Maimonides Jewish Day School and Chabad of Northeast Portland are purchasing this former preschool at 4635 NE 9th Ave. to house the day school, a preschool and all of Chabad NE’s programs.

BY DEBORAH MOON

Portland’s east side will finally have a Jewish day school and a new preschool when Maimonides Jewish Day School opens in its new home Sept. 6. Maimonides has partnered with Chabad of Northeast Portland to purchase an 8,700-square-foot former preschool at 4635 NE 9th Ave. The building has ample space for the preschool-eighth grade school and for the NE Chabad Jewish Center and its programs. The Gan Preschool, which formerly shared the Campus of Jewish Life with Maimonides at 6612 SW Capitol Hwy., also gains new space to grow and continue serving families in SW Portland from that location.

“It has been incredibly challenging to find an appropriate property for MJDS,” wrote Director Devora Wilhelm in a letter to parents. “We are excited to share the news that we have found a property already zoned for a preschool, removing the entire permit application process, … (and which) will more than double our current capacity.”

Rabbi Moshe Wilhelm, who founded Chabad of Oregon 38 years ago with his wife, Devora, says this space turns dreams into reality. “This is an opportunity to expand the day school and for more Jewish kids to have a quality Jewish education. It will be a great place for Northeast Portland Chabad to grow and accommodate all the needs here.”

MJDS board member and parent Rabbi Shmuel Greenberg of Clark County Chabad also calls it a dream come true: “There will be a day school and a preschool on the east side. … This is a big opportunity for more families on the east side and, like me, in Southwest Washington.”

See EDUCATION CENTER, page 7

Avraham's Closet lends wheelchairs, walkers & more

BY DEBORAH MOON

Shortly after I wrote an article announcing the creation of Avraham’s Closet, a medical-equipment lending library, I found out what a wonderful resource it truly is.

Cantor Linda Shivers and Neveh Shalom’s Hesed (kindness) Committee created the program to loan wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, shower chairs, commodes and other items to people recovering from surgery, injury or illness.

PT Patty Magid-Volk and Cantor Linda Shivers prepare a wheelchair for someone needing a lift following surgery, injury or illness. The durable medical-equipment lending library could use more wheelchairs.

See AVRAHAM’S CLOSET, page 9
Injustice in all forms is a Jewish issue, and that includes menstrual injustice. Members of the Portland chapter of Dignity Grows know this and are working to eliminate the injustice of period poverty. The community is invited to support that effort by attending a Red Tent Event on Aug. 28, where event-goers will celebrate the new moon, the new month of Elul and the work to end period poverty by Dignity Grows. The Portland chapter is part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

The Red Tent experience will include food and entertainment, but at the heart of the event is building support for Dignity Grows and its beneficiaries.

Dignity Grows members Arlene Cogen and Jess Hilbert have set up partnerships with six local agencies to distribute totes. These organizations are expected to deliver about 2,400 totes this year to people who need them. Representatives of the partner organizations who receive Dignity Grows donations will share how the hygiene products provided by Dignity Grows impact the lives of recipients.

Having worked with the Oregon Community Foundation for years, Cogen knew which local organizations would benefit from Dignity Grows’ donations of tote bags packed with menstrual products and other hygiene items.

“I love working directly with the partners,” Cogen says. “I’m excited for our community to meet these agencies serving our neighbors in need.”

Cogen also knows from personal experience the indignity of not having period essentials. “When I just graduated high school, I went on a trip to Boston wearing a white skirt,” she says. “While visiting Faneuil Hall, I got my period. The red stain down the back of my skirt was the most horrifying thing imaginable. It was such an awful feeling, not having what I needed. I don’t want anyone to be put in the situation I was put in.”

The distribution partners are Outside In, which supports youth at risk and was the first recipient of Dignity Grows totes; Self Enhancement Inc., an organization guiding underserved youth to realize their full potential; A Safe Place, which offers help to anyone experiencing violence or abuse; Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, which provides services to people with barriers to receiving health care; Transition Projects, which helps people transition from homelessness to housing; and Divine Threads, which offers clothing, personal care products and career guidance to women in need.

“I love seeing young women walking around with these totes with smiles on their faces,” Cogen says. “The totes are so discreet and give them the confidence to be a woman and not be looked down upon for getting their period at an inconvenient time.”

All community members are welcome at the event, which has been funded entirely by donations of money and services. Under scarlet-lit tents adorned with flowers, guests will be treated to dance and music (see above). They also will be invited to sign up for special experiences gifted to Dignity Grows to raise money for totes.

Admission is a $10 donation, which covers the cost of one tote and its contents. All money collected goes to purchase totes and their contents.

Register for the event or donate to Dignity Grows at jewishportland.org/red-tent.

Artists to bring beauty to Red Tent Event

Just as the Israelites wandering in the desert contributed the materials needed to build the Tabernacle, community members have given generously to add beauty to the Aug. 28 Red Tent Event benefiting Dignity Grows.

Sarah Jane Dillon, owner of Flora Kultur, will create a one-of-a-kind entryway into the Red Tent made of flowers and is adorning the tables under the tent with her beautiful bouquets.

Elena Larrabee of Royce’s Prop Shop will work some lighting magic to transform a simple, white tent into a brilliant, crimson space. RPS has generously reduced their price to help make the Red Tent a sacred space for gathering.

Three artists will fill the space with song, dance and art to create a welcoming spirit that invites attendees to experience beauty.

Morgan Fay is a Raqs Sharqi and Fusion Belly Dance artist based in Portland. Morgan will set the stage for the evening by welcoming guests into the Red Tent with dance. Later, she will offer instruction in the hip and torso movements common to this ancient dance form.

Singer-songwriter Lisa Schneiderman is a public relations and marketing consultant who has placed tikkun olam center-stage throughout her life. She continues in this tradition by lending her vocal talent to elevate the Red Tent Event and help unlock the power of Rosh Chodesh Elul. Guests will be treated to the premiere of an original song written for the event by Lisa.

Judaic artist Sara Harwin will display her fabric construction “Imahot” (Matriarchs) under the Red Tent. The piece features Avot v’Imahot, a version of the first blessing of the Amidah, which includes not only the founding fathers of Judaism (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) but also the founding mothers (Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel). Sara’s work has been exhibited in galleries and museums nationwide, and she has completed several pieces of ceremonial artwork commissioned by congregations. Under the Red Tent, her beautiful art will help guests connect with the matriarchs.

“There should be a song for women to sing at this moment, or a prayer to recite. But perhaps there is none because there are no words strong enough to name the moment.”

~ Anita Diamant, *The Red Tent*
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GALA

Get dressed in your best for an elegant and fun evening of dining, live music, and dancing as we celebrate 100 years of Federation!

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JewishPortland.org/GalaCelebration
RSVP by September 22, 2022
New donor chief for BB Camp

This fall, B’nai B’rith Camp Chief Philanthropy Officer Aaron Pearlman will conclude his successful career raising funds for BB Camp by transitioning the position to new Development Director Laura Jeser. Laura will join the BB Camp team in early September, and Aaron will launch his new consulting business at the end of October.

**AARON PEARLMAN**

Over the past nine years, Aaron’s work with the dedicated professional staff and lay leadership of the BB Camp LLC and the B’nai B’rith Men’s Camp Boards has raised more than $19 million in capital and annual gifts – all to benefit BB campers. Under his leadership, the Second Century Capital Campaign raised the final $10 million (of a total $15 million), which led to the complete rebuild of the BB Camp campus, preparing it for a new century of BB campers.

“As we have just completed our Capital Campaign and 100th Anniversary celebration, it is a good time for me to begin my transition from BB Camp employee back to philanthropic work to transform and sustain BB Camp,” says Aaron. “BB Camp is in my bones … I look forward to many years of raising dollars and participating in the amazing volunteer leadership at BB Camp.”

Having decided to become a Jewish communal professional after growing up at BB Camp, he says his position there has been his dream job.

“He built a culture of philanthropy that grew our donor base, fundraising tools and funds to support BB Camp’s programs of excellence,” says BB Camp CEO Michelle Koplan. “Personally, I will miss his partnership as we created a vision and framework to transform and sustain BB Camp for our next generation of leaders.”

**LAURA JESER**

Aaron calls Laura “the kind of person who is present, caring, fun and down to earth.” Laura brings 17 years of development and event management experience to her new post. She worked at the Directors Guild of America, the Alzheimer’s Association and Volunteers of America while living in Los Angeles. She simultaneously did stand-up comedy on evenings and weekends while working at some of those organizations. When her stand-up career became successful, she took a hiatus from her development career to do USO tours and performances at clubs and colleges across the country. She hopes to bring that skill to bear hosting events for BB Camp.

She and husband, Michael, z”l, moved to Portland in 2015, when he became the campaign director at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. Their daughter, Eleanore, now 5, was born here. While in Portland, Laura became the program manager for a B’nai B’rith International project called Diverse Minds Writing Challenge, which gave high schoolers the opportunity to write a book about diversity and inclusion for elementary age students.

The family moved to California in August 2018 when Michael became CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater San Diego. He passed away from esophageal cancer July 24, 2021. When Laura realized she could move anywhere for her next job, she targeted Portland.

“The community gave so much to Michael and Eleanore and me,” she says. “I’m excited to give back to that community.”

She adds that Eleanore will start kindergarten at Portland Jewish Academy this fall. “It’s good to be back in the community.”

She is also excited to re-engage with BB Camp. While living in Portland, she toured BB Camp several times when Michael took donors to see the Lincoln City campground. She also attended the BB Camp’s women’s retreat ReJewvenation and served on the 2016 gala committee that created the BB Camp Bash. She is looking forward to being part of the BB Camp community of staff and lay leaders.

“The energy that surrounds BB Camp and the people that are connected to it … really resonates with me,” she says. “I’m a pretty energetic person, and to be around that energy just gets me going even more.”

Koplan says BB Camp conducted a robust search with multiple qualified candidates, and selected Laura because she is “authentic, skilled and extraordinarily personable.”

“Her relationship-centric approach will profoundly benefit our agency’s annual fundraising focus and continued relationship building.”

New ed director & b’mitzvah program at Shaarie Torah

Youth education, other programs open to all

Congregation Shaarie Torah welcomes Cara Abrams as education director beginning this August. In collaboration with Rabbi Gary Ezra Oren, Cara will oversee the youth education program for grades K-5 as well as the new b’mitzvah program, Mensch Academy, which launches this fall.

In line with the communitywide focus on being warm, welcoming and family-oriented, all Shaarie Torah youth programs are open to members and non-members.

**EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

**CARA ABRAMS**

Cara grew up in Eugene and was active at Temple Beth Israel, where her love of Judaism was kindled. She earned her B.A. in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and her Master of Jewish Education from Hebrew College, Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education. She holds a Certificate in Jewish Day School Education as well as a Certificate of Advanced Jewish Studies from the prestigious Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.

Cara served as director of education for The Kavana Cooperative, an independent Jewish community in Seattle, where she developed and curated a unique learning environment for the students and families. Cara co-chaired Limmud Seattle for two years, building community through Jewish learning. She was awarded the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle’s Spitzer Young Leadership Award in 2019, recognizing her contributions as a community builder.

In 2021, she moved to Portland with her family to serve as the first executive director of the Eastside Jewish Commons.

“Jewish learning has an abundance of...”

Continued on next page
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 fourth group of women whose organizations selected them to receive this year’s Song of Miriam. The final honorees will be in the next issue.

ROBBIE LAMBERT: Honored by Congregation Shir Tikvah

A former teacher and longtime member of the Shir Tikvah community, Robbie was instrumental in piloting a one-on-one Hebrew curriculum for the congregation’s fourth-grade students and training other volunteers how to use the materials.

Her passion for a cleaner environment has translated into workshops on how to reduce the use of plastics and, most recently, a “Reverse Tashlích” event that resulted in more than 2,500 pounds of trash being hauled out of the Johnson Creek Flood Plain.

She is currently the chair of Shir Tikvah’s Tikkon Olam Project, a working group that focuses on social and environmental justice.

Shir Tikvah says that Robbie shows great compassion for those who are in need. She is dependable and thorough, characteristics not to be taken lightly in a volunteer.

DANELLE ROMAIN: Honored by Portland Jewish Academy

Danelle Romain is a native Portlander who spent several years in Washington, D.C., working for an Oregon Congressman, a national trade association and as a press secretary for a U.S. presidential campaign before returning to Oregon, where she now covers a broad range of current policy issues for a lobbying firm.

At PJA, Danelle has served on a number of board committees including safety and security, finance and governance. Danelle is also the Mittleman Jewish Community Center/PJA representative on the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Board.

Danelle has been a member of the Executive Committee of the PJA/MJCC boards and has served as their president since July 2022.

PJA says it is most grateful for Danelle’s tremendous dedication and service to the school, describing her as a passionate PJA parent and volunteer. Her commitment to Jewish education coupled with her deep understanding of the needs of the school as a board leader make her an extremely valuable member of the PJA kehillah.

JUDY FREEMAN: Honored by Shaarie Torah Sisterhood

With her proper British flare and overflowing heart, Judy Freeman has held the positions of Shaarie Torah Sisterhood President, Secretary and member-at-large. She helps manage the hamen-taschen fundraising project and annual latke fry, works on committees, helped create an annual shul Gardening Party and is always up for sorting out a challenge.

Judy holds a doctor of medicine from the University of Birmingham in the UK, where she trained and practiced anesthesiology. She has volunteered for three medical missions to India.

Before coming to Oregon, Judy was an active member of Hadassah in Pittsburgh. Now retired, she continues her volunteer work with SMART Oregon, Chamber Music Northwest and Beaverton’s Patricia Reser Center for the Arts. She enjoys travelling the world, music and Israeli dancing and is learning to chant Haftorah.

Shaarie Torah Sisterhood says Judy is always willing to lend a hand and pitch in. She is a joy to work with, gives by example and is an outstanding woman leader in their organization.
Life-cycle event

WEDDING

Northman-Marocco

Holly Litwin and Tod Northman are thrilled to announce the marriage of their son, Eitan Northman, to Simone Marocco. The bride is the daughter of Karen and Avi Marocco.

Eitan was born and raised for the first 12 years of his life in Portland. The wedding took place on Sunday, July 12, 2022, in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, at Sun Valley. Rabbi Binyamin Blau of Green Road Synagogue in Beachwood, Ohio, officiated at the outdoor chuppah, set in a scenic area overlooking a lake. It was especially meaningful having Rabbi Blau officiate, as he personally knows Eitan and Simone well. Both the ceremony and reception were incredibly joyous, and having a few close friends from Portland there to celebrate in person was fantastic.

The newlyweds reside in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City. Eitan and Simone are excited about their upcoming honeymoon trip to Denver and Los Angeles. Simone is studying to become a physician assistant and Eitan is studying to become an attorney. They described their wedding day as not only being the best day of their lives, but also exceeding their wildest dreams of how incredible an experience it would be to celebrate. May they have a long and very happy married life together.

Applications open for youth foundation and leadership council

The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation seeks applications for youth foundation participation and its leadership council. Applications to participate in the youth foundation are due by 11:59 pm on Friday, Aug. 26. High school age, Jewish-identifying youth entering grades 10-12 are encouraged to apply. Ninth-graders will be accepted as space permits.

The OJCYF Leadership Council offers returning OJCYF members further opportunities to build leadership skills, select and help facilitate workshop activities, and advocate for change. Leadership Council applications are due by 11:59 pm on Monday, Aug. 15.

OJCYF is a nationally celebrated program of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. Now in its 20th year, the program cultivates the next generation of community leaders and engaged citizens. High school students meet for a series of workshops throughout the school year to learn about tikkan olam, philanthropy and community needs.

Through OJCYF, students develop an understanding of the importance of nonprofits and their inner workings and engage with core values, Jewish principles and contemporary justice issues. They evaluate local Jewish and secular charities through in-depth site visits and plan and lead an annual fundraising dinner event. The year culminates in a student-run grant review process, where funds are allocated to organizations of the group’s choosing.

Students learn leadership skills, gain experience serving on a board, and join with other teens to connect and make meaningful contributions to the community on the issues they care most about.

After two years of virtual programming, this year’s program will offer both an in-person cohort and a virtual or hybrid option for participants living outside the metro area.

“We are excited to bring back the energy and camaraderie offered through in-person sessions as well as adjust the virtual experience so that online participants feel engaged and involved,” says veteran educator Susan Berniker, who will facilitate OJCYF this year. For details and applications, visit ojcf.org/programs/ojcyf.
One of those parents, Annie Isaac, is looking forward to taking her two oldest daughters to the new school. Her youngest daughter will stay at The Gan-Garrett Preschool run by Chabad of Clark County, since it is very close to their home, and she only attends half days.

“Portland has three day schools, and they have all been in Southwest Portland,” Isaac says. “Having a school in Northeast Portland opens Jewish education to more families. It’s a really exciting thing for Portland.”

In addition to mortgages, MJDS and NE Chabad each have launched a capital campaign to fund the $1,922,500 purchase price as well as needed renovations and furnishings. The two organizations will each pay approximately half (MJDS will cover slightly more) of the projected total cost of $2,341,050. Closing is set for Aug. 8.

The ADA-accessible, two-story building has classroom space, activity areas, a large lobby, kitchen, office space and a community/shul space. With double the space of the old school, there is more space for art and music. Located in a quiet neighborhood, the site features separate outdoor play spaces for preschoolers and older students.

NE Chabad Executive Director Rabbi Chaim Wilhelm says the 5,000 square feet of outdoor space will be available for camp and afterschool programs, as well. A large lobby will double as an informal gathering place for families arriving for programs. Given the prominence of food in Jewish holidays and traditions, he expects the soon-to-be-kosher meat/parve kitchen will serve as an important hub.

His wife, NE Chabad Educational Director Mushka Wilhelm, is equally excited about the space. The kitchen will be a wonderful space for the teens and other volunteers to prepare food for seniors and the homebound served by Chabad’s Chesed (kindness) Connection. Teens will also be able to enjoy expanded teen programming in a Teen Lounge. Hebrew school and summer camp will have a permanent home. Women will have space for weekly Mommy & Me gatherings and for ladies’ classes.

“As a mom myself, I want to provide a spiritual network and empower ladies of today,” says Mushka Wilhelm. “This is space to gather and connect and feel a sense of ownership.”

“Chabad of Northeast in partnership with the day school will fill this space with love, laughter and joy,” she says. “There is so much opportunity here.”

NE Chabad and Maimonides have hosted several open houses at the new space. A July 21 open house drew many people who have participated in events hosted by NE Chabad during its 10 years in the area.

Walking to their cars after the tour, Helen Tevlin and Lynn Tylor called the space “light” and “spacious.”

“This is a wonderful space with so many options,” said Masha Sanders at the open house. Her grandson, Max, has participated in NE Chabad’s Hebrew School and other programs for nine years. She adds that Chabad is “very welcoming.”

Kirk Erickson enjoys how NE Chabad has supported his wife and daughter’s investment in their Jewish heritage. He said the Hebrew school is good for his daughter, but Chabad also offers opportunities for him to support and understand that heritage. When leaving the building, he said, “I know it will be a good space to learn.”

Donate to the MJDS building campaign or the Chabad of Northeast building campaign at charidy.com/Building4JewishOregon. For more information on the groups, visit jewishnortheast.com and portlandjewishschool.com.

Jobs board
Submit job openings for this column to editor@jewishportland.org.

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 11 Jewish job openings. See full descriptions for all of the openings or submit job openings at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs.

Hiring events at Cedar Sinai Park Fridays in August
Spread the word: Cedar Sinai Park is looking for more good souls with heart. Full- and part-time positions include dining room servers (a great first job for teens), cooks, certified nursing assistants, receptionists, licensed nurse professionals and many others.

See all the available positions at cedarsinapark.org/careers.

Many Cedar Sinai Park employees have grown their career with us through scholarships offered by the organization, says Human Resources Director Geneva Dougal.

Each Friday in August, Cedar Sinai Park representatives will be at the corner of Southwest 62nd Avenue and Beaverton Hillsdale Highway with applications.

Stop by and fill out an application from noon to 4 pm on Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26.
BY KERRY POLITZER

Pianist and educator Sophie Lippert has worn many hats during her professional life, from concert series curator to community-builder and performer with various symphony orchestras.

But during the pandemic, she had the opportunity to focus on one of her passions – the music of women composers. This translated into a dream job as the first international correspondent for All Classical Portland – a position that has Sophie blogging about her fascinating new life in Tel Aviv as well as the music of Israeli women composers. Some of this music is so obscure that it has never been recorded.

“Which was crazy to me, because this is great music!” says the pianist enthusiastically.

When Sophie first moved to Portland over 10 years ago, she founded Vibrant Studios, a multi-purpose space for movement, wellness and art.

“That was my first way of becoming really passionate about engaging with the Portland community,” she says.

She also began the Connections Concert Series and forged links with All Classical Portland, appearing on the station’s “Thursdays @ Three” and collaborating on grant opportunities. The pandemic forced Sophie to pause her series and community-building activities, so she embarked on a rehaul of her traditional classical repertoire.

“I realized how much I loved to play music by underexposed composers, and in particular, music written by women,” she says. “It became very exciting to me.”

This past fall, All Classical Portland approached Sophie about a brand new position as international correspondent, and she gladly accepted. It worked out perfectly, as Sophie had already planned to be in Tel Aviv for the year (she has now extended her stay throughout 2023).

“I became really clear about having a strong desire to connect with Israeli culture and was very interested in finding different avenues through which to do that,” she says.

To that end, the pianist explored the Israeli Composers’ League and perused national archives of classical sheet music, learning about composers such as Sarah Feigin, Lotti Amit-Kalev and Na’ama Tamir Kaplan.

“I purchased a bunch of sheet music from Israeli libraries, and in conjunction with those sources, I (also) pursued individual relationships with living composers,” says Sophie.

She was able to feature their music on a recent trip back home to perform her discoveries on All Classical Portland. The concert can be streamed at allclassical.org/programs/program-archive.

Sophie blogs about her experience living in Tel Aviv at allclassical.org/arts-blog/. For more information about the artist, visit sophielippert.com.

Kerry Politzer is a writer, foodie and pianist who moved to Portland in 2011.

Portlander shares music of Israeli women

Sophie Lippert, an international correspondent for All Classical Portland, plays the piano on a patio overlooking the Tel Aviv beach.

Neveh Shalom Sisterhood is 100 & Torah Fund is 80

The community is invited to help Congregation Neveh Shalom celebrate the 100th Birthday of CNS Sisterhood and the 80th birthday of Torah Fund at 11 am-3 pm, Aug. 28, at CNS.

There will be a brunch and a presentation by Kate and Henry Haas. Henry escaped Germany during World War II and will talk about his experiences in Shanghai during that time.

Tickets are $18/person with proceeds benefiting the Torah Fund. RSVP by Aug. 10 at nevehshalom.org/CNSSis100.

For questions, contact Diane Kahn at 360-713-1340 or dianeadjosh@hotmail.com.

A CENTURY OF SISTERHOOD

Following is an excerpt about the sisterhood’s evolution from an article by Michelle Imori-Goldenberg with Jennifer Kalenscher that was published in the July/August issue of CNS’s The Chronicle:

In 1922, a group of women came together to establish an organization to support Jewish women and to learn and laugh together, because in 1922, there were no female clergy, nor were women allowed on the bima. The core has carried on: “The Congregation Neveh Shalom Sisterhood mission is to bring women of diverse ages, backgrounds and interests together to serve our Congregation and community, as well as to enrich our lives through personal growth and friendship” (bylaws of Neveh Shalom Sisterhood 1922, amended June 2017).

This mission has become a legacy; we recently updated our bylaws to make sure that we stay relevant to today’s issues.

What has changed is our interpretation of diverse backgrounds to include women who are going through a conversion, women who may be a part of Neveh Shalom as a couple from an interfaith marriage and all who identify as women. Our events are welcoming to all gender identities and diverse backgrounds.

When the Neveh Shalom Sisterhood was first founded, it was rare to find a woman who worked outside of the home. Members of the Sisterhood were actively involved in preparing food for the synagogue’s kiddushim, shiva minyan and festive occasions.

Today, most members have worked or currently work outside of the home. We have taken the women out of the Neveh Shalom kitchen, and most events are catered. Women have taken on leadership roles in many aspects of life, both inside and outside of the synagogue. The Sisterhood provides funds for Yom Kippur breakfasts, educational scholarships for Aliyah, contributes funds to five rabbinical colleges (through our fundraising efforts, called Torah Fund), collects clothing for the homeless and so much more.

One thing rings as true today as it did years ago. The Sisterhood is a place where individuals can grow, develop leadership skills and truly make a difference.
Film tells hopeful tale of women in politics

During the pandemic, Jodi Garber-Simon realized that all five of the Multnomah County Commissioners are women. Then Andrea Valderrama took office in April 2021, and Oregon’s State House of Representatives flipped to a female majority. Combined with a female governor and a female speaker of the house, that was a lot of women in power.

“That is not the norm for the rest of the country,” Jodi says.

This month is the premier of the film she has produced exploring that phenomenon: “Shattered: How Women Broke the Glass Ceiling in Oregon Politics.” The film premier and VIP reception featuring three generations of female political leaders will be 6-8 pm, Aug. 18, at the University of Oregon in Portland. Tickets start at $10 at tinyurl.com/womenor.

When Jodi embarked on the project, she was the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, a post she left in December 2021 to become Director, Global Communications, for Tektronix. She also continues to help her husband, Neil Simon, with the company the couple founded, Bighorn Communications.

“Neil had made other documentaries, and I have assisted,” says Jodi, noting that for this film, she took the lead as executive producer. “As a woman, it seemed like my story to tell.”

The film includes footage from Valderrama’s swearing in and interviews with former Governor Barbara Roberts and the five Multnomah Commissioners – Chair Deborah Kafoury and Commissioners Susheela Jayapal, Jessica Vega Pederson, Lori Stegmann and Sharon Meieran, who is Jewish. The narrator is Aslan Newson, a young activist who was involved in renaming the former Wilson High School as Ida B. Wells High School. Newson graduated from Ida B. Wells in June and will attend Yale in the fall.

Jodi says she chose a young narrator to emphasize the hopeful nature of the film. “This is the story about how women can come to power,” says Jodi, the mother of twin daughters, 9, and a son, 12. “I hope all little girls can watch this film and be inspired.”

“Women are half the nation yet less than a third of elected leaders. But in Oregon, women have blazed a trail of their own,” according to the event page. “With women’s rights under attack, women’s representation matters more than ever.”

The couple financed the film themselves and want to recoup some of the costs, but they also want to support women’s rights. Therefore, a portion of the proceeds from the film premier will be donated to Planned Parenthood. The film has been submitted to several film festivals, but no other showings have been confirmed.

Avraham's Closet (continued from page 1)

When my 100-year-old father-in-law grew weak in his final days, Avraham's Closet quickly provided a wheelchair to take him to medical appointments and other items to help around the house. He passed away just a week later, but the supplies and Cantor Shivers’ kindness made the final days easier.

Our experience has been shared by many who need equipment for a short time as they recover from surgery or injury.

“Everyone is really appreciative,” says Cantor Shivers. “For those like me with a temporary need for medical equipment, Avraham’s Closet is an important resource,” wrote one satisfied borrower. “While recovering from hip surgery, I was able to borrow items essential in my post-operative rehabilitation. Once I recovered and no longer needed the items, I was happy to return the borrowed equipment, and included other items (walker, shower seat) that I had purchased for temporary use during my recovery. It gives me pleasure to know that these will now be available for someone else to use.”

Patty Magid-Volk, a physical therapist, volunteers to help people decide what equipment they need.

“If you are going to have a hip or knee replacement or shoulder surgery, you are going to need stuff, and you don’t have to buy it,” says PT Patty (as her patients call her), who can suggest what equipment you are most likely to need. “I can give a professional opinion on what is needed.”

When a woman finishing rehab at Robison Jewish Health Center called to borrow a quad cane and shower bench, Cantor Shivers knew she might need more equipment. So she had a video conference with Patty, who was able to recommend other items the woman would need to have a smooth transition back to her home.

“We try to give mensch-like personal service, without restrictions,” says Patty, noting the lending library is open to all.

Cantor Shivers adds, “No doctor’s note is needed. If you say you need it, and we have it, you can have it as long as you need it.”

She does encourage people who no longer need it to return equipment or donate equipment they have purchased so others may use it. She says sometimes people who have had one hip replacement think they will hang onto a walker anticipating they will have the other hip replaced in the future.

“But if you need it later, we can give it to you,” says Cantor Shivers.

She encourages people to donate unused equipment (wheelchairs are especially needed) rather than letting it take up space and gather dust. A Hesed Committee volunteer is available to pick up donations if you aren’t able to drop items off at the synagogue in Southwest Portland.

“Avraham’s Closet is an important resource for our community, and I hope that others take advantage of this service,” says a man who borrowed items while recovering from hip surgery.

Contact Cantor Linda Shivers at 515-954-5221 or cantor.shivers@gmail.com or call the Neveh Shalom office at 503-246-8831 for more information on how to donate or borrow equipment.
Chaplain's Corner

Embrace our desert legacy

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Historically, the Jewish people are a desert people. Much of Torah is set in the desert wilderness. We learn the story of how we transformed from an enslaved mixed multitude to a desert-hardened tribal community.

Desert people have a unique mindset. This community embraces simplicity, clearly prioritizes what is necessary and discards whatever is redundant. Life becomes elegantly basic.

I grew up a suburban kid in Memphis in the 1980s. … The closest desert was West Texas. The first time I experienced the wilderness was in 1992 during my first year of rabbinical school in Israel. At the end of summer classes, a small group of classmates and I took public buses to the Red Sea in the Sinai Peninsula. We stashed our backpacks in a shelter and slept on the beach. We road-tripped into the desert with Bedouins. We hiked, ate, drank, explored and slept under the stars. It was beautifully simple.

A few months later, one of my classmates and I went on a Sukkot camping trip in the Judean wilderness. I had no idea what I had gotten myself into but quickly adapted. I carried only what I needed: basic food, a couple of changes of clothing, a sleeping bag and minimal toiletries. I will never forget being humbled by a man three times my age as we hiked to the top of a mountain. (I thought I was in good shape.) I was overwhelmed witnessing the sun set in the west, a full moon rise in the east, with the Milky Way galaxy in between, undiminished by human light.

I have been revisiting these memories during this late July heat wave. Four years ago, when I was apartment shopping before I moved to Portland, I asked more than one time why the complexes lacked air conditioning. (And if you are fortunate to have central air conditioning or wall units, offer a prayer of gratitude.)

As a tribal community, we did not need that much to navigate challenging conditions: just a little shade, water and sustenance. We knew how to slow down and conserve. And of course, we had each other to share strength, encouragement and support. We can use this time to be grateful for what we have, rather than crave what we lack.

Let’s stay safe and sound and adopt my Judean desert guide’s mantra: zachor lish’tot, “Remember to drink!”

Public Service Announcement

GIVE A SPIT

Reproductive carrier screening for Tay-Sachs and 200+ genetic diseases.

www.JScreen.org
JFCS presents "Self-Care for Caregivers" Aug. 12

Are you caring for another person? Doing so can be rewarding and fulfilling. It also often puts substantial physical, emotional and mental demands on you, leading to your own health issues such as exhaustion, difficulty sleeping, depression, anxiety and heightened levels of stress.

If this describes you, please join Jewish Family & Child Service’s no-cost Self-Care for Caregivers group, Friday, Aug. 12, 10 am. Registration is not required for this Zoom-based session. Simply click on the session link at jfcs-portland.org/self-care-for-caregivers.

The one-time session – which is part of JFCS’ Mental Health Spotlight program – is guest-facilitated by Dr. Sara Rapaport, ND, LMT, BCB.

The Self-Care for Caregivers group largely will focus on “self-compassion as a form of self-care,” says Rapaport, a naturopathic doctor, massage therapist and biofeedback practitioner with a Portland-based practice. Rapaport is the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors and focuses much of her work on individuals and communities affected by intergenerational trauma.

Missy Fry, LCSW, CAGCS, who is JFCS’ behavioral health social worker, says she and colleagues often witness caregivers feeling like they must deny themselves self-care, believing it to be a selfish act. On the contrary, Fry says, when we provide ourselves with optimal care, we’re better equipped to transfer such care to others.

Rapaport emphasizes that there are many different ways of being a caregiver. “We hope that everyone feels like the session we are providing is a safe space where they can feel accepted and supported for the important work they are doing.”

Rapaport prefers sessions with an interactive component; she will encourage group participants to ask questions and take part in the conversation.

JFCS’ Mental Health Spotlight, a program of JFCS’ Counseling, is funded by the Jewish Federations of North America’s Holocaust Survivor Initiative and Center on Aging and Trauma, which recognizes the need to support caregivers.

Events

Aug. 4 & 23: Newcomer events
Those who are new to Portland or simply interested in connecting with community members are invited to one of two summer events hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

Community members 45 and younger will gather at 5:30 pm, Aug. 4, for an exhibit tour followed by a reception on the museum’s stunning rooftop patio. The same program will bring together those 45+ at 11 am, Aug. 23.

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

Aug. 17: Dead Sea Spa Night
Young adults are invited to enjoy an evening of tranquil relaxation, including face masks with mud straight from the Dead Sea. Learn about the religious, cultural and geological aspects of this fascinating liquid landmark. Presented by Moishe Pod-West PDX from 7 to 9 pm, Aug. 17.


Aug. 27: Reading the Holocaust
David Rutiezer, the grandchild of Jewish immigrants, presents “Reading the Holocaust” at the Wilsonville Library on Aug. 27 from 1 to 3 pm.

The free program is designed for high school through adult readers. “Together we’ll explore some lesser-known writings on the Holocaust, with a focus on diarists, especially by local survivors in the Portland area,” says David. “There’ll be a chance to read excerpts together and discuss our reactions, as well as a reading and resource list for further study and exploration.”

David holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the Rainier Writing Workshop and a TESL certificate from Concordia University. David’s poems have been published in Drash, Harpur Palate, Jewish Currents and the North Coast Squid. creative david.com.

For more information about library programs, visit wilsonvillelibrary.org/lib/page/classes-lectures.

Genealogists learn to transcribe

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon invites the community to “Paying It Forward: OJMCHE Transcription Projects and Tips” at 10:30 am, Aug. 7, on Zoom.

In pursuit of JGSO’s mission statement, “Members helping members connect with their Jewish ancestry,” the genealogy group is partnering with the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education for this August program.

OJMCHE Archivist Alisha Babbstein and Curator of Collections Anne LeVant Prahl will discuss OJMCHE’s varied transcription projects – oral history interviews, correspondence, eulogies, sermons, speeches – and the software they use and recommend. They will walk attendees through downloading and setup of materials, and share style sheets and editing standards.

All transcription projects are done remotely, so JGSO members (and others) can volunteer from the comfort of home. OJMCHE gladly takes all volunteers who would like to work with them, and Alisha is always available to help and answer questions.

The program will feature some projects that JGSO members will work on. A goat herder in a former life, a voracious reader in her current life and a Dolly Parton enthusiast her entire life, Alisha Babbstein is a woman of many interests. None, however, rival her passion for community archives. Since 2013, she has been capturing, preserving and stewarding the stories and collections of Jewish Oregonians for the education and enjoyment of future generations.

Anne LeVant Prahl has been growing the OJMCHE collection and the museum’s relationships with donors and peer institutions for 25 years. She has developed OJMCHE holdings into the state’s most comprehensive repository for the Jewish community of Oregon. She oversees the oral history program, which collects first-person narrative histories of Jewish Oregonians around the state, and speaks publicly on the subject of oral history collection.

Register at sites.rootsweb.com/~orjgs/ to receive a confirmation email with information to log in to the meeting. All JGSO Zoom meetings feature closed captioning.

Jewish Review Aug. 3, 2022 11
OBITUARIES
Submit obituaries to editor@jewishportland.org

JEROME BARRY COHEN
Yaakov (Jerome Barry) Cohen, z”l, passed away July 23, 2022, at age 82. Survivors include his wife, Linda Naslund; son, Kevin Cohen; Linda’s daughter, Maryanna Malelu; and daughter-in-law, Laura Grushcow. He was a member of Congregation Kesser Israel when the congregation was at the Meade Street Shul.
The funeral was July 27 at the Shaare Torah Cemetery with Rabbi Chayim Mishulovin of Chabad officiating.

BETTY PERRITT
Betty Perritt, z”l, passed away July 23, 2022. She was the mother of Congregation Kol Ami member Gillian Pope.
Kol Ami offers condolences to Gillian and her extended family.

MELVIN SWIRE
Melvin Swire, z”l, passed away July 21, 2022, at the age of 95. He was predeceased by his dear wife, Janet Swire, and is loved and remembered by his son, David (Sally) Swire; daughter, Karen (Larry) Renicker; granddaughter, Ellen (Matt) Bronstein; grandson, Sam (Zeva) Swire; granddaughter, Natalie Swire; grandson, Evan Ferns; and two great-grandsons.
The funeral took place July 22 at Ahavai Shalom cemetery.
Congregation Neveh Shalom extends condolences to the extended Swire family.

JOYCE F. SALTZMAN
Joyce F. Saltzman, z”l, passed away July 21, 2022, in Bulverde, Texas, at the age of 90. Joyce is survived by her sister, Carolyn (Gary) Weinstein, of Portland; son, Jay (Carmen) Saltzman; grandchildren, Sarita Saltzman, Joshua Saltzman, Veronica Espinoza, Monica Barrera and Jessica Carlos; 11 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Irving (Irv) Saltzman, z”l; parents, Violet and Jacob Rapoport, z”l, and sister, Sharon Hardwick, z”l.
The funeral was July 26.
Congregation Neveh Shalom extends condolences to the extended Weinstein/Saltzman family.

ALICE TURTLEDOVE MEYER
Alice Turtledove Meyer, z”l, passed away July 19, 2022. Alice is survived by her children, David, Sarah and Andrea Meyer; and grandchildren, Eliana and Naomi Meyer.
Alice was preceded in death by her husband, Paul R. Meyer, z”l, and brother, Harry L. Turtledove, z”l.

The day after her passing, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education sent out a tribute that noted: Yesterday our community lost a true woman of valor. Alice Turtledove Meyer was a native Oregonian, born Aug. 23, 1929, in Portland. She lived a life of community building and fierce activism. Numerous organizations benefited from her tireless and dedicated volunteerism. Perhaps – and unequivocally from our vantage point – Alice’s crowning achievement began in 1989 when she and Rabbi Joshua Stamper worked together to found the Oregon Jewish Museum. Alice served as the first president and chaired numerous committees over the years. As a chair of the exhibition committee, Alice spearheaded the museum’s first major exhibition, “Echoes: A Century Survey,” the work of Arnold Mesches. Three years running, Alice chaired the Gala dinner and art auction. Alice was also active in the Oregon Jewish Historical Society and eventually served on the board of the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center, which merged with the Oregon Jewish Museum in 2014. Alice’s consummate chairing of the committee overseeing the publication of Ellen Eisenberg’s landmark history of Oregon Jewry from 1950 to the present followed in 2016. Alice guided the committee through a complicated process to commission and oversee the writing of the manuscript. Before the pandemic, Alice volunteered at the museum with Eve Rosenwald to work on the Beth Israel records in our archives. Alice held a deep and profound commitment to social justice. ... Visionary leadership, passionate and thoughtful political outlook, steadfast and intelligent values, and impressive editorial skills led Alice to apply herself to her priorities and then, almost invariably, to accomplish her objectives. The museum’s reading room bears Alice’s name. Given her curiosity and ceaseless intellectual fervor, it is especially fitting that her memory will shine brightly in a place of study.
A celebration of life will be held at 3 pm, Aug. 7, in the main sanctuary at Congregation Beth Israel. Guests are welcome to attend in person or via livestream on the Congregation Beth Israel website.
Donations in Alice’s memory can be made to the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education or Indivisible Civics.

LINDA RAE WATERS
Linda Rae Waters, z”l, of Lake Oswego, formerly of Atlanta, lost her battle with cancer on July 19, 2022. She was 64. She is survived by her husband, Arthur Waters; son, Jordan Kohn; daughter, son-in-law and grandson, Alexi, Ohad and Ania Kohn-Amidor; bonus daughter, Audrey Waters; stepson, Joshua Waters; and bonus sister, Judith Silverstein.
Born and raised in Buffalo, N.Y., Linda earned her liberal arts degree from Boston University and her master’s degree from Case Western University in Social Work. Linda worked in Atlanta as a psychotherapist, LCSW, for 35 years.
Graveside services were held July 22 at Arlington Memorial Park.
Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choosing.
Congregation Beth Israel offers comfort to the family.

LARRY STUART BLACK
Lawrence Stuart Black, z”l, passed away July 10, 2022, at age 92. Larry is survived by his wife of 67 years, Susan; his five daughters, Jennifer (Steve Hanns) Black, Patty (David Estes) Boday, Katie (Jay) Willoughby, Sally (Jake) Douglas and Diana Harrell; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.
Larry was born Aug. 19, 1929, in Portland. His parents, Alec and Rose Levine Black, immigrated from Lithuania before settling in Portland. Larry graduated from Grant High School in 1947 and went on to attend the University of Oregon, majoring in business and playing football. He became a lifelong Ducks fan.
In 1954, he met the love of his life, Susan Wendel, in Gearhart, Ore. Three months later, they were married and off to New York, where Larry received his MBA at NYU. After graduating, they returned to Portland and settled in Beaverton before finding their forever home in Lake Oswego, known as Dohterdale Farm.
Larry established his investment firm, Black and Company, Inc. Later, it became one of the first locally owned Pacific Northwest firms to hold seats on the New York Stock Exchange.
Contributing to the community was one of Larry’s passions. He felt it very important to give back and did so generously. He was a longtime donor to the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. He was on a variety of boards, including Portland State University, Metropolitan Family Service and The Oregon Symphony. Larry founded the original Classic Wines Auction that was initiated by MFS and chaired the OMSI Auction.
Donations in his memory/honor may be made to Metropolitan Family Service or OMSI.