Seven Oregon Jewish organizations have received $866,500 from the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program to enhance security and emergency preparedness. The funds are part of $180 million awarded for the 2021 grant cycle by the Department of Homeland Security.

“That’s part of the benefit of a partnership between Secure Community Network and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland,” says Regional Security Director Gene Moss. “My role with SCN is to help our community with the non-profit security grant process.”

Jewish organizations receiving the grants are Congregation Beth Israel, $150,000; Havurah Shalom, $24,500; Mittleman Jewish Community Center, $125,000; B’nai B’rith Men’s Camp Association (parent of BB Camp), $150,000; Chabad Center for Jewish Life, $150,000; Temple Beth Shalom, Salem, $137,000; and Temple Beth Israel, Eugene, $130,000.

“We are grateful to the Jewish Federations of North America for their lobbying efforts on behalf of Jewish organizations across the country,” says JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner. “Moreover, we are delighted to see new dollars come into many of our community organizations to upgrade their security.”

Seven groups get security grant funds

BY DEBORAH MOON
Long before COVID isolated everyone, people longed for a sense of connection and belonging. Congregation Neveh Shalom’s Long Range Planning Committee has spent the past 18 months focusing on a future where every congregant feels both a sense of being welcome and of belonging. The LRP group developed a vision, mission and five defining values: community, innovation, Jewish life, inclusivity and transformative learning.

The congregation has refocused and added staff to create an engagement team. They have experienced the joy congregants have shown returning to outdoor plaza services and looked to the technology tools that flourished over the past year and a half to develop a well-rounded approach to engagement.

THE ENGAGEMENT TEAM
“What it means to one person to belong to a congregation can be completely different from another, and that is OK,” says Michelle Caplan, who was recently named Director of Congregant Connections. “We are embracing that.”

Leah Conley, the new Director of Engagement & Innovation, will work with Michelle on creating connections.

“My role is to build … a variety of spaces so that everyone can find someplace in the community (where) they feel a sense of belonging,” says Leah. Associate Rabbi Eve Posen says that it takes more intentionality for a large congregation such as Neveh Shalom to create connections. About 840 households now belong to Congregation Neveh Shalom, which was created in 1961 by the merger of two Conservative congregations – Ahavai Sholom, founded in 1869, and Neveh Zedek, founded in 1892.

“At the outset, people sort of think, ‘Neveh’s so big, it couldn’t possibly feel small’ so they get intimidated to come to events … and feel overwhelmed,” says Rabbi Posen. “So it takes a lot of work … to reach out to people and inviting people for coffee or a conversation … to help shrink that feeling of gap.”

An engaging proposition

Engaging Neveh Shalom: Michelle Caplan, left, assumes the new title of Director of Congregant Connection, and Leah Conley, right, becomes Director of Engagement & Innovation.

Community loses a gem:
Julie Diamond, z”l

Obituaries: Diamond, Nudelman, Schneider, Shalom, Matin, Gerber, Halpert – page 6

Rosh Hashanah starts at sunset Sept. 6. Are you ready?
Resources – page 2

Chef returns with virtual holiday cooking class – page 2

Happenings for young professionals, parents, youth educators, teen philanthropists – page 3

Op-Ed: Another view on Ben & Jerry’s – page 4

Wedding: Goldman-Master – page 5

Jobs Board: Camp Solomon Schechter, Beth Israel, P’nai Or, Stifel – page 5
One-stop High Holiday Resources

The High Holiday season begins with Rosh Hashanah starting at sundown Sept. 6. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has curated a webpage full of resources to help you be ready for this year’s High Holidays.

Links to six resources can be found at jewishtportland.org/highholidayhappenings:

A Very Israeli Rosh Hashanah: (see below).

High Holiday Community Calendar: High Holiday services, classes and programs presented by congregations and Jewish organizations in the greater Portland region.

HighHolidays@Home: High Holidays at Home is a platform for DIY Jewish New Year rituals, curated especially for celebrating meaningfully at home. Create and publish your own Elul reflections, Rosh Hashanah seder, Yom Kippur rituals, Sukkot experience and more. Mix and match blessings, songs, videos, art, meditations and more to craft an experience that reflects your Jewish values and your spiritual practice.

Solomonov returns with Very Israeli Rosh Hashanah


Last year, more than 1,400 people enjoyed Michael’s cooking demonstrations for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Passover.

“Michael Solomonov is one of America’s greatest chefs and an incredibly ‘down to earth’ and kind person,” says JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner. “Plus, his inspired Israeli cuisine is truly second to none. So why not share Michael and his food with our Jewish community so many can enjoy?”

Michael will be joined for the one-hour cooking class by New York Times best-selling cookbook author Adeena Sussman. Adeena told the Philadelphia Inquirer in 2019 during a book tour for her book Sababa, “We have the same ideas about how you can tell a different story about Israel through the food.”

Michael has been sharing the bright flavors of his beloved homeland since opening his modern Israeli restaurant, Zahav, in Philadelphia in 2008. Michael is also co-author of three cookbooks: In Search of Israeli Cuisine, Israeli Soul: Easy, Essential, Delicious and

PJ Library High Holiday Resources: Holiday activities, recipes and holiday facts for families with young children.

The Blue Dove Foundation: A Guide to Improve Mental Health in the New Year. With 5781 in the rearview mirror, and a (hopefully) brighter 5782 on the horizon, we are beginning to see the impact of mankind’s experiences in the pandemic on our mental health. Now, as the new year begins, let us reaffirm our commitment to mental health and wellness. The site features resources for individuals to reflect on and improve their own mental health as well as to contribute to the mental wellness of the Jewish community as we look forward to a sweet new year.

Jewish Together: A Marketplace of Jewish Experiences: This is your place to connect, learn and explore with your Jewish community – virtually! Use this website to discover and find a variety of Jewish experiences for all ages and levels.

Engaging (from page 1)

Long Range Planning Co-chair Stephanie Arnheim agrees that being a large congregation creates challenges to ensure everybody feels welcome. In addition to surveys, the committee used “empathy interviews” – one-on-one interviews with open-ended questions asking for experiences and feelings.

“It can really help find the good and the bad and how to address (it),” says Stephanie. “It gives staff and clergy and the board better tools to understand congregants.”

The committee identified inclusivity as a very important value.

“We want to help all people feel welcome,” says Stephanie. “We are creating a sense of belonging for all ages and all backgrounds.”

Rabbi Posen says the committee recognized that “It can’t just be one person that does it all … we brought in a team of people who can connect and engage and reach out.”

“Michelle is absolutely fabulous at connecting people,” says Rabbi Posen. “Leah is absolutely brilliant when it comes to mission vision and making sure that the work that we’re doing really meets the needs that are there.”

She adds that new YAFE (Youth and Family Engagement) associate Josh Seldner will expand “the work of engagement, especially when it comes to our families with children third grade and up … (this) is going to just elevate all of that work even more.”

RETURN TO IN PERSON & REMEMBERING TECH

LESSONS FROM COVID

“Throughout COVID, what we really see is people are yearning for a place to feel connected to others,” says Rabbi Posen. “Our first Shabbat on the Plaza on June 4 had 130 people show up. Pre-COVID, maybe 60 is what we would normally get. We’ve consistently had much higher numbers all summer because people are really looking for a place of connection.”

Continued on next page
Aug. 22: Young Professionals United in the Field
Chabad Young Professionals are inviting young adults to United in the Field – A Jewish Pride Experience at 3-5 pm, Aug. 22, in Fields Park in Portland’s Pearl District, 1099 NW Overton St.

Enjoy an afternoon of Jewish unity, celebrate our Jewish heritage and enjoy klezmer music by Michelle Alany & the Mystics, a fiddle-driven musical feast of Sephardic, klezmer, Balkan and Mediterranean soul music.

Chabad of Oregon opened the Chabad Young Professionals Chapter in Portland’s Northwest District under the leadership of Rabbi Meir and Sheina Posner in March 2020, just as the first COVID restrictions hit Oregon.

“With the shutdowns and distancing measures coming into effect, we pivoted to a virtual rollout,” says Sheina. “Thank G-d, we were able to meet and offer support to quite a number of young professionals as well as local Jews of all ages.”

Opportunities included virtual events, classes, outdoor meetups and Shabbat and holiday kits to go. Now CYP is hosting regular in-person programs, events and Shabbat dinners by invitation.

“Young professionals are always looking for community and ways to connect,” says Sheina. “The need for connection and meaning was even more urgent during the uncertainty and loneliness of the past year. It’s been more important than ever to socialize and celebrate Judaism as a community.”

Sheina created the Unity in the Field event to bring people together to strengthen Jewish identity and community. “This is such an important time to feel proud to be Jewish, and what greater way than by gathering together with music and joy,” she says.

All are welcome at the Unity in the Field event. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.pdxcyp.org.

Aug. 26: Parenting Unvaccinated Kids in a Post-Vaccine World – Back to School
In May, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and PJ Library hosted a facilitated conversation, “Parenting Unvaccinated Kids in a Post-Vaccinated World.”

“It was a great opportunity to hear directly from a local-area pediatrician on what exactly families can feel comfortable doing or not before kids can be vaccinated,” says Rachel Nelson, JFGP pediatrician on what exactly families can feel comfortable doing or not before kids can be vaccinated, “The program will be virtual until further notice. Later in the year, a determination will be made on whether the site visits can safely be made in person or will be done virtually.

The program will be virtual until further notice. Later in the year, a determination will be made on whether the site visits can safely be made in person or will be done virtually.

CNS (from previous page)
Rabbi Posen says we’ve learned throughout COVID “that certain things must happen in person, and there are also certain things that are actually better on Zoom.” She cites test text classes, which allow people to take a lunch break and to spend their time learning instead of having to find parking and use a lot of travel time. “Another place where that’s true is having access on the Livestream or even better Zoom for evening programs or meetings,” which has welcomed those who would normally say no because they don’t drive at night.

“I think that as we sort of have gone back to in person, it’s been important to keep that in mind, because it’s really wonderful to have those people engaged. … It would be really horrible if one of the outcomes was that, as we came back into the building, we stopped having those pieces available,” says Rabbi Posen.

Email mcplan@nevehshalom.org for information on membership.

SECURITY (from page 1)
With the increased funding approved by Congress for this year, Moss had hoped more Jewish organizations would receive funding. But with a record number of submissions this year, he says it was a very competitive process.

In addition to helping each of the organizations that received grants, Moss also provides safety trainings and risk assessments for Jewish organizations across the state and is the liaison to the police and FBI whenever an incident occurs in the Jewish community. He also developed the security page (jewishportland.org/security) on the Federation’s website for incident reporting. The page includes resources and training materials for local congregations, agencies and organizations that Moss has developed since joining SCN and JFGP in 2019.

Jewish Review Aug. 19, 2021 3
Op-Ed
Why I support Ben & Jerry's move in Israel

BY JOEL GLICK

Back in my late teens and early 20s, I worked as a volunteer for the United Farm Workers on its grape boycott.

As I stood in front of supermarkets asking shoppers to support the rights of farm workers to collective bargaining, one of the most common questions I was asked was “Why boycott only grapes?” People would ask me if grape workers got paid less or worked under worse conditions than, say, workers who picked peaches, harvested broccoli or (choose your crop).

I answered honestly, “No, grape workers don’t labor under the worst conditions. In fact, given the specialized skills required to harvest grapes, grape pickers are actually paid better than many other farm workers. The difference, however, is that grape workers have organized themselves into a union and are asking you to boycott grapes so that they can win a union contract.”

I’m sure Martin Luther King was asked similar questions about the Montgomery bus boycott. Did the municipal bus company in Montgomery, Ala., have more discriminatory policies toward African-Americans than bus companies in other Southern American cities in the 1950s? Clearly, it did not.

Likewise, some people have asked why Ben & Jerry’s has decided to stop selling its products only on Israeli settlements on the occupied West Bank. Do Palestinians living under Israeli occupation have it worse than people living under repressive and authoritarian regimes throughout the world? No, they don’t. Does Israel’s settlement project constitute the world’s worst violation of international law? No, it doesn’t.

However, a number of organizations around the world (including Americans for Peace Now) have called for a boycott of Israeli settlements. It is, like the grape and bus boycotts, a targeted boycott with a targeted purpose: to encourage a change in current Israeli government policies that promote de facto annexation of territory east of the Green Line in violation of international law.

Let’s be clear: by boycotting the settlements, Ben & Jerry’s is not boycotting a part of Israel. In a 2005 decision, the Israeli High Court of Justice ruled that Judea and Samaria (West Bank) are not part of Israel and are subject to international law. The Court wrote, “…Israeli law does not apply in these areas. They have not been ‘annexed’ to Israel … the legal regime which applies in these areas is determined by public international law regarding belligerent occupation …”

During the grape boycott of the 1960s, right-wing organizations such as the John Birch Society accused the UFW of being supported by communists and socialists. Those accusations contained an element of truth: the “old left” and “new left” did indeed support the UFW, just as they supported the Civil Rights Movement. The intention of such attacks was to undermine support for the UFW among liberals, people of faith and union members. The UFW and its supporters correctly identified those right-wing attacks as “red-baiting.”

I do not support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. However, I object to people “BDS-baiting” activists and campaigns that do not question Israel’s policy of de facto annexation of occupied territory. However, it will not, in and of itself, resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Nor, by itself, will my personal decision to refrain from making charitable contributions to organizations that support West Bank settlements bring peace to the region.

However, my hope and expectation are that cumulative small actions, insignificant as they might be individually, will, in the long run, encourage the Israeli government to pursue policies that promote and not undermine future prospects for a peaceful two-state resolution of Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
Life-cycle events

The Jewish Review publishes news and photos from life-cycle events including births, b’nai mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and landmark birthdays. Please submit your life-cycle news to editor@jewishportland.org.

WEDDING

Goldman-Master

With pride and joy, Congregation Neveh Shalom members Lilia and Sergey Goldman announce that on the 1st of August, 2021, our daughter Miriam married Samuel Master. The ceremony occurred at Bear Mountain Inn, Tomkins Cove, NY. We were happily surrounded by our friends and family.

Jobs board

Submit job openings to: editor@jewishportland.org

CAMP SOLOMON SCHECHTER

Development Director

Full-time with benefits (vision, dental, health, sick and vacation). Salary is competitive/commensurate with experience and other qualifications.

Camp Solomon Schechter is seeking an experienced, dedicated and outgoing professional for the Development Director position. The Development Director is responsible for planning, organizing and directing all camp fund-raising efforts, including major gifts program, annual fund, planned giving, alumni relations, special events and capital campaigns. For details and instructions on how to apply, visit https://www.campschechter.org/about/employment/.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Congregation Beth Israel is a Reform Jewish synagogue serving approximately 850 families in the greater Portland area. We offer a friendly and community-centered work environment.

The congregation has two openings. Full listings are posted at bethisrael-pdx.org/contact-us/staff-directory/.

Education Coordinator

Full-time position

Responsibilities include communication and logistical support for family programs; work with the CBI senior staff, faculty and youth group staff to enhance relationships student-to-student as well as between parents; and interface with religious school faculty and staff, keeping communications clear. Additional work includes billing and tracking of tuition and tzedakah, reception duties and general office management.

Qualifications and relevant qualities needed to fulfill this job’s requirements: excellent organizational abilities; personable with a friendly, calm demeanor; ease and experience with technology related to storing and sharing of communications and files; ability to plan, oversee, and ensure events are carried out successfully; and a willingness to learn, especially as it pertains to Reform practice and CBI-specific customs.

For information, contact Ben Sandler ben@bethisrael-pdx.org

Administrative Assistant

Part-time position; $17-20/hour

The administrative assistant role is a part-time, 20-24 hours/week position located onsite at Congregation Beth Israel’s office. You will perform clerical and administrative functions; act as front desk receptionist fielding calls, answering the door and welcoming guests as they come in; and provide administrative support for senior staff and Program Director.

Duties include providing compassionate and resourceful phone support to incoming calls, managing and drafting correspondence, updating member databases, managing donor notifications, creating remembrance notifications, proofreading communications, ordering office supplies, organizing mailings, maintaining an organized and welcoming front lobby, office and copy room, and other miscellaneous tasks.

This position reports to the CFO. Interview process will include a phone interview, followed by an onsite interview if relevant. Please send resume to melissa@bethisrael-pdx.org. Include optional cover letter in body of email. Start date: immediately.

P’NAI OR OF PORTLAND

Musician /Accompanist

P’na Or (“Faces of Light’) of Portland is a Jewish Renewal synagogue. P’na Or is seeking guitar/instrumental and vocal musical support for the Rabbi at Friday and Saturday services (usuallyyone Friday night and two Saturday mornings per month), Jewish holidays, life-cycle events and other congregational events. Strong skill at acoustic guitar or keyboard. Pleasant singing voice preferred. Collaboration and communication with the Rabbi to plan music for services and to co-lead services. Knowledge of Jewish liturgy and sacred music. Familiarity with Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield’s music preferred. Knowledge of audio technology involving microphones, speakers, mixers preferred.

To Apply: Send resume and cover letter to admin@pnaiorpdx.org by Friday, Oct. 15.

STIFEL

Client Services Associate

Salary Range: $52,500-$65,000 DOE

Established in 1890, Stifel is one of the nation’s leading full-service wealth management and investment banking firms. The Client Services Associate assists one or more financial advisors (FAs) with the opening and maintenance of client accounts and records; performs a wide variety of administrative support duties, including but not limited to word processing, preparing mailings, filing and answering the phone; obtaining approvals for FA communications and advertisements; providing overall customer service support to clients; and possibly entering trades as directed by the FAs.

Registered Client Service Associate

For more information, contact Tony Urdes at 503-499-6276 or email tony.urdes@stifel.com
ARLENE SCHNEIDER
Arlene Schneider, z”l, passed away in Brooklyn Aug. 13, 2021. Arlene is survived by her husband, four children and their spouses, and eight grandchildren ages 1 through 22. She was the mother of Congregation Kol Ami member Renee Kaplan.

The funeral took place in Brooklyn, and Renee will stay to sit shiva with her family there. Kol Ami sends condolences to Renee and Jonathan, Katherine and Caroline, as well as their extended family.

SABINA CELIA SHALOM
Sabina Celia Shalom, z”l, passed away on Monday, Aug. 9, 2021, at the age of 96. She is survived by her sons Michael and Tony and four grandchildren.

Chava Shulamit bat Peshe v’Yosef haCohen was laid to rest in Maryland on Aug. 12, next to her beloved husband Marco Shalom, z”l.

Born in Sheffield, England, Sabina spent her last few years in Portland at the Rose Schnitzer Manor and quickly became a beloved member of the Shaarie Torah community.

She was the author of A Marriage Sabbatical, which was published in 1984 chronicling her 50,000-mile trip around the world in 1976. She was an early advocate of limiting smoking in public places and joined the board of the American Lung Association and spent 13 years promoting laws to ban smoking in public spaces.

Cedar Sinai Park profiles Sabina in the “Out Stories” series on the CSP website. The profile is at cedarsinai-park.org/2021/02/05/sabina-shalom/.

Congregation Shaarie Torah sends heartfelt condolences to the entire family at this time.

JERROLD MATIN
Jerrold Matin, z”l, passed away on Aug. 9, 2021. He was the beloved husband of Geri Matin; brother of Joanne Glickman; father of Laura, Kimberly and Stephanie; grandfather of Rich, Ashley, Jason and Kyle; and great-grandfather of Hava, Harrison, Anna and Sara. Extended family includes Lori, Pamela and Bruce.

The service was held at the Beth Israel Cemetery on Aug. 11, 2021.

Congregation Beth Israel offers condolences to the entire Matin family. Donations in Jerrold’s memory can be made to the SHOC Foundation.

MIRIAM KAROLE GERBER
Miriam Karole Gerber, z”l, passed away Aug. 5, 2021, at 98 years old. Miriam Sondheimer was born Dec. 2, 1922. As a young adult, Miriam was deported from Germany in October 1940. Miriam and her family were extremely fortunate to have been granted asylum in the Dominican Republic from 1941 through 1946. Miriam moved to New York City in 1946 along with her immediate family. For many years, Miriam worked as a secretary for the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City. She moved from the East Coast to the West Coast to be with her son and his family. Miriam was a resident of Rose Schnitzer Manor in Portland for about 15 years.

Miriam was an avid reader, spoke several languages, was patient, wise and beautiful inside and out. Virtual services were held Aug. 11 by Holman’s Funeral Home.

LUIS EMILIO HALPERT
Luis Emilio Halpert, z”l, died June 22, 2021, of natural causes in Mexico City in the presence of his family. He was 91.

He is survived by his wife, Billie Halpert; children, David Halpert, Oscar Halpert, Kathy Simmons, Diana Harker, Alex Halpert; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

He was born in Mexico Aug. 22, 1929, to Rosa (Eisenstädt) and Kalman Halper. Dr. Halpert, a Surgeon, worked as a urologist with Kaiser Permanente in Portland. He started at Bess Kaiser Hospital in 1961 and retired in 2000. He was chief of urology for many years, a former assistant area medical director, and was instrumental in the planning and opening of Kaiser Permanente’s Sunnyside Hospital in Clackamas. He was president of the Oregon Urological Society in the 1980s and was a Clinical Professor at Oregon Health Sciences University.

Dr. Halpert returned to Mexico following his retirement in 2000, where he settled in the mountain village of San Miguel de Allende with his wife, Billie.

Dr. Halpert enjoyed music, especially chamber music, and was an accomplished clay sculptor. In his youth and early adulthood, he was an excellent soccer player and later excelled at racquetball. He was a voracious reader.

He was interred following a ceremony at the Panteon Israelita Jewish Cemetery in Mexico City. A private memorial service will be held in Portland. Memorial contributions may be made to Chamber Music Northwest https://cmnw.org