act of reporting can provide a crucial sense of empowerment for those confronted with hate speech or bias crimes.

"It's easy to sort of push it aside as a small thing as a little thing,"

Anderson said, "but I think cumulatively it can take toll on people. So I think reporting becomes an act of defiance against that event be no matter how small it is, there is a push back to it. It is a way to control your story around it."

It's also a way to look out for your neighbors, Jewish and non-Jewish, because antisemitism doesn't exist in a vacuum.

"Wherever there's antisemitism, there's likely anti-gay hate, racism, what have you," Horenstein said.

So how should incidents, particularly incidents that don't rise to the level of criminal activity, be reported?

One very easy way is to use the Federation's incident reporting

tool, available at jewishport-land.org/incident-reporting. Another is to contact Anderson, who can be reached at Jessica@jewishportland.org. Anderson connects regularly with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the area, the nationwide Secure Community Network, the ADL, the Oregon

"It may only be your house, or maybe it's all of your neighbors; maybe there's a pattern somehow that law enforcement can figure out who's doing this, what to do about it, how to respond to it."

- Bob Horenstein

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control your story around it."

-Jessica Anderson

Department of Justice's Bias Response Hotline, and resources for victims including counseling and assistance in repairing property damage caused by bias incidents.

Even if someone is not comfortable engaging with law enforcement, Anderson can help.

"It is fine for you to have experienced an event and not want law enforcement engagement," she said. "A number of times, I've been an interface between people who experienced an incident but do not want to engage with law enforcement. I can be that person."

If you or someone else are in immediate danger, or there's a crime in progress, be sure to call 911 right away.

Oregon's Bias Response Hotline is the first and only resource of its kind in the country.

"There is an online portal and a phone number where you can call your this bias hotline, both for information just for data collect-

ing," Anderson explained.

The Hotline can be reached at 844-924-2427. During business hours, the phones are staffed by trauma-informed operators and interpreters for more than 240 languages are available. After hours, you can leave a voicemail and someone will get back to you. Reporting is also available at standagainsthate.oregon.gov.

The FBI, which investigates Federal

hate crimes, accepts reports online at fbi.gov/home. Local law enforcement agencies can be reached for incident reporting at their non-emergency numbers – for Portland Police Bureau, that number is 503-823-3333.

Not sure who to contact? Reach out to Anderson.

"As a community security director, I intersect with all of those groups," she said. "It gives me an opportunity to connect with the individual that experienced that issue and make sure that they're supported and the way they need or want to be supported."

Report antisemetic incidents at jewishportland.org/incident-reporting

TOUR (continued from page 1)

batch of these were incorporated into her Walking Tour book, which she successfully self-published in an age before digital distribution and on demand printing. Another hundred conversations were distilled down into her next volume "The Immigrants' Children: An oral history of Portland's early Jewish and Italian neighborhood."

Her tour begins at the Lair Hill Bistro on Southwest First Avenue, the site of a former grocery store whose original owner Olsen interviewed. Winding around the corner, Olsen points out the original home of Congregation Kesser Israel, an apartment building which housed newcomers from a North Dakota Jewish commune, and the former Neighborhood House, which offered citizenship classes, Hebrew lessons and youth activities.

Though the area's Jewish population began to disperse after World War II, urban renewal and the construction of Interstate 405 spelled the end for the historic neighborhood. More than 50 blocks were condemned, including a number of synagogues, and the center of Jewish life in Portland migrated west to Hillsdale.

While the buildings are, in many cases, gone, Olsen worked with original maps from Sanborn Map Company and historic copies of city directories to pinpoint what used to be where.

"I went to the neighborhood that is left and the neighborhood that doesn't exist anymore, and mapped out where the all the old places were," she said.

After the publication of her second book, Olsen began writing a history column for The Jewish Review, a compilation of which was her first commercially published book. She wrote another book about Portland's counterculture movement in the 1960s while also giving her first in-person walking tours as fundraisers for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. She's now joined P'nai Or and decided to put on another event for the congregation.

"It's been a long time since



Clockwise from top: Polina Olsen leads her July 9 walking tour past the former Neighborhood House, which now houses Cedarwood Waldorf School. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review); A map, which appears in Olsen's book "A Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Portland," detailing the size and boundries of the former neighborhood. (Courtesy Polina Olsen); The tour group takes in the area around the original home of Congregation Kesser Israel. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



I've given tours but I wondered if they would like that, and also to see if there's still interest in the community and going on the tours," she said. "They were quite popular."

The maps and details are all in her books, but there's something moving about going in person as a way of preserving a memory.

"This is where Shaarie Torah was, this is where Moses' Bakery was," Olsen said, describing a section of map, "and what's there now is gone. Just nothing there."

Another tour is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 5. Tickets available at givebutter.com/ m6A38d.



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Editor

instagram.com/

jewishfederationpdx/

Rockne Roll editor@jewishportland.org

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Issue date Deadline
JULY 26 JULY 20
AUG 9 AUG 3
AUG 23 AUG 17

Chaplain's Corner

The Ideals of Independence

"Let's continue to participate

in the American experiment."

By RABBI BARRY COHEN

How did we celebrate July 4th this year? Did we do anything special? Did we feel patriotic?

This year brought back memories of our bicentennial: 1976. I was in first grade. At the end of the school year, all the students dressed up and took part in parades, played games and sang songs. I still remember my "Minuteman" costume. My mom helped me make an outfit based upon colonial fashion with a tri-cornered hat. I even brought a fake rifle to school.

The 7-year-old me felt patriotic. I fully embraced our underdog origins and the mythology of the rebellious "good guys" versus the bullying-British "bad guys." Granted, I was only in first grade.

Throughout high school, I continued to embrace "American exceptionalism." But then slowly but surely, I started learning about the full history of our nation. The more I learned, the more I wanted to learn. To this day, I continue to play catch up through regular visits to the Beaverton Public Library.

I am not afraid of learning our full history, no matter how critical, depressing or shameful. Over and over again, we have failed to live up to the ideals of our founding documents. This partial list includes ethnic cleansing of Native Americans, slavery, racism, unfettered capitalism, sexism, LGBTQ discrimination, continued voting restrictions, political corruption, and wars with hidden agendas.

I have accepted our history for what it is, re-

gardless of how flawed we have been as a nation, dating back to pre-colonial days. I have embraced the vision of what we can

still become; democracy is an experiment and a process.

Just look to the opening line of our Constitution: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The very existence of the United States of America is based on ideals: justice, welfare, liberty, freedom and equality. What an amazing foundation. But if we lose faith in these ideas, the American experiment fails.

Let me not get lost in abstractions. I want to shift to other ideas that I learned from my youth ... ideas I have tried to implement my entire life. These are lessons my parents taught me at the dinner table, on car rides, when taking walks, when watching the news.



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

These lessons include: keep your word, be accountable for your actions, fulfill your responsibilities, learn to compromise and apologize when you are wrong. I imagine that plenty of parents taught their children similar lessons, if not the exact same lessons.

Now in 2023, we can take a look at our nation and ask, "What happened to these ideals that parents worked so hard to teach their children?" Based upon what we learn from various media outlets, our country is in the process of disintegrating. Day after day, we learn about our hypocritical political leaders and "gotcha" moments with pop culture figures. We hear of ongoing violence in schools, neighborhoods and even airliners. We read out anti-Pride protests, antisemitic attacks and Proud Boys/Christian Nationalist violence. Then there are survey after survey documenting division and even hatred of one group for another.

But wait a minute. Every day, I witness and interact with a different kind of country. Con-

sistently, I spent time with good people. They are kind, encouraging, supportive, caring and looking out for one an-

other. From that perspective, the ideas I learned from my parents are still strong.

This Independence Day, we can still be proud of our country – what is has been, what it is and what it can be. At the same time, we can recognize our tragic, destructive and shameful flaws; we can honestly critique the flaws of capitalism, how the middle class has been squeezed, how government-sponsored social services have been reduced, how healthcare is too expensive, etc.

Let's continue to participate in the American experiment. How are we treating our family, our neighbors and our co-workers? How are we interacting with others when we run errands? What are we giving back to our community? Who are voting for? Are we truly voting in our best interests?

It all comes back to our words and our actions. I return to the lessons my parents taught me when I was a little kid: Let's keep our word, be accountable for our actions, fulfill our responsibilities, learn to compromise and apologize when we are wrong.

Life cycle

Submit births, b'nai mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and landmark birthdays to editor@jewishportland.org.

NATAN AMIEL AMROCK

Congregation Ahavath Achim wishes mazel tov to Levana and Stephen Amrock on the birth of their son, Natan Amiel on June 2, 2023.

bituaries

SIMA GOSHIYEVICH

Congregation Neveh Shalom regrets to announce the passing of Sima Goshiyevich z"l, who died on June 21, 2023. She is lovingly remembered by her husband, Isaak Goshiyevich; her granddaughter, Elena (Gene Telengator) Goshiyevich; great-granddaughter, Diana Telengator; and her cousin, Peter (Alla) Tolchinsky. The funeral was held Sunday, June 25th.

MIRIAM AVIVAH COHEN

Congregation Neveh Shalom regrets to announce the passing of Miriam Avivah Cohen z"l, mother of Lisa Cohen (Scott) Greenfield. She was beloved by so many, and her passing will leave an enormous void. She was preceded in death by William (z"l), her husband of 50 years. Miriam is remembered by her brother Eli Dubrow, her sister Ruth Kremer, her two adoring daughters (Lisa & Nancy), and five precious grandchildren (Mayah, Tali, Sophie, Daniel, & Jack). The funeral was held in Los Angeles Sunday, June 25th.

MARTIN BRUCE **VIDGOFF**

Martin Bruce Vidgoff was born Jan. 30, 1943 and died June 19, 2023. He was the son of Dr. Ben Vidgoff and Laura Horwitt Vidgoff and the brother of Dr. Jaclyn Vidgoff. Martin graduated from Lincoln High School in Portland in 1961 and from Harvard College in 1966 with an A.B. degree cum laude in government. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School in 1969, where he was president of the student Law Association.

Martin became a member of the Oregon State Bar in 1969 and initially worked as an associate of the Miller Nash firm in Portland. Next Martin served as Deputy County Counsel for Multnomah County. In 1978 he followed Multnomah County Counsel George Joseph to the Oregon Court of Appeals, where Martin served as staff attorney for 23 years.

Martin was known for his formidable intellect and precise memory of the law. He was very much an old-fashioned gentleman, and could quite often politely point to the precise volume in the Oregon Reports where one could find the answer to a legal question. He was given to murmuring (or occasionally muttering) profound insights into the law, delivering lengthy monologues on the assassination of JFK, and telling humorous stories about the political insights of his cats Ishmael and Barnaby.

Former Appeals Court Chief Judge Mary Deits stated that Martin drafted more than 1,100 opinions for the Court of Appeals during his years of service to the Court. Judge Deits also referred to Martin's "ability to write a perfectly worded opinion in a difficult case-often in a matter of hours." Many of his opinion drafts dealt with Oregon land use law. Former Oregon Supreme Justice William Riggs stated Martin drafted "just about all of the landmark land use decisions for [the Court of Appeals] for a long time."

Martin's humor was legendary. When he graduated from Stanford Law School, he wrote about himself: "I had a normal childhood except for

Jobs Board

CAMP SOLOMON SCHECTER

Summer Camp Director

Salary: \$80,000-120,000, Full-Time

Camp Solomon Schechter is seeking an energetic and self-motivated partner and camp professional for the Summer Camp Director position, who demonstrates a love of Jewish summer camp and all it has to offer. This position will report to the Executive Director and will ensure the mission and vision of the summer camp program, as defined by the Board of Directors, is successfully achieved through the development, implementation, supervision, and evaluation of assigned core responsibilities. We are looking for someone who will help lift the profile of our entire organization, especially Jewish summer camp and year-round engagement. Bachelor's degree plus seven years' experience required. Please submit your cover letter and resume to zduitch@campschechter.org. Only those whose applications are being considered will be contacted.

OREGON JEWISH MUSEUM AND CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Museum Educator

Salary: \$30/hour, Part-Time

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE) seeks a motivated, knowledgeable, personable, and creative individual to fill the position of Museum Educator. OJMCHE is a growing organization, which engages audiences from a wide range of backgrounds on the museum's core educational content: Oregon Jewish history; the history of the Holocaust and genocide; human rights, and the history of discrimination and resistance in Oregon. Bachelor's degree in applicable field and two years' experience required. To apply, end a resume and cover letter to jobsearch@ojmche.org by July 30, 2023.

Volunteer Educator (Part-time)

OJMCHE volunteer educators are an extraordinary group of welcoming, dedicated, and trained facilitators who help visitors engage with museum content each year. They have the opportunity to participate in in-depth educational sessions on the Holocaust and genocide, Oregon Jewish history, and the history of discrimination and resistance in Oregon, as well as Jewish art and culture. Associates' degree and 0-2 years of experience required. To apply, end a resume and cover letter to jobsearch@ ojmche.org.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL Religious School Faculty, 6th-7th Grade

Salary: \$22.50-32/hour, Part-Time

Congregation Beth Israel is currently seeking Middle School Jewish Studies teachers for the 2023-24 school year. Middle School teachers are part of a grade level team and are responsible for approximately 12-15 students. Hebrew language knowledge is not necessary for the Middle school Jewish studies teaching positions. For more information or to apply, email Ben Sandler, RJE, Director of Education, at ben@bethisrael-pdx.org.

Religious School Faculty, PreK-5th Grade

Salary: \$22.50-32/hour, Part-Time

Congregation Beth Israel is currently seeking elementary grade teachers for the 2023-24 school year. Elementary Grade

July 13: EJC Happy Hour

Happy Hour is back for the summer! Stop by EJC on Thursday, July 13 from 6-7:30 pm, kick back with a glass of wine (or non-alcoholic beverage), enjoy the sounds of DJ fCD (Barak Kemeny) and get ready for Pride. Feel free to grab some food from the carts and eat it here, too! 21+, free, pre-registration requested at ejcpdx.org/events.

July 13: Jewish Summer Festival

Third Annual Jewish Summer Festival at The Fields Park in NW Portland, hosted by Chabad Young Professionals. A fun evening celebrating Jewish life and culture, with falafel popup, challah booth and Kona soft ices truck on site. Screening of "A Woman In Gold" at sunset. Open and free for all. Fun for all ages. RSVP online at portlandjewishfestival.com

July 13: Cafe Shalom Israeli Folk Dancing

Weekly open Israeli dance session every Thursday, 8-10 pm at CHCC, 8936 SW 17th Ave in Portland. All experience levels and ages welcome. Enjoy dancing in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere of dancers at all levels. Learn new dances and practice favorites and classics from long ago. \$7. For more information, contact Allison Victor at allisuev@gmail.com.

July 14: 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/.

July 16: Portland Pride Parade

Join Jewish Pride Greater PDX as we march as a Jewish community together. See article, page 7.

July 16: Hungarian Jewish Research

Vivian Kahn will reference records from the vast area that was formerly part of Hungary from 10:30 am – noon on Zoom in this event put on by The Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon. Free. Register at tinyurl. com/5cx47fhm.

JOBS (continued from page 11)

teachers are part of a grade level team and are responsible for approximately 12-15 students. A teen madrich, teaching assistant, works in every classroom assisting teachers and working with the students. Elementary students also attend arts classes during the morning sessions taught by art specialists in music, visual arts, drama, and dance. For more information or to apply, email Ben Sandler, RJE, Director of Education, at ben@bethisrael-pdx.org.

Early Childhood Director Salary: \$75,000-85,000,

Full-Time

Congregation Beth Israel is interested in creating a

new Early Childhood Education program in the heart of NW Portland. Our urban preschool and infant/toddler center. The Jennifer Barnum Luria Early Childhood Center (The Jennie), will provide an opportunity for children to build community, learn about themselves, and set the foundation for a lifetime of curious exploration of the world around them. Our new Early Childhood Director will be excited by the opportunity to build a premier program from the ground up. Bachelors' degree and 3-5 years experience required. To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to Josh Kashinsky at josh@bethisrael-pdx.org.

July 16: An Intimate Afternoon with David Fuks

The Next Generations Group, Havurah Shalom, and the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education host the rescheduled presentation of An Intimate Afternoon with Author and Playwright David Fuks Sunday, July 16, from 2-4 pm at Havurah Shalom, 825 NW 18th Ave in Portland and on Zoom. Free, donations appreciated. Register online at tinyurl.com/mrx3jd3c.

July 16: 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.

July 18: 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. \$10. ejcpdx.org/events.

July 19: Self-Advocacy in Healthcare

Join Laurie Fendel, end-of-life doula, and Missy Fry, LCSW, CAGCS, JFCS Aging and Adult Services Clinician, for a conversation on healthcare advocacy. See story, page 2.

July 23: EJC Presents Israeli Dancing for Everyone with Allison Victor

Join local Israeli dance instructor Allison Victor Sunday, July 23 from 1-2 pm as she leads a session of Israeli Dance for all ages and levels but tailored especially to beginners. Great for families, singles, couples, and...everyone! Register online at ejcpdx.org/events.

July 23: First Person Look at the US Mexican Border Crisis

Take an up-close look at the US/Mexican border crisis with Guadalupe Guajardo Sunday, July 23 from 7-8 pm at P'nai Or of Portland at Hillsdale Community Church, 6948 SW Capitol Highway in Portland. Free and open to all. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact admin@pnaiorpdx.org.

OBITS (continued from page 11)

never catching the mumps. Then I went to Harvard, where I caught the mumps." Martin was preceded in death by his parents; his sister; and many close family members. Martin's burial and funeral were held June 22, 2023, at the Neveh Zedek Cemetery Mausoleum, in Beaverton, Ore.

ROGER MIKOTA

It is with tremendous sorrow that Congregation Kol Ami announces death of Roger Mikota Friday, June 23. Please consider a donation in Roger's memory to either columbiasprings. org or the Congregation Kol Ami Jan Herson School Fund at jewishvancouverusa.org/making-a-one-time-donation.

SUSAN TURNER

Congregation Shir Tikvah mourns the passing of Susan Turner t", who died Monday, June 26. Her funeral was held Sunday, July 2, at the Shir Tikvah Cemetery at Riverview.

JEFFRY BARNS

Congregation Neveh Shalom regrets to announce the passing of Rev. Jeffry Barnes, z"l on July 3, 2023. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Shirley; children, Arzélie (Jeff) McAllister, Rachel (Chris) Hertel, and Prairie (Cal) Bryant; grandchildren, Méabh and Ziva, Aled Hertel, Amalia Prohofsky, Aneurin and Auggie Bryant; and great-grandchild, Grey Prohofsky.