

The JEWISH REVIEW

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Students experience their Birthright

BY DEBORAH MOON

Following a two-year, Covid-related hiatus of Birthright trips, Oregon Hillel returned to Israel June 19-29 with its largest ever group of students.

"The entire trip was a culturally enriching experience, from having Shabbat in the city of Jerusalem, to touching the Western Wall for the first time, and connecting with IDF soldiers about our similarities and differences from being Jewish and life in Israel and in the States," says Daniel Moss, a University of Oregon student on his first visit to Israel.

Birthright Israel this year relaunched its free trips to Israel for young Jewish adults from the Diaspora. Since 1999, about 800,000 young adults ages 18-26 from 68 countries have participated in Birthright trips.

Fifty students – 33 from the University of Oregon and 17 from Oregon State University – signed up for this summer's free 10-day trip. From 2012 to 2019, Oregon Hillel took two groups of students to Israel on the Birthright trips each year; previously the largest trip was 32. This year, two students dropped out the day before departure due to positive Covid tests, but 48 Oregon students were able to enjoy what is often called a life-changing experience.

See **BIRTHRIGHT**, page 6



OSU student Rebecca Shore flashes the peace sign as she stands on top of Masada watching the sun rise over the Dead Sea on the final day of Oregon Hillel's Birthright Israel trip.

Putting a face on the lessons of terror



The tree at the entrance of the Frank Sinatra restaurant at the student center of Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus is an artistic installation in remembrance of the July 31, 2002, terrorist attack that killed nine people there.

When Congregation Neveh Shalom hosts a July 31 program on lessons of terror, Neveh Shalom Rabbi David Kosak and Cantor Eyal Bitton both will have personal memories to share of a terrorist bombing in Jerusalem 20 years ago.

Nine people died and scores were injured including Rabbi Kosak, who was sitting five meters from where the bomb exploded.

"On July 31, 2002, Paivi Kaouri and I were eating lunch and laughing in the Frank Sinatra Cafeteria at Hebrew University, when, at 1:35 pm, the room was rocked with a horrifically loud explosion," recalls Rabbi Kosak. "An instantaneous thought arose in my head, product of my years working as a chef in professional kitchens – 'a stove has exploded in the kitchen.' And then as the large cafeteria filled with acrid smoke,

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Wexner Fellows add patience to curriculum

BY DEBORAH MOON

The Portland class of the Wexner Heritage Program had an extra lesson added to their study of Judaism and leadership – patience.

Originally planned to start in 2020, Covid forced the start of the program to be delayed until August 2021. Now in the middle of their two-year program, the Portlanders headed to Israel for a weeklong Summer Institute. A few of the participants had another lesson in patience when their stay in Israel was extended by two days due to two flight delays/cancellations for their return trip.

“We were able to learn firsthand from the stakeholders in some of Israel’s thorniest issues, and that was priceless,” says Christie Moore of participating in the WHP Israel Institute with her Portland cohort and other lay leaders from around the country.

“It was really an intensive learning trip, where we confronted many of the contradictions of Israel today,” says Portland Wexner Fellow Noah Barish, who lived in Israel as a college student and has visited as a tourist. “The Wexner Heritage Program Israel trip was unlike any of those prior experiences.”

The Wexner Foundation has more than 30 years of experience developing excellence in Jewish professionals and volunteer leaders in North America. The mission of the Wexner Heritage Program is to expand the vision of Jewish volunteer leaders, deepen their Jewish knowledge and confidence, and inspire them to exercise transformative leadership in the Jewish community.

“Our program was not about sightseeing,” says Jewish Federation President and CEO Marc Blattner. “It was focused on better understanding ‘Israel today’ – dynamics within the country, and, most importantly, ways as leaders we can effectuate change for the benefit of the global Jewish people.”

Wexner Fellow Josh Frankel was accompanied by his wife, Amy.

“Amy and I left Israel with more questions than we arrived, and I believe that indicates a successful journey,” says Frankel. “We also nurtured and developed incredible friendships with Jews from Portland and across the country.”

He says the amazing journey offered a lens into the beauty of the land and people of Israel. “Simultaneously the trip gave insight into the complex challenges facing Judaism, the Jewish people and Israel today,” he adds. “We interacted with Israeli and Palestinian leaders providing a balanced viewpoint of the ongoing conflict.”

The group heard from Mohammad Darawshe, a leading expert on Arab-Jewish relations, about the difficulty in moving toward an actual “shared society” for Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel. They also toured



Portland’s Wexner Heritage Fellows and several of their spouses pose for a group photo at Hebrew University on Mt. Scopus overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem during their July visit to Israel as part of their two-year leadership program.

“I wish more American Jews had the opportunity to get to know the complex miracle that is Israel.”

~ Christie Moore, Portland Wexner Fellow

PORTLAND WEXNER FELLOWS

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Rochelle Abitz | • Jessica Hilbert |
| • Noah Barish | • David Hirsch |
| • Emily Benoit | • Leah Katz |
| • Marc Blattner | • Ronnie Malka |
| • Anna Epstein | • Liza Milliner |
| • Josh Frankel | • Christie Moore |
| • Nicole Frisch | • Benjamin O’Glasser |
| • Nadine Gartner | • Jonathan Singer |
| • Simon Gottheiner | • Mark Zeitzer |
| • Jaimie Harper | • Jason Zidell |

the West Bank/Judea and Samaria with Brig. General Rami Abudram, the chief of staff of the IDF’s Central Command.

With that tour, “we saw how painfully the land divides and is divided,” says Barish. But he adds they also experienced “Israel’s loving relationship with the land during an idyllic farm dinner focused on shmita (the sabbatical year) with ‘seed to table. chef and restaurateur Hedai Ofaim.”

Barish was also impressed with the social entrepreneurs including those who provide secular educational content for haredi (ultra-orthodox) communities and expand career options for historically marginalized Israeli students.

“At the end, I think our group left with a much richer appreciation for Israel’s beautiful and challenging complexity,” he says.

Moore agrees: “I wish more American Jews had the opportunity to get to know the complex miracle that is Israel in the way

that our group just did – our job now is to bring this perspective and optimism back to the community.”

“I came home really optimistic about and energized toward improving relationships between Israel and American Jews,” says Moore.

More than 2,000 leaders from 34 North American cities have participated in the Wexner Heritage Program.

The local initiative is made possible by the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland with additional support from local donors, local Wexner Heritage alumni and the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. This is the first time since 1996 that the Portland community has participated in the Wexner Heritage Program.

Blattner shared a few highlights of the trip in his weekly email, which you can read at jewishportland.org/marcs-remarks/learning-with-and-from-leaders-july-15-2022.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PORTLAND

Israel at 75

PDX >> ISRAEL 2023

REGISTRATION OPEN
SIGN UP NOW

The Jewish Federation is excited to officially open registration for our rescheduled Centennial Trip to Israel! It's a special year for Israel...its 75th anniversary...and we'll be there to celebrate!

We have developed a fantastic itinerary that will include experiences planned for 2020 and some new/different ones, as well.

The opportunity for participating in a group b'nai mitzvah is available. See the 2023 Trip website for the draft itinerary and registration.

*Priscilla & Tony Kostiner and
Kathy Davis-Weiner & Michael Weiner*
Israel 2023 Co-Chairs

www.jewishportland.org/israel2023

People in the News

Rabbi Skolnik to lead Kesser Israel



Rabbi Sholom Skolnik will serve as the next rabbi of Congregation Kesser Israel beginning Sept. 1.

He succeeds Rabbi Kenneth Brodtkin, who served the Orthodox congregation for 17 years before he took a new post in New Jersey this summer.

Rabbi Skolnik is already well known to the community as a superb teacher and Torah scholar, having come to Portland in 2017 from the Phoenix Kollel to serve on the teaching staff at Maayan Torah Day School. He has worked as

director of adult education at the Portland Kollel and as the rabbi at Congregation Ahavath Achim. He recently completed his master's degree in teacher leadership through Brandeis University.

Kesser's new rebbetzin, Mrs. Chaviva Skolnik, also has taught at Maayan. She has served on the Kesser Israel Board of Directors for several years. She is currently completing a master's degree in social work through Yeshiva University.

The congregation announced the news in a July 12 email sent to members and friends of the congregation on July 12.

"Over the past five years, we have all come to admire and value the Skolniks, not only as knowledgeable and skilled professionals, but also as kind and reliable friends," says Kesser Israel President Charles Elder. "We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful couple stepping in to serve as the next leaders of our shul."

On Sept. 11, Kesser Israel plans its annual summer barbeque where the congregation will officially welcome the Skolniks in their new role.

Rabbi Villarreal to lead Ahavath Achim

Congregation Ahavath Achim has hired Rabbi Devin Maimon Villarreal as the Sephardic congregation's new rabbi. Rabbi



Villarreal's first Shabbat with his new congregation will be July 30.

"He is a modern Orthodox Sephardic Rabbi who is trained in the same Ladino-speaking traditions as the synagogue founders," says CAA President Mark Berkovitch.

Rabbi Villarreal has worked in Jewish education for 13 years as a classroom teacher and administrator in both Orthodox and community day schools. He received *semikha* (rabbinic ordination) from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, as well

as from Rabbi Nathan Lopes Cardozo. A graduate of UCLA in the study of religion, he also holds a master's degree in teaching from the American Jewish University and is a recipient of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship and the Covenant Foundation's Pomegranate Prize for emerging Jewish educators.

He has served in numerous Sephardic congregations including Beth Aharon in Riverdale, N.Y., and Kahal Levy in West Hills, Calif. His family comes from the Spanish and Portuguese Sephardic communities of Italy and the Caribbean, as well as the Judeo-Spanish (Ladino-speaking) communities of Turkey and the Balkans. Rabbi Villarreal has sought to amplify the voice of classical Sephardic Judaism characterized by tradition and intellectual vibrancy, spirituality and moral action, tolerance and joy.

He and his wife, Pamela, have been blessed with five children – Oliver Dov, 16; Elinor Binah, 14; Sawyer Yishai, 11; Everett

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Amos, 8; and Graham Hayim, 5.

Congregation Ahavath Achim, meaning "brotherly love," was founded in 1916 by Jews from Turkey and the Isle of Rhodes. Now its broad membership includes those of both Sephardic and Ashkenazi heritage. Ahavath Achim is located in Hillsdale at 6686 SW Capitol Hwy. For more information on the congregation, visit ahavathachim.com.

EJC hires Bierbaum as new executive director

The Eastside Jewish Commons has hired Howie Bierbaum as its new executive director.

He started half time on July 1 and will step into his new role full time on Aug 1. He succeeds Interim Executive Director Mia Birk.

"My first month will involve getting to know the board, our community partners and how this nascent, vital organization operates," says Bierbaum. "It's an exciting endeavor."

EJC's mission is to create and sustain a lively and inclusive gathering place on Portland's east side, with educational, cultural, spiritual, religious and social programming offered by multiple Jewish community organizations. EJC opened its doors in July 2021 at Northeast 24th and Sandy.

For over 35 years, Bierbaum has been involved in the arts, activism and community. A Portlander since 1981, he most recently served as executive director of the Portland Saturday Market and as a marketing consultant for "Beyond Van Gogh – The Immersive Experience." He began his career as executive director for Portland's Echo Theatre/Do Jump!. He went on to head the Portland Area Theatre Alliance, Portland Symphonic Choir, Third Angle New Music Ensemble and Oregon Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. In 2004 he co-founded and managed Wonder Ballroom before becoming tour manager for t Pink Martini. He has served as a grants panelist for the Regional Arts + Culture Council, Oregon Arts Commission, Prosper Portland and Oregon Community Foundation.

Bierbaum can be reached at howieb@ejcpdx.org.



Jobs board

The Jewish Review publishes job openings from Jewish agencies and congregations, as well as other openings of possible interest to community members. Submit to: editor@jewishportland.org.

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Growth Marketing Director

Salary: \$70,000 to \$80,000 plus benefits

The Jewish Federation is looking for an experienced Growth Marketing Director to develop and manage marketing programs, support community-building objectives, increase financial resource development, foster donor retention, advance brand building and provide staffing support. See full post in Career Hub link (below).

JEWISH CAREER HUB

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's job board for the ongoing listing of job opportunities in the Jewish community currently features 16 Jewish job openings, including the JFGP position listed above. See full descriptions for all of the openings or submit job openings at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs.

Volunteers feted: Song of Miriam Part 3

The Jewish Women's Round Table and the Jewish Review are once again collaborating to recognize outstanding women volunteers who have been selected by their organizations to receive the Round Table's Song of Miriam Awards.

The awards are usually presented during a brunch event in June, however it has not been held during the pandemic. Following is the third group of women receiving this year's Song of Miriam. More honorees will be profiled throughout the summer.



LAUREN GOLDSTEIN: Honored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

The Jewish Federation describes Lauren as full of creativity, energy and true commitment to the Jewish community. Being a “marketer,” her emphasis is on connections and engagement. She



always says, “When people come together, great things happen.”

As a Jewish Federation Board member, past Campaign Chair and three years as Board Chair (during the challenges of the pandemic), she exhibited strong leadership and community-building vision.

Professionally, Lauren is a “growth leader” who co-founded Women in Revenue and is an advisor to several technology companies.

In her own words, Lauren recounts how she became engaged in Jewish community: “It was as a college student at Tufts that I really began to immerse myself in Jewish life and saw a vision of what a vibrant Jewish community could be. This was further enhanced while spending a semester in Israel. When I came back to Portland at 25, I was compelled to bring the vibrant Jewish community life to Portland.”

SHIRONA LURIE: Honored by Kesser Israel

Shirona Lurie came to Portland seven years ago and since then has contributed her talents and enthusiasm to enhance Congregation Kesser Israel.

Shirona was born in New York and lived her formative years in

Israel. She had a gift for music, and in 1999 wrote and produced an album of Judaic love songs. Before moving to Portland, she was a full-time cantor in New York.

At Kesser Israel, Shirona has been involved in building community. She invites groups of people to her home for events and hosts women’s musical and learning programs. She also was the inspiration for a rabbinic class that lasted several years.

Shirona is an artist and recently taught an art-collage class at Kesser, as well as volunteering to teach art at Maayan Torah Day School.

Kesser says Shirona’s love for Judaism combined with her talents and ideas for women’s programs have been an inspiration, and her friendly and lively conversations always bring people together.



MYRA BLATT: Honored by Beit Am, Corvallis

Newly arrived in Corvallis, the Blatts quickly joined Beit Am. Over time, Myra has volunteered in nearly every possible capacity; notably, she takes significant leadership roles.

She started teaching in the all-volunteer religious school and later became the school’s administrator. During two board terms, she served as Education Liaison, chaired the Religious Affairs Committee and was Vice-President and President.

Myra also oversaw the “monumental” move to Beit Am’s new building in May 2019.

She coordinated High Holiday services for seven years, described as a “massive, complex undertaking.”

And using her nursing experience, she helped lead Hadassah’s women’s health programming.

Currently, Myra manages the Hesed Circle, which supports members who need assistance, and coordinates Beit Am’s support to local schools.

Beit Am calls Myra “a gem” who is competent, creative, tenacious and generous. They say it’s always a pleasure to work with Myra, and they’re grateful for her commitment.



Congregations in Greater Portland area

Ahavath Achim (Sephardic)
ahavathachim.com

The Alberta Shul
503-703-5205 | albertashul.org

Beit Haverim (Reform)
503-568-1241 | beithav.org

Congregation Beit Yosef
971-220-8152

Beth Israel (Reform)
503-222-1069 | bethisrael-pdx.org

Chabad of Clark County
jewishvancouverwa.com

Chabad of Hillsboro
503-747-5363 | chabadh.com

Chabad of Gresham/E County
jewishgresham.com/

Chabad of Lake Oswego
www.jewishlo.com

Chabad of NE Portland
jewishnortheast.com

Chabad Center for Jewish Life SW Portland
503-381-7119 | jportland.com

Chabad at Reed & SE Portland
503-752-2258 | jewishreed.com

Chabad Young Professionals/ Chabad NW
503-583-2025 | Pdxccyp.org

Tigard Chabad
971-329-6661 | jewishtigard.com

Gesher - A Bridge Home
ourjewishhome.org

Havurah Shalom
(Reconstructionist)
havurahshalom.org

Kesser Israel (Orthodox)
503-222-1239 | kesserisrael.org

Kol Ami (Reform)
jewishvancouverusa.org

Kol Shalom (Humanistic)
kolshalom.org

Neveh Shalom (Conservative)
503-246-8831 | nevehshalom.org

P'nai Or (Renewal)
503-248-4500 | pnaiorpx.org

Shaarie Torah (Conservative)
503-226-6131 | shaarietorah.org

Shir Tikvah (Independent)
503-473-8227 | shirtikvahpdx.org



Students from the University of Oregon and Oregon State University show their pride at Tiberias, Israel, while on a Birthright Israel trip with Oregon Hillel.

BIRTHRIGHT (continued from page 1)

The Oregon trip was staffed by Oregon Hillel Executive Director Andy Gitelson, Director of Engagement Kaya Rubinstein and two alumni. Gitelson credited Rubenstein with recruiting so many students. Several IDF soldiers on leave joined the trip to give students the chance to form connections with Israelis their own age.

Gitelson says the trip was programmatically similar to pre-Covid trips, but he noticed a change in tempo. Previous trips were heavily programmed from early in the morning till late in the day. "It was a noticeable shift in approach by Birthright to really create more space for wellness ... It was nice to have a little bit more air to breathe so to speak."

It is also essential for students to realize that what is meaningful to one might not be meaningful to others. "You need to create the space for everyone's experience to be there, and I think that dynamic really played out well," Gitelson says.

"A memorable experience for me was when we hiked up Masada at 4 am," says Rebecca Shore of Portland. "Masada was definitely the moment for me. Hiking to the top with all of my new friends and standing at the top and watching the sunrise over the sea was truly a beautiful moment for me and where I felt the most at peace and content. I looked around and saw all these people that I didn't know existed 10 days ago, and I thought to myself 'wow, I'm going to miss this.'"

UO student Bradley Buchbinder, who had visited Israel with his high school class when he was a sophomore, also found Masada moving.

"The sunrise hike to Masada on our last day was really memorable for me," he says. "Also, the visit to the Western wall ... was really impactful. ... I wasn't sure if it would have the same impact as the first time, but it was just like I had never been."

Jerusalem also was a highlight for both

Moss and Audrey Minch, an OSU student from Portland.

"Touching the Western Wall was really impactful, and I feel it was the pinnacle so far of my Judaic life."

Both enjoyed the energy and party atmosphere of the Mahane Yehuda Market after Shabbat ended.

"We got there as soon as things were opening back up, and the market was packed with people just hanging out and partying," says Minch.

Moss adds, "It was really crazy how you could literally feel the energy and the positivity. Everybody was really, really happy and positive and everybody was smiling."

Returning to the market the next day, Moss was amazed how different it was. "More shops open, more tchotchke items being sold – I bought a hamsa for my grandma."

Minch, now 21, had been in Israel previously on a NFTY high school trip when she was 17. She says this trip gave her a deeper understanding.

"We were able to talk about the Israeli-Palestine conflict with more maturity than we were able to in high school, and we were also able to understand the different cultures better," says Minch. "It definitely reconfirmed the thought that we the Jewish people need the state of Israel."

Also on her second trip, Shore says, "Birthright 100 percent changed my connection to Israel and to my Jewish faith. ... Being with so many Jewish students my age and being able to share our experiences growing up Jewish was so meaningful and gave me insight on how much I truly do value my culture and religion."

Buchbinder agrees. "I do feel a stronger connection to Israel even though it was my second time," he says. "It kind of solidified that I felt connected to the country. Because both times were such short trips, it made me want to go back again ... for a longer period of time."



University of Oregon Senior Jordan Cooper at the Western Wall in Jerusalem during a June Oregon Hillel Birthright trip.

The lasting connection extends to the friends the students made, both with each other and the Israelis who joined them.

"Immediately, I felt so connected to the people and staff on my bus; we all became the best of friends, and I will always hold them close throughout the years, especially since we shared so many special memories and experiences together," says Shore.

Minch echoes that sentiment: "I didn't expect how close everyone on my bus would get and just how many memories (we) would make together. ... There were six Israeli soldiers on our bus, and I'm still in contact with a lot of them. We have a Snapchat group."

Oregon Hillel's next Birthright trip will be Dec. 18-29. Sign up at freeisraeltrip.org/oregon. For more information, contact kaya@oregonhillel.org.

For more information on Birthright, visit birthrightisrael.com.



Young adults enjoy an exhibit tour last summer at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Young adults will gather again on Aug. 4 for an exhibit tour followed by a reception on the museum's rooftop patio, which has stunning views of the city.

Young adults invited to share connections and culture Aug. 4

Young adults under 45 are invited to an exhibit tour and rooftop reception at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education on Aug. 4.

Those who are new to Portland or simply interested in connecting with community members are invited to this event co-hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, OJMCHC and three young adult groups – OneTable, Moishe House Portland and Moishe Pod-WestPDX.

"This is the perfect opportunity to witness the culturally rich offerings of the museum and make some new connections in the community," says Abbie Barash, Cascadia Field Manager for OneTable, a national nonprofit that empowers young adults to find, share and enjoy Shabbat dinners. "We're excited to be a co-host so that folks have the chance to learn more about Shabbat-ing with OneTable and all the other incredible ways to get involved in the young adult Jewish community. Attend this event and host a OneTable Shabbat in August to receive double Nourishment for your dinner!" [OneTable "Nourishment" is a \$10 subsidy per diner (up to 10) to help qualified hosts elevate their Shabbat dinners. Young adults

who attend the Aug. 4 event can receive a double subsidy if they then host a OneTable Shabbat. onetable.org]

Adjunct Curator for Special Exhibitions Bruce Guenther and OJMCHC Director Judy Margles will lead a tour of "Turning Inward, JUDY CHICAGO, From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation," followed by a reception on the museum's rooftop patio. The reception features stunning views, a tasty nosh and room for outdoor socializing.

"Turning Inward" traces Judy Chicago's development as an artist and Jewish woman across six decades – from her early formal vocabulary of geometric color abstraction and groundbreaking work with pyrotechnics to the powerful explorations of self-identity, the politics of gender and her personal formative experiences. Judy Chicago has remained steadfast in her commitment to women's rights to engage in the highest level of art production and to the power of art as a vehicle for intellectual transformation and societal change.

Tickets are \$10 per person. Register at ojmche.org/events.

More upcoming events cater to young adults

In addition to co-sponsoring the Young Adult tour and reception at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education on Aug. 4 (see above), Portland Moishe House and Moishe Pod-WestPDX have other events planned.

Moishe House wraps up its slate of July events with a Rummage Sale on July 28. Stop by to drop off a few items that you've been meaning to get rid of (please email us first with what you are bringing) or browse what we have to sell! Everything from clothes to books to furniture to knick

knacks. For more information or to learn about events planned in August, contact 503-908-3394 or moishehousepdx@gmail.com.

Moishe Pod-WestPDX upcoming events include Havdalah Bonfire, July 23; Animal Fun at the Oregon Humane Society, July 30; Birthday Party for Moishe Pod resident Shelly, Aug. 11; Dead Sea Spa Night, Aug. 17; and Sha-Barbeque Aug. 26. For event registration or more information, visit moishepodwestpdx.com or email moishepodwestpdx@gmail.com.

Life-cycle events

WEDDING Britt Rosenthal-Jake Barnett

Mazel tov to newlyweds Britt and Jake Barnett who were married on July 10 by Rabbi Eve Posen at the Sentinel Hotel in Portland.

Britt was born and raised in Portland and is the daughter of Todd and Felicia Rosenthal and the granddaughter of Robert and Jeannie Rosenthal and the late Al and Evie Sugarman, all of Portland. She is the Recreation Operations Program Manager at the University of Portland.

Jake hails from Manchester, England, and is the son of Lawrence and Annella Barnett and grandson of the late Arthur and Mildred Barnett and Sam and Leila Beckerman, all of Manchester. Before leaving the United Kingdom, Jake worked as a business analyst.

The couple, who met while both were on staff at B'nai B'rith Summer Camp, will make their home in Portland.



Steve Rallison: New Cedar Sinai Park board chair

"The time is right to accept a leadership role on the Cedar Sinai Park board," says Steve Rallison, the nonprofit organization's new board chair as of July 1.

"Cedar Sinai Park is at an important juncture in its 102-year history," says Rallison, 72. "There is growth opportunity in the market, and I think my background in health care, previous years on the board, and having the right leadership and team in place at Cedar Sinai Park have aligned us for success."

Rallison – founder of a company that helps health care organizations with strategic positioning, governance and operational issues – has been on CSP's board four years.

"My dear friend, Les Soltesz (z"l), asked me to join the board," says Rallison. "He thought that my experience would benefit Cedar Sinai Park. I turned him down twice and then finally said 'yes.'"

Rallison is CSP's first non-Jewish board chair. As a person of faith, he says his service-oriented, mission-driven nature is congruent with Jewish values.

"My beautiful wife, Sharon Stern, is Jewish, and I always say 'a good Mormon boy meets a good Jewish girl,'" says Rallison. "We have great unity in loving God and our neighbors. The Ten commandments are a guide to all of us."



He finds the fifth commandment of loving our fathers and mothers especially meaningful.

He moved to Oregon in 1957. He has a bachelor's in sociology from Brigham Young University and a master's of health administration from Washington University in St. Louis. His 30-plus years of health care experience include leading large hospitals in Illinois and Michigan, leading a large multispecialty group practice in Minnesota and consulting throughout the country.

"I have gone into some exceedingly difficult situations where key people have died or there have been embezzlements or other cases where organizations have lost their way financially or strategically," he says. "I come in and get things settled down and then get everyone focused and aligned so the organization can move forward."

For CSP, Rallison hopes to create financial sustainability by building a "culture of community."

"This is a tough, highly regulated, competitive business, and Covid made it even more difficult," he says. "The demographics are changing, regulations are changing, reimbursement for services is changing and the way people make decisions about when they need the services we're offering is changing."

He believes the future holds great opportunity and also real risks such as Covid, which is not yet in the rearview mirror.

"The culture of community includes the residents, family members, the staff, the members of the board and community members, all of whom are connected by the way we express the values of love, honor and respect through our words and deeds," says Rallison.

Most assisted-living and long-term care facilities are owned and operated by for-profit corporate entities, whose headquarters dictate what and how things are done. But Cedar Sinai Park's culture of community offers a different foundation.

"All of us are in charge of the destiny of Cedar Sinai Park," Rallison says. "What a great tribute to the Jewish community of Portland for its continued support."

Events

July 24: Gresham Kosher Pop-Up Deli

Gresham Chabad Jewish Center will host a Pop-Up Kosher NY deli, an authentic kosher experience, 5-7 pm, July 24, in Gresham. The event will also mark the opening of a local Judaica store.

The cost is \$17, which includes a pastrami on rye or corned beef sandwich, potato knishes, rugelach and Dr. Brown's soda.

Limited quantities are available.

For more information, contact Rabbi Avrohom Dyce at 503-389-0312 or rabbi@jewishgresham.com.

RSVP required: jewishgresham.com/deli. Outdoor venue to be provided upon RSVP.

July 24: Jewish Communal Land Project

What might our Portland Jewish community do with a plot of shared land? Imagine inclusive communal style living for connection, projects, celebrations and more. Co/Lab will host an introductory meeting 10:30 am-1 pm Sunday, July 24, at Eastside Jewish Commons.

Participate in a facilitated brainstorming. Discover the Jewish values involved and hear about such projects nationally. Learn the practical legal and real estate market issues involved. Enjoy bagels and coffee. Free, but register at colabpdx.org/events/.

Aug. 6: Jewish Heritage Night at the Timbers

The Portland Timbers have teamed up with the Mittleman Jewish Community Center to invite the community to Jewish Heritage Night at Providence Park for the Timbers' Aug. 6 game versus FC Dallas at 7:30 pm. Take in a game with the famous Timbers Army

and cheer the Timbers to a win in a Western Conference matchup.

MJCC Assistant Executive Director Jennifer Robinett reached out to the Timbers/Thorns organization "to set up an evening so our members can attend a game at a discounted price."

Tickets at oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events.

Aug. 6: Mini Mensches Tot Shabbat

Congregation Beth Israel invites families with children 0 to 5 to welcome Shabbat with singing, dancing and sweetness!

Mini Mensches will gather for Tot Shabbat at 9 am, Aug. 6, outside on the CBI Plaza to sing Shabbat songs and end with a parade with our stuffed Torahs.

For more information, visit bethisrael-pdx.org/community/mini-mensches/.

Aug. 13: Jewish Yoga-Av

TischPDX hosts this gentle yoga class 9 am, Aug. 13 (Av 16), at Burning Spirits Yoga Studio, 2025 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. The class is an opportunity to deepen your Shabbat practice by creating intentional space to pause your busy schedule, turn inward and simply appreciate being alive. The suggested fee is \$8-18, but no one will be turned away. Visit inspiredheartwellness.com/yoga to learn more and register.

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

New fund supports Holocaust education

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education recently received a gift from the Gail Schwartz and Irwin Joseph Family Fund to support Holocaust education.

OJMCHE recently announced the establishment of the Gail Schwartz and Irwin Joseph Family Fund for Holocaust Education in Memory of Ardire Spira and in Honor of Vicki and Charles Spira.

“This type of financial support is crucial as we continue to fulfill our mission of the Oregon – not Portland – Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education,” says OJMCHE Director of Education Amanda Coven. “In the past 2.5 years, we have made significant connections with teachers throughout the state. Now we can offer sustained educational support.”

OJMCHE’s statewide work grew exponentially beginning in May of 2019 with the passage of Oregon Senate Bill 664 directing schools to provide instruction about the Holocaust and genocide. This has given the museum the tools to greatly extend its reach and help accomplish its mission to “explore the legacy of the Jewish experience in Oregon, teach the universal lessons of the Holocaust and provide opportunities for intercultural conversation.” The addition of special funds to support Holocaust education will allow OJMCHE to deliver statewide professional development for educators, classroom workshops and facilitated conversations on difficult topics.

Thanks to the new fund, in mid-July OJMCHE hosted an onsite workshop for teachers from central Oregon.

Over the past two years, the museum has been able to strengthen ties with educators across the state with the development of robust digital resources and the addition of staff member Andrew Duden, education specialist for digital learning. Coven says she is pleased with how many teachers from throughout the state are now more connected to the museum.

“The pandemic has provided an opportunity to rethink and restructure who we reach and how we reach them, and now with this new fund in place, in 2023 we can expand professional development opportunities for teachers throughout Oregon,” says Coven.

Gail Schwartz has had decades of experience in education. She has worked as a resource specialist and as an education administrator throughout California – from inner-city high schools to small rural



A docent gives a school group a tour of the Discrimination and Resistance exhibit at OJMCHE.

communities – with much of her work focused on facilitating and organizing professional development for educators and parents.

As Gail and Irwin planned their move to Portland from California in January 2022, they researched philanthropic opportunities with an educational focus.

“My husband, Irwin, found the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education online, and that day Director Judy Margles had announced the [Nancy Green Memorial Teacher Training Fund](#),” says Schwartz. “My heart has always been in education and Holocaust studies – so we knew we wanted to do something similar. I was inspired by the Green family’s gift, and we hope that others are inspired to fund work they believe in at any level.”

“We are so grateful to Gail Schwartz and Irwin Joseph for this transformational gift,” says Director Judy Margles. “The vision and support of our community is what allows our mission to continue to expand. We are delighted to count Gail and Irwin as part of the OJMCHE community, and we look forward – with gratitude – to this next phase of our educational development.”

Donate to the fund at ojmche.org/support/donate/general-donate/.

EXTREMISM LESSONS (continued from page 1)

I realized – ‘It’s a *pigua*, a terrorist attack.’ And then another thought, ‘Oh, so this is what a *pigua* is like.’”

Among those killed were Janis Coulter, Marla Bennett and Ben Blutstein.

“In that single moment when my friends Janis, Ben and Marla were killed, I joined the global club of terror survivors,” says Rabbi Kosak. “My life has never been the same.”

Cantor Bitton also lost a close friend in the attack.

“I will always remember that phone call,” says Cantor Bitton. “My sister called me and, in a broken and halting voice, said, ‘Diego’s dead.’ I was stunned and I immediately broke down. Diego Ladowski, a friend of mine and my sister’s, was one of the victims of the savage and cowardly bombing attack at a Hebrew University cafeteria.”

The bombing was carried out by an east Jerusalem-based Hamas cell whose members were sentenced to multiple life terms.

“This was the first time I’d experienced what every Israeli has experienced: a personal connection or loss as a result of war or terrorism,” says the cantor. “This awful story in the news was no longer just a story. I could put a face on it. Diego was a sweet soul and bright light who would have made this world a better place.”

“20 Years On: The Lessons of Terror and Extremism, Then and

Now” will meet in person at 4 pm, July 31, at Neveh Shalom. The event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the attack and gleaned lessons that apply today will feature the rabbi and cantor as well as two experts on extremism and terror.

Rebecca Federman is a Threat Intelligence Analyst at the Community Security Initiative who researches and monitors extremism and threats to the Jewish community in New York. She is also embedded at the Anti-Defamation League’s Center on Extremism, where she conducts research on antisemitism and investigates threats nationally. Federman has conducted research on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, election disinformation and cybersecurity for think tanks such as The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and The Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Justin Finkelstein is an analyst at the ADL’s Center on Extremism, where he focuses on trends and developments within the anti-Israel movement in the United States. Previously, he worked for American Friends of the Hebrew University. He has also served as a program associate for the Study of the U.S. Institute on Religious Pluralism and Democracy, a program funded by the State Department.

Register at nevehshalom.org/event/20-years-on-the-lessons-of-terror-and-extremism-then-and-now/.

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Editor

Deborah Moon
editor@jewishportland.org

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Next issues

Issue date	Deadline
Aug. 3	July 28
Aug. 17	Aug. 11
Sept. 7	Aug. 29 (EARLY)

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

Chaplain's Corner

Are we villains or heroes?

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

During the past months, I at last have been able to meet in person with small groups or have one-on-one encounters. This has included Shabbat worship, widows/widowers groups, monthly get-togethers in retirement communities, program brainstorming, residential visits or even cups of coffee.

What do all of these interactions have in common? People want personal connections. They want to be heard. They want to be acknowledged. This requires all of the participants to listen, to pay attention, to read the text and the subtext. It requires us to observe how the words are spoken, the body language, the lack or presence of eye contact. Moreover, to experience a true connection, we must be empathetic. We have to check our egos, biases and self-interest at the door and exist with people and their emotions.

These past months have reminded me that fostering a true and authentic personal connection can be tiring, if not exhausting. I feel guilty when I come home from work and feel too fatigued to interact with my high school son and daughter.

This reminds me of the expression, "The cobbler's children have no shoes." A literal interpretation is that the cobbler is so busy making shoes for others that he/she lacks the time and energy to make shoes for family. My personal interpretation is that I often spend so much emotional energy connecting with others that I have nothing left at the end of the day to connect with my children. I can be grumpy, terse or dismissive.

This expression about the cobbler reminded me of another quote by writer George R.R. Martin: "Nobody is the villain in their own story. We're all the heroes of our own stories." When I read this quote, I felt my heart sink. Talk about a chilling moment of clarity.

I wonder how many times others have painted me as the villain in the telling of their stories. Though I may not see myself as the villain in my stories, that does not mean I have not been the villain.

Closest to home, on many occasions, I bet my kids have viewed me as the villain. And for all of the professional and personal interactions I have had with friends, acquaintances and strangers through the years, I must have been cast as the villain on many occasions.

Whenever I have ignored someone, knowingly or unknowingly, I could have been viewed as the villain. Whenever I have cut short a conversation or interaction, I could have been viewed as the villain. Whenever I made an excuse not to be there for someone – even when I believed that excuse was legitimate – I could have been viewed as the villain.

Whether we are the villain depends on the interpretation of everyone who tries to have a



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

***Our society desperately
needs heroes right now. ...
One simple way to be heroic
is to foster a genuine con-
nection with someone else.***

relationship with us. We have more power than we know. With every word or action, or in the absence of every word or action, we can be the villain or the hero.

Our society desperately needs heroes right now, because the villains have become too numerous to count. One simple way to be heroic is to foster a genuine connection with someone else. We do this by being present, by listening, by paying attention, by noting every nuance. Who would have thought that having a heartfelt conversation would be deemed heroic? We live in strange days.

Being heroic requires emotional energy, dispensing from reserves that are inherently limited. Being heroic demands that we give of ourselves without giving so much that we have nothing left for those waiting for us at home or for those who love us from afar.

By being strategic with our emotional giving, we can decrease the likelihood that we are perceived as villains. In addition, by retaining emotional energy, we can heal the relationships we damaged when we were villains, and in so doing become heroes again. After all, who doesn't love a great redemption story?

Rabbi's Corner

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

Climate Corner:

From wasteful to wonderful

The Climate Action Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is sharing tips and resources for healing the Earth in a periodic Climate Corner in the Jewish Review. The 2-year-old group is committed to the important work of tikkun olam, healing the Earth.

Food scraps and other organic matter dumped into landfills create pollutants – including methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. This practice also squanders a useful resource.

Composting organic matter turns food waste into a nutritious fertilizer for soil. If you are paying for curbside garbage service in the city of Portland, and you are not using that big green composting bin, you are throwing away money, too. Weekly compost and recycling collection is included as part of standard garbage service, so be sure you use it.

The composting process is simple, but knowing what to throw in the bin may not be. Following is a guide to getting it right.



All food is allowed:

- Meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, eggs, cheese, dairy, bread, baked goods, pasta, rice, beans, nuts, seeds, vegetables and fruit
- Peels, pits, eggshells, bones and coffee grounds
- Raw or cooked food, plate scrapings, leftovers and spoiled food.

Types of allowed yard waste:

- Weeds, leaves, vines, grass, flowers, house plants, plant clippings, pumpkins

- Small branches (less than 4 inches thick and 36 inches long).
- Other allowed items:
 - Paper coffee filters
 - Paper tea bags
 - Food-soiled napkins and paper towels
 - Pizza delivery boxes (remove any plastic or wax paper).

Information sourced from portland.gov/bps/garbage-recycling/compost

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Send press releases, announcements and photos by noon on deadline day (normally Thursday) to editor@jewishportland.org.

Rabbi and Agency columns are due by noon on deadline day, but please request a date in advance.

ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE	COMMENTS
Aug. 3	July 28	
Aug. 17	Aug. 11	
Sept. 7	Aug. 29	EARLY DEADLINE
Sept. 21	Aug. 29	VERY EARLY; Rosh Hashanah sunset 9 /25-27
Oct. 12	Oct. 6	Yom Kippur Oct. 4-5; Sukkot sunset Oct. 9-16
Oct. 26	Oct. 20	Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah Oct. 16-18
Nov. 9	Nov. 3	
Nov. 23	Nov. 17	Thanksgiving Nov. 24
Dec. 7	Dec. 1	Chanukah Dec. 18-26
Dec. 21	Dec. 15	

RAISA PERLINA

Raisa Perlina, z"l, passed away July 13, 2020, at the age of 85. She is loved and remembered by her daughter, Ella Stern; granddaughter, Anna (Michael Lipke) Stern Lipke; and two great-grandchildren, Samuel and Alexis Lipke.

The funeral was July 15 at Neveh Zedek Cemetery, Portland.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends deepest condolences to the extended Perlina family.

ALICE LINTON

Alice Linton, z"l, passed away suddenly July 13, 2022. She was the mother of Congregation Kol Ami member Sherri Linton and grandmother of Emily and Elle Holzman. Kol Ami sends condolences to Sherri and Tyler, Emily, Elle and their extended family on this difficult loss.

JEAN HASSON

Jean Hasson, z"l, passed away July 6, 2022, at age 100. Jean was preceded in death by her husband of 70 years, Milton Hasson. She is loved and remembered by her children, Suzanne Lowy, Kathy Hasson and Mark Hasson; her grandchildren, Lisa Luethe, Brian Lowy and Shira Hasson Schiff; and great-grandchildren, Madeline Luethe, Ted Luethe, Grace Lowy, Eilah Ziliak and Ezri Ziliak.

She was a longtime Neveh Shalom congregant. The funeral took place Friday, July 8, at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery, Portland.

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

RICK SPIELMAN

Rick Spielman, z"l, passed away in his sleep following complications from Parkinson's disease on July 5, 2022, at age 76. Spielman is survived by his sons Raf and Kenji Spielman.

Spielman was the co-founder of the popular Portland bagel chain Spielman Bagels & Coffee, which he launched with his son Raf. Initially, the business was a small cafe where they would roast shade-grown coffee in house. In 2011, the duo opened on Southeast Division Street and initially made their "Portland style" bagel in batches of no more than a dozen daily. The bagels, which are made from a sourdough starter and kettle-boiled, soon became the focus of the company.

A former political science professor, Rick Spielman moved his family to Portland from Oakland in 1988 to teach at Lewis and Clark College, later also teaching at Willamette University. He was an avid birder, which sparked his initial interest in the environmental impact of coffee.

Rick Spielman sold the majority share of the business in the mid-2010s, but continued in its day-to-day operations until four or five years ago, running the Division Street location, now run by Raf. Spielman Coffee & Bagels has four Portland locations and sells bagels wholesale to more than 50 vendors in Portland and Salem.

JOELLEN MILLER

JoEllen Miller, z"l, passed away July 5, 2022, at the age of 90. JoEllen was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel A. Miller. She is loved and remembered by her daughters, Robin (Steve) Rayel, Cheryl (Bud) Peizner and Jody (Rob) Twain; her seven grandchildren, Steven (Sarah) Rayel, Lauren Rayel, Elise (David) Alexander, Aaron (Liat Turkenitz - bride to be) Peizner, Gabriel (Devin) Peizner, Madelyn (Tygh McGilvrey - husband to be) Twain and Eli Twain; and four great-grandchildren, Samuel Rayel, Avery Joy Alexander, Isaiah Alexander and Jacob Alexander.

She was a longtime congregant of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

A private funeral was held.

MARTIN (MARTY) WEINSTEIN

Martin (Marty) Weinstein, z"l, passed away July 4, 2022, after a fall that resulted in major injuries. Marty is survived by his mother, Elaine Weinstein; his brother, Jerry (Bhing) Weinstein, his sister; Roberta Weinstein; and his nephew, David Weinstein.

Born in 1959, Marty was preceded in death last autumn by his father, Sanford (Sandy) Weinstein.

He was a very intelligent, kind-hearted man. He had a terrific sense of humor and a talent for telling hilarious jokes (and some not so hilarious). He had a unique gift for friendships with a long list of dear friends that go back to his early childhood.

He was a good athlete, having a great golf swing and getting a hole in one at the Olympic Club in San Francisco. Another favorite sport of Marty's was squash.

Marty was also a lover of books and a voracious reader. He had a library with hundreds of books dealing with political science, literature, philosophy, religion and modern detective stories. He graduated from the University of Oregon with a triple major in International Studies.

For several years, Marty worked for Pollin Hotels at the Portland International Airport. He had many good friends in his life. He maintained close friends from grade school through college and beyond. He was always happy to encourage friends who needed a lift. Marty was a good man. One of his dearest friends recently told us that "Marty was the most genuine person she'd ever met."

A funeral service was held Sunday, July 10, followed by burial at Neveh Zedek Cemetery, where Marty is now buried next to his beloved grandfather, Arthur Weinstein.

Donations in Marty's memory can be made to the Oregon chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Congregation Beth Israel and the Oregon Food Bank.

CAROLYN FRANCES REZNIKOFF

Carolyn Frances Reznikoff, z"l, passed away May 20, 2022.

Carolyn is survived by her husband, David Porter; daughter, Sasha Porter (Pyxie Starr); sisters, June Reznikoff (David Simon) and Laura Olson (Steve Olson); nieces, Erika Zarco (Travis Higginson) and Charlotte Simon; and cousins, Claudia Bernard (Howard Herman) and Nancy Bernard.

She was the eldest daughter of Ruth and Simon Reznikoff, z"l. She was born in St. Louis, Mo., June 3, 1947. She graduated from Pitzer College and earned her MSW at San Diego State. While there, she started one of the nation's first shelters for homeless youth. After graduate school, she followed her sister June to Portland, where she lived the rest of her life. In 1979, Carolyn married David Porter, with whom she lived a challenging and deeply satisfying life for 43 years. They had one daughter, Sasha Porter, who lives in Olympia, Wash.

Carolyn had found her calling as a social worker in hospitals, home health and hospice for over 30 years. She found working in hospice particularly rewarding. She supported the dying and their loved ones in making the transition from life to death, and from this experience, she developed skills and understanding that were to serve her well in her own dying process.

After retiring from social work, Carolyn became a master basket weaver, learning and practicing traditional Native American basket-making techniques.

Carolyn had health problems that began early in life when, as an infant, she lost a kidney due to kidney disease. Throughout her long and complex health odyssey, Carolyn sought and found the joy in life.

A memorial service will be held in August.