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Rebooted by COVID:

With the world in flux, many congregations, organizations and businesses are moving forward into our new world in fresh ways.

Shuls adjust High Holiday plans

BY DEBORAH MOON

Even before Multnomah County and the state of Oregon issued new mask mandates – initially indoor expanding to outdoor public settings Aug. 27 – many congregations had begun to revamp their plans for the High Holidays.

“The plan is the plan until it changes,” said Neveh Shalom Executive Director Fred Rothstein in a town hall on Zoom announcing High Holiday changes. That is as succinct a way as any to capture the ever-changing landscape of life under COVID.

“The Delta variant is spreading fast and wide, throwing our state into a level of crisis we have not yet seen in the pandemic,” said Gov. Kate Brown in a press release announcing the new mandate for most public outdoor settings. “The combination of vaccines and masks is the most powerful way we can fight this latest surge of COVID-19 and save lives. Vaccination continues to be the best way you can protect yourself and your family from the Delta variant.”

Many congregations have shifted some services to online or moved services from their sanctuary to outdoor settings. Attendance limits to permit social distancing are in effect for services still



“Cannot Predict Now” reads the Magic 8 Ball Rabbi Eve Posen used as a Zoom background for a Neveh Shalom town hall about High Holiday plans. The rabbi views the unpredictability of the Magic 8 Ball as analogous to life in an ever-changing pandemic.

planned for indoors. Many require or strongly recommend vaccination for service attendees over the age of 12.

“About a month ago, we thought we had all of our plans set for High Holy Days 5782,” said a late August email from Congregation Shaaric Torah. “As we all know, each day brings a new challenge to trying to plan for anything.”

See REBOOT: HOLIDAYS, page 2

Mother's Bistro adapts

BY DEBORAH MOON

After a year of vacillating restrictions and conditions, Mother's Bistro reopened June 3 with limited days and hours in a downtown area still largely devoid of visitors.

“I was really optimistic,” says Mother's chef and owner Lisa Schroeder, noting she had hoped to add two more days a week starting this month (and may still add one). “Now I am resigned to the fact COVID is here to stay – it's not going anywhere soon.”

COVID'S LIFE LESSONS

While the path forward is a continually moving target, Lisa says she has learned a few lessons about what is really important. Before COVID, Lisa wanted to “try to feed all humanity.” So, she kept the restaurant open seven days a week, morning through evening, and featured a multipage menu.

Her approach is different now. “I learned it is OK to step back and not do everything,” she says.

See REBOOT: BISTRO, page 16



Even before the new mask mandates, Lisa Schroeder required her staff to wear masks at her reopened Mother's Bistro & Bar in downtown Portland.

INSIDE

Holiday briefs:

Family camp, reverse tashlich, Sephardic hazzan & resources – page 4

CSP's Our Stories:

Thanks Miles – page 5

Havurah Shir Hadash turns 36 – page 5

Beth Israel acts as a cooling center – page 5

ART: Beth Hamon's new album, Jan Baross' books & Mark Sherman's Musical Midrash – pages 6-7

Dignity Act, Dignity Grows – page 7

Education: Inclusion, day schools, SWU fellows, PAJE pillars and parenting support group & video – pages 8-10

Shorts: Idea award, Hood to Coast, OJCF new staff and 2 new businesses – page 11

Rabbis tackle lessons of season – pages 12-13

Life-cycle events: Birth: Bacharach; Weddings: Perrin-Hamovitz & Brodtkin-Epstein – page 13

Obituaries: Pollin, Markus, Rispler, Baker, Klonoff, Fishman, Aigner, Hartzman, Nudelman, Orgel – pages 14-15

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5782

(Jewish holidays start at sunset the evening before the first day of the holiday)

Sept. 7-8: Rosh Hashanah | Sept. 16: Yom Kippur
Sept. 21-27: Sukkot | Sept. 28-29: Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

REBOOTED: HOLIDAYS (Continued from page 1)

Congregation Beth Israel had planned to welcome congregants back into its historic sanctuary. But after the recent surge, it has moved most services outdoors to its plaza.

“Our desire is to have people gather for the High Holidays to have a meaningful experience and to keep everyone safe,” says Beth Israel Senior Rabbi Michael Cahana. “We’ve felt that this (outdoor services) is something we have the ability to do and is really a good way of gathering and protecting simultaneously. We will be outside wearing masks; clergy who are speaking and singing will keep a lot of distance.”

The state mask mandate excludes individuals giving a speech or performing.

Despite the constant need to adapt, Neveh Shalom Associate Rabbi Eve Posen says that, at least this year, congregations know how they can adapt.

“Last year, we had to create the wheel,” she says. “This year is easier ... we are just going back to the wheel, and we know what has been successful.”

Following are the general plans and comments from area congregations as of the end of August. Many have virtual options available to everyone, and some are welcoming nonmembers to attend in-person services – with reservations. Congregations’ service information and other holiday programs can be found on the Community Calendar: jewishportland.org/highholidayhappenings. However, as things evolve rapidly, most congregations suggest contacting the congregation directly for the most up-to-date offerings and rules.

AHAVATH ACHIM

Sephardic congregation Ahavath Achim plans in-person services at its Hillsdale building across from the MJCC.

“We are requiring registration so that we have an idea how many people will be there and how we can space it out,” says Rabbi Sholom Skolnik. “We’re not going to be checking anyone’s vaccination status, (but) we strongly encourage all people to be vaccinated. We are looking for pretty normal services with hopefully masks being the only major concession to COVID we have to make.”

“The holidays are a time for prayer, and COVID makes it so we have a lot of things to ask for,” he adds. “Prayer can be a game



Last year on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, Beth Israel Rabbi Michael Cahana was one of many who sounded the shofar across the state in an event sponsored by the Oregon Board of Rabbis and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

changer. We really hope that with our sincere prayers over the holidays, COVID will become a thing of the past.”

BETH ISRAEL

At Congregation Beth Israel, all Rosh Hashanah services will be held outdoors, under tents on the Temple plaza.

Decisions about Yom Kippur services will be announced as circumstances evolve.

Congregation Beth Israel is welcoming guests to in-person outdoor services; details and registration are at bethisrael-pdx.org/guests5782. In addition, all are welcome to stream services.

The page for general High Holidays at CBI is bethisrael-pdx.org/cbi5782. It is the source for the most up-to-date holiday information.

Rabbi Cahana acknowledged plans may change again: “We hope that there is not going to be, as we had in the past, (an) announcement of outdoor restrictions – limits in the number of people who can gather. Of course, we will follow the rules and the recommendations.”

“Hopefully, all the precautions that everyone is taking will bring us to the end of this surge,” he added.

CHABAD

Chabad Houses are adapting, too. The 13 Chabad Houses throughout Oregon and SW Washington will be hosting outdoor services, Shofar in the Park and Rosh Hashanah Shofar Home visits.

“The ever-evolving and constantly changing nature of the past 19 months remind us that, while we ask the creator for our needs, it is vital that we ask ‘what are we needed for?’” says Rabbi Motti Wilhelm of

Chabad SW Portland. “While we excitedly prepared for a return-to-normality High Holidays, our people are being asked to yet again creatively carry the Jewish mission and message forward during these challenging times.”

In the Portland area, Shofar in the Park will be held in Gabriel Park, Fields Park, Summerlake Park and Wilshire Park. To accommodate the many who will observe the holidays at home, Chabad is printing High Holiday Handbooks and giving classes ahead of the holidays.

Find a Chabad close to you at ChabadOregon.com.

HAVURAH SHALOM

Havurah Shalom, which has opened its High Holiday services to the community for free for 41 years, decided early on to offer all its services online this year “in our ‘virtual tent,’ accessible via your mobile phone or computer.”

It is one of the few congregations that hasn’t had to alter its plans over the summer.

“Because we planned for another fully online set of services and events this year, nothing will be changing with our High Holiday schedule,” says Havurah Communications and Membership Coordinator Brad Pector.

All services are online and require registration, which is free. Registration, online machzor (holiday prayerbook) and more information are available on Havurah’s High Holidays page: havurahshalom.org/high-holidays.

Continued on next page

HIGH HOLIDAY REBOOT (Continued from previous page)

KESSER ISRAEL

Since online services are not compatible with Orthodox tradition, Congregation Kesser Israel plans to hold in-person services at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center to provide sufficient space for social distancing.

Currently planned for indoors in the ballroom, services are open to both members and nonmembers. Vaccination is highly encouraged. Masks and preregistration are required: kesserisrael.org/holidaytickets.

KOL AMI, VANCOUVER

Across the Columbia River in Clark County, Congregation Kol Ami has changed its plans, too. "Our plan was to hold High Holy Day services masked and in person with 3-foot distances between families in the sanctuary and social hall. We also had planned to offer a Livestream option. But Delta has changed all of those plans," says Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker. "Our committee made the decision that our services will be online only for the second year in a row."

Services are open to anyone. Email admin@jewishvancouverusa.org to register and get the link.

KOL SHALOM COMMUNITY FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

"All spring, Kol Shalom was planning to hold in-person High Holiday services at the West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, our traditional site for many years," says Kol Shalom Vice President Roberta Hellman. "We were thinking of a hybrid service. But as COVID cases started rising in the Portland Metro area, we decided to be cautious and careful, and once again only hold our services on Zoom."

The services will be open to and without charge for anyone.

"It has truly been disappointing to have to postpone getting together, but our Zoom services were well attended and appreciated last year, and we hope for the same now," says Roberta. "Here's to next year in person."

Registration and service details are available at kolshalom.org.

NEVEH SHALOM

Congregation Neveh Shalom will offer a mix of in-person outdoor and indoor, which will also be available online, and has shifted some services for young children to Zoom only. Some services that had been planned for indoors will now move to outdoor locations on the synagogue grounds. Young Family Services have been changed to a drive-in service rather than being in the lower courtyard, and the young family Rosh Hashanah service that was scheduled to be in the Stampfer Chapel will be on Zoom.

Services will be held in the main sanctuary for limited in-person attendance and are



available on Livestream for members and nonmembers.

"We're looking at about 200 for the main sanctuary service," says Senior Rabbi David Kosak, noting that the space holds about 1,100 people. "We believe that this is plenty of physical distancing. ... It's an interesting time of uncertainty. It means a lot of people are going to feel more comfortable participating online. We worked hard to make sure that whatever feels comfortable for each family and each person ... there is a way to participate this year."

Registration is required for Livestream/Zoom services for members and nonmembers: nevehshalom.org/hhdaccess5782/

"We are still evaluating, still discussing and there could be further changes to make to ensure we keep our community safe, and we still provide a meaningful and spiritual High Holiday season," said CNS President Glen Coblenz. "We have seen within the course of the last year and a half, the only thing that really is constant is change. So we have to keep in mind that whatever decisions that we make today might be changed tomorrow, next week or whenever as we get closer to Rosh Hashanah."

SHAARIE TORAH

Congregation Shaarie Torah welcomes all who are interested in joining services, space permitting. Members will have priority access. Nonmembers can arrange for visitor tickets by contacting the main office: est@shaarietorah.org. A voluntary contribution to support the shul is appreciated. Required registration for in-person services can be found on the congregation's High Holy Day page at shaarietorah.org/hhd.

All those entering the building must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask at all times. Double masking or the use of N-95 masks is recommended, but not required.

All services held in the main sanctuary will be simulcast via the CST website and on Facebook Live for those who prefer to watch from home. The website includes a form for access to an online copy of Mahzor Lev Shalem.

Shaarie Torah Executive Director Jemi Mansfield adds, "If the need arises to put the brakes on in-person services as we're planning, we can pivot to exclusive streaming

with the minimum of people in the sanctuary. Last year, the Sisterhood generously underwrote the cost of not only the HHD production, but also the purchase of equipment that is now installed for regular streaming of Shabbat and holiday services. If we have to, the clergy plus a minyan will broadcast services for everyone else to view remotely."

SHIRTIKVAH

Congregation Shir Tikvah will offer limited indoor, in-person services for members, keeping the gatherings small. Attendees are required to be vaccinated.

"The pandemic has created a difficult and ever-changing situation for all of us," says Administrative Director Katie Schneider. "We know our community is precious, and we want to protect it. At the same time, it is difficult to limit access to our services and the ways that we can be together."

The general public is invited to join services on Zoom. For more information, visit the website calendar at shirtikvahpdx.org or email office@shirtikvahpdx.org for the Zoom link.

CEDAR SINAI PARK

Plans for seniors at Cedar Sinai Park are in flux, too.

"If nothing else, living in a pandemic has been a constant reminder that the future is unpredictable," says CSP Spiritual Life Coordinator Cathy Zheutlin.

This year, all of the services and dinners at Cedar Sinai Park are for residents only.

"We are still planning to have live services in Zidell Hall with volunteer service leaders from the community," says Cathy.

Amy Shapiro and Jeff Olenick, Eddy Shuldman, Len and Elayne Shapiro, Avrel Nudelman, Rabbi Barry Cohen, Laurie Fendel and Rivkah Coburn are leading 11 different services for residents only at Rose Schnitzer Manor. In addition, Len and Elayne Shapiro will lead a Rosh Hashanah Service, and Barbara Slader will lead a Yom Kippur Service for residents of Robison Jewish Health Center and Harold Schnitzer Center for Living.

"We will also have two festive Rosh Hashanah dinners at the Manor," says Cathy. "Rather than one large gathering at Robison, there will be five separate festive holiday dinners for RJHC and HSCL residents. If we are required to make any changes, our backup plans are for everyone to attend virtual services."

CSP CEO Kimberly Fuson adds, "As we continue this shared journey through the pandemic, I continue to be deeply moved by the inimitable spirits of our residents, staff, families, trustees, volunteers and community."

High Holiday briefs

High Holiday Family Camp Sept. 25-26

B'nai B'rith Camp, Congregation Beth Israel and PJ Library plan a High Holiday Family Camp Sept. 24-26, 2021.

BB Camp will follow current COVID-19 guidance for this event. The health and safety of our community is always our highest priority.

Experience favorite camp activities with your family such as swimming, arts & crafts, ziplining, canoeing, sports and more. Show off your family's greatest skills in the Family Camp Talent Show. Celebrate Shabbat and the High Holidays with an inclusive and engaging community featuring programming for families of all ages. Come for the weekend, build friendships for life.

Cost for the weekend camp is adults, \$150; kids 3 and older, \$125; and kids 2 and under, free.

Registration opens soon at: bbcamp.org/familycamp. For more information, email info@bbcamp.org.

Join Reverse *Tashlich* to clean waterway

Join Congregation Shir Tikvah and environmentally conscious Jewish communities around the world in a reversal of the tradition of *tashlich*, in which breadcrumbs or pebbles are cast into flowing water to symbolically cast off the sins of the previous year. In the Reverse *Tashlich*, people remove human "sins" (marine debris) from the water in a collaborative waterfront cleanup.

"We're pretty excited to offer our members and friends this opportunity for a hands-on community initiative to help repair the world," says Shir Tikvah Office Manager Amelia Schroth.

Shir Tikvah will host a cleanup of Johnson Creek near the Springwater Corridor on the morning of Sept. 12. Attendees should wear clothes that can get dirty and closed-toed shoes and gloves.

To register, go to repairthesea.org/reverse-tashlich, click register, country: United States, Team: Oregon; Congregation Shir Tikvah.

Greenberg returns to lead Sephardic service

For the last few years, Hazzan Aryeh Greenberg has led Congregation Ahavath Achim in a traditional Sephardic service for the High Holidays. He will return to Portland and lead in-person services this year.

Hazzan Aryeh Greenberg (aka Haham) was raised three doors down from Ezra Bessaroth Congregation in the Seward Park neighborhood of Seattle. His education in Ladino culture began at around age 3 while on the receiving end of *mash'allahs* (cheek pinches) from scores of *Nonas* (grandmothers). Under the careful scrutiny of Hazzan Isaac Azose and his father, Rabbi William Greenberg, z"l, he began to lead early parts of the Shabbat service by the age of 8.

Haham Aryeh has been leading Ahavath Achim High Holy Days services for many years. He will be with Congregation Ahavath Achim for the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah as well as the Shabbat after Yom Kippur.

One-Stop High Holiday Resources

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 jewishportland.org/highholidayhappenings:

- **A Very Israeli Rosh Hashanah:** Sept. 1 virtual cooking class.
- **High Holiday Community Calendar:** Local happenings from local congregations and organizations.
- **HighHolidays@Home:** DIY Jewish New Year rituals.
- **PJ Library High Holiday Resources:** For families with young children.
- **The Blue Dove Foundation: A Guide to Improve Mental Health in the New Year.**
- **Jewish Together:** Varied virtual Jewish experiences for all ages.



CSP's Our Stories

During its celebration of 100 years of serving Jewish Portland's elders, Cedar Sinai Park is sharing 100 stories of people who live, work and volunteer on the senior campus. The following excerpt from the most recent story is about a teenage culinary server at Rose Schnitzer Manor. cedarsinainapark.org/our-stories.

Thanking Miles Wells

BY ARLENE LAYTON

Theodore Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss) and our Rose Schnitzer Manor Culinary Department associate Miles Wells share exuberant outlooks and imaginative minds. Each exudes joy.

Once you get beyond the athletic stature, shining millennial hair and megawatt Tom Cruise smile, you realize this 18-year-old is going somewhere and already has a notion of where he'll land. He's on his way as Seuss would say.

The seniors of RSM relish interacting with Miles. Arthur Ginsburg cites the server for his calm. "Miles never gets excited, and he's very good at dealing with people with cognitive or other problems," the 92-year-old says of the teen. "He's always so pleasant," says Jane S. "He does a great job and is a pleasure to look at." Sonia Liberman is perhaps closest to Miles. "He's wonderful!" she declares. "I love this boy. He always has time for a word or two."

Miles is now off to Illinois to enter Lake Forest College, a private liberal arts school. "I don't want to be educated at the loss of my heart," he tells me. Rose Schnitzer is not the

first time he's "shared connections with elders," as he puts it. Miles was extraordinarily close to his grandparents. Miles has his heart set on becoming a professional therapist working with seniors.



Excerpt from Miles' college application essay:

My job at Rose Schnitzer Manor has given me a second home in the past year. I've worked as a server for about 20 hours a week since January and worked full time in the summer. While working, my grandmother was battling ALS. This was both incredibly challenging and transformative, but the experience of working at an assisted-living community was my saving grace. ALS took my grandma's life and experiencing her degeneration while seeing the same thing happening to some of the residents I loved at the Rose Schnitzer changed my perspective. Instead of seeing people who in some cases couldn't get themselves out of bed or remember what their mother's name was, I saw beautiful lives tarnished by a diagnosis like my grandma's. This motivated me to treat all of the residents as I would have liked my grandma to be treated.



Kohanim Manny Cohen and Allen Kenner bless the community.

Havurah Shir Hadash celebrates 36 years

The Havurah Synagogue in Ashland recently celebrated its 36th anniversary as well as the 25th anniversary of Rabbi David Zaslow serving as the spiritual leader of the community.

"Twenty-five and 36 are sacred numbers in Judaism," says Rabbi David. "It was 36 years ago that Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield, z"l, organized Havurah Shir Hadash in Ashland, which has since blossomed into a 135-member synagogue."

July 16 was an extraordinary evening of sharing reflections and memories – and especially honoring Rabbi Zaslow for all he has given over these many years and all that he continues to give the community with his leadership, wisdom and teachings. There were tears of joy and laughter as one speaker after another shared what was in their heart.

Maggidah Ayala Zonnenschein served as master of ceremonies for the evening. Speakers included the mayor of Ashland, Mayor Julie Akins; Rabbi Julie of Temple Emek Shalom in Ashland; Daniel Greenblatt, founding member and council president; and Jonnie Zheutlin, long-time member who celebrated her 95th birthday in August and moved to live with her daughter in Portland. It was a perfect opportunity to honor Jonnie with a beautiful blessing from Rabbi David. Rebbitzin Devorah Zaslow shared a humorous essay she wrote many years ago about being the wife of a jazz club owner/poet-in-the-schools



Rabbi David Zaslow

who turned into a rabbi.

Maggidah Cyrise and Stefan Schachter added to the celebration with song. The evening culminated with Kohanim Manny Cohen and Allen Kenner blessing Rabbi David, Jonnie and everyone present with the ancient Priestly Blessing and a beautiful song written by Maggid Jhos Singer based on that blessing.

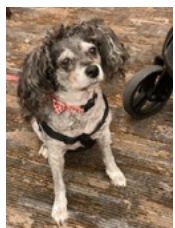
"Reb Aryeh has given Oregon a special gift with his music, his presence and Jewish Renewal approach to deep spirituality," says Rabbi David, noting that 10 years after founding Havurah Shir Hadash, the rabbi moved to Portland and founded P'nai Or of Portland.

"It was so special to celebrate our 36th birthday with members and friends of our community, both in person (before the Delta variant hit us all) and on Zoom," he adds. "L'chaim, to another 36, and then 36 beyond that!"

It was an event that will live long in the memories of all who were part of it, both physically and virtually. Part of the evening was captured on film and is available on YouTube: [youtube.com/watch?v=TNjs7KSp8RY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNjs7KSp8RY)

Beth Israel opens doors as cooling center

On Aug. 12, when temperatures reached 103, Congregation Beth Israel hosted a cooling center for the guests of Rose Haven Day Shelter for Women and Children. Many of the women coming to Rose Haven for assistance are unsheltered and live on the streets in NW Portland. The COVID pandemic has limited Rose Haven's ability to provide indoor services.



Beth Israel opened Goodman Hall from 5 to 8 pm offering guests (including Candy Cane, pictured here) respite from the heat, cold drinks, a light supper and the opportunity to socialize. COVID precautions were in place.

Rose Haven, Community Organizations Action in Disaster Management, the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and Multnomah County supported this effort. Each had representatives on site to assist CBI volunteers.

Beth Hamon's new album gets delayed debut



Beth Hamon plays songs from her "The Watchman's Chair" album in a late summer concert at Leikam Brewing.

Local musician Beth Hamon released her CD "The Watchman's Chair" in February 2020 intending to embark on a local and national tour.

"My tours were all canceled and there was no way to know when things might open up again," says Beth. "Normally in the music business, that usually means the momentum is gone because you can't sustain the excitement for a new album if no one can come hear you perform."

"But friends in the contemporary Jewish music scene urged me to consider a sort of 're-release' of the collection this summer as things opened up, and I was able to start playing for live audiences again," says Beth.

That was going well until she had a case of breakthrough COVID and had to cancel some gigs. As with many cases of COVID in vaccinated individuals, her symptoms were mild, and her doctor said her antibodies were in high gear.

So, she is back on the road for some end-of-season concerts.

Upcoming performances include High Holy Days at Congregation Beth HaTikvah, Bremerton, Wash.; Sept 25-26 at the

"ish Festival," a biennial Jewish and Israeli arts and culture festival in Cincinnati; and Oct 1-4 in El Paso, Texas.

Beth says the album grew out of the title song, which she wrote after serving as a *shomer* (a watcher who sits with the body before burial) through the *chevra kadisha* (burial society).

"The experience of serving in this way moved me profoundly and raised a lot of questions about life, death, eternity and everything else," says Beth. "So, I ended up writing a song to help me process all of that."

Many of the songs on the album reflect some piece of a journey through life.

"I'd say it reflects my best work as a songwriter and is possibly the most personal of my four albums," says Beth.

"The Watchman's Chair" is available for digital download online through Bandcamp: <https://bethhamon.bandcamp.com/album/the-watchmans-chair>. Those who purchase the whole album on Bandcamp will receive a PDF of a commemorative booklet available only online. In the interest of sustainability, Beth is reserving sales of physical CDs for live shows only.

Kept home by COVID pandemic, a writer writes

BY DEBORAH MOON

Portland Jewish writer, artist and traveler Jan Baross has spent much of the pandemic writing.

Already this year, she has released her first poetry collection, *In Living Color: Poems*; reprinted a photography book, *In Bed on Sunday Morning*; and is working on updating another photography book, *China 1966*, to include the story of the photos. *Hong Kong, 1966*, will tell the story of an adventure she had when her father was teaching orthopedics in Hong Kong – a story previously told only in photos.

Travel has been a recurring theme in Jan's life. Normally, she would have spent a few months last year and this one at an artists' village in Mexico. Whenever she travels, she sketches and has printed several books of sketches and observations including *Ms Baross goes to Mexico: San Miguel de Allende*, *Ms Baross goes to Cuba* and *Ms Baross goes to Paris*.

When her mother, Estelle Meadoff, died recently at age 104, Jan decided it was time to finish the fictionalized memoir she has been working on for years. *Bye-Bye Bakersfield* is her "unauthorized biography of



Jan Baross holds a copy of *The Timberline Review: Time Capsule*, which includes a chapter from her upcoming fictionalized memoir *Bye-Bye Bakersfield*.

a young Jewish girl (me) growing up in Bakersfield – Redneck Central in the 1950s."

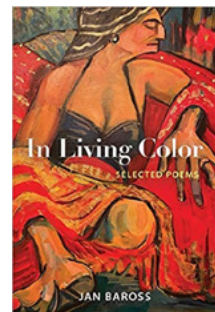
"There is a kernel of truth in each story," says Jan. "But I take the incident and blow it up and add dialogue."

One chapter of the book has already been published in *The Timberline Review: Time Capsule*. The 10th issue of this Willamette Writers' literary journal came out early this year featuring poetry and prose by Pacific

Northwest writers. Jan's "Prom Night 1961" recalls how she and her friends got bored at the hot, dull prom and "drove to LA to look for beatniks." While the teens have an incredible time, they return to frantic, and not amused, parents the next day.

When *In Living Color: Poems* was published in February, the back cover featured this quote from former Oregon poet laureate Kim Stafford: "This book of poems is dedicated to family – not a family expressing love by silent revery, but by wild truth. ... Read these poems to wake up what you say to those you love – especially yourself."

Jan's debut novel, *Jose Builds a Woman*, from Ooligan Press, won first place for fiction from the Kay Snow Awards. That book, along with Jan's other books and the *Timberline Review*, are available on Amazon. For information on all her books, plays, art and films, visit janbaross.com.





Mark Sherman celebrates writing 54 songs – one for each week's *parsha* (Torah portion) – with an outdoor concert that also featured vocalist Alyssa Knudsen at Congregation Neveh Shalom.

Musical Midrash meets milestone with song

One year ago, Mark Sherman launched his Musical Midrash Project. His goal? To create and perform 54 songs, one for each of the year's *parshiyot* (Torah portions).

"Musical Midrash Project is an innovative approach to Torah study that uses music as a way to connect thoughtfully and emotionally to our tradition's foundational text," says Mark, a guitarist, songwriter and vocalist. "The songs are like 54 gems from the Torah that have been polished so they can be seen in a new and compelling way."

He met his goal and to celebrate, headlined a hybrid in-person and virtual concert on the Holzman Plaza of Congregation Neveh Shalom on Aug. 17. About 25 masked people attended in person and another 15 enjoyed the melodies online. Guest musicians – vocalist Alyssa Knudsen and violinist Andrew Ehrlich – accompanied Mark on a number of the songs from Deuteronomy that he performed at the mid-August event.

"I felt so much beauty in the space he created for us to learn, listen and even sing together, not something we can do much of these days," says Merrill

Hendin, who attended on the plaza. Merrill is the principal of Portland Jewish Academy. "What a treat during such complex and tumultuous times to learn Torah together through Mark's beautiful music."

Mark's concert purposefully coincided with Elul, the month on the Hebrew calendar dedicated to introspection and reflection prior to the High Holy Days. While he has completed his initial 54 songs and has shared them in a weekly online concert as they emerged, the Musical Midrash Project will continue into the new Jewish year.

"I am exploring through weekly Musical Midrash Torah study sessions how these songs can help people make surprising, personal connections to the Torah on a regular basis," says Mark. "I am also looking forward to working with Jewish institutions as partners to make the songs available for all ages."

You can read more about the project in this December 2020 story: jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/musical-midrash-strikes-a-chord.

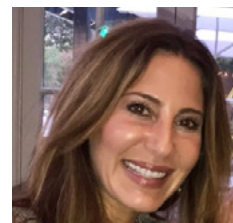
To listen to Mark's songs – lyrics in Hebrew and English included – visit his website, musicalmidrash.com.

Legislature's passage of Menstrual Dignity Act hailed

The Legislature's passage this year of House Bill 3294, the Menstrual Dignity Act, requires all public schools to provide period products free to elementary, middle and high school students.

The legislation was supported by PERIOD, a Portland-based national nonprofit founded in 2014 that strives to eradicate period poverty and stigma through service, education and advocacy.

PERIOD Development Director Dara Wilk is a member of Congregation Beth Israel and of the Portland Chapter of Dignity Grows. Dignity Grows is a national nonprofit associated with the Jewish Federation system that provides hygiene products to women, girls and individuals assigned female at birth who cannot afford them. The Women's Philanthropy of Greater Portland created the 15th chapter of Dignity Grows earlier this year (see below).



"PERIOD and the many youth activists that have worked to make sure legislation such as the Menstrual Dignity Act HB 3294 have demonstrated brave leadership," says Dara. "They are going to solve the issue of period poverty, and that inspires me on a daily basis to do the work I do for PERIOD. It is a multigenerational issue and other groups like Dignity Grows also work to serve those menstruators in need. We all have to work together in this movement, because periods don't stop and neither do we."

JFGP Campaign Director Wendy Kahn, who staffs Dignity Grows agrees. "Schools supplying period products help normalize a regular body function. A young individual who menstruates and cannot afford to purchase period supplies will instead choose to stay home. That's three to seven days per month missing school. ... Dignity Grows, together with our distribution partners Outside In and Transition Projects, help to reach individuals ... the schools might not. Dignity Grows will continue to work with our partners and hope one day this issue is solved for good."

A study conducted by PERIOD and the company Thinx "found that 16% of students have chosen to buy period products over food or clothes as a result of the pandemic," according to a press release.

"This is a progressive policy but also a bipartisan one," said PERIOD Executive Director Michela Bedard in a statement.

For more information on PERIOD and its upcoming events, visit period.org/events.

Dignity Grows adds distribution partner

The Portland Dignity Grows Chapter has added Transition Projects as a distribution partner to distribute the group's Dignity Totes to neighbors in need.

Dignity Grows is a national nonprofit that provides hygiene products to women, girls and individuals assigned female at birth who cannot afford them. Each tote includes a month's supply of sanitary pads and tampons, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, deodorant and shampoo. The Portland Dignity Grows Chapter has packed 360 Dignity Totes. The next packing party will be at the Eastside Jewish Commons on Sept. 19. For details, visit jewishportland.org/dignitygrows or email wendy@jewishportland.org.

For over 50 years, Transition Projects has delivered life-saving and life-changing assistance to some of Portland's most vulnerable residents, engaging folks at all levels of their journey from homelessness to housing. The Mobile Engagement team visits people living on the streets to help them meet their basic needs, provide much-needed items and work to connect them to additional supportive services, including shelter, wellness and housing support.

"Dignity Totes will be a great addition to the resources available through our Outreach efforts," says a Transition Projects staffer.

Working for an inclusive school year for all

BY DEBORAH MOON

For parents with school-aged children, the High Holidays always present a challenge. When the first day of Rosh Hashanah falls the day after Labor Day (traditionally the first day of school), it is especially stressful – and even more so when many children haven't been in school physically for 1½ years.

Fortunately, the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has been sending Jewish holiday dates to area school districts twice a year for more than 20 years. This year, most districts in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas and Clark counties scheduled school to start either the week before Rosh Hashanah or the day after so Jewish students wouldn't miss the first day back.

The JCRC now sends holiday calendars to superintendents and principals at public and private schools in the four counties as well as to universities. The letter suggests addressing and incorporating religious and cultural observances when planning annual school calendars and schedules for major events such as school start dates, exams and other important educational occasions. In addition, nonacademic activities such as back-to-school nights, concerts, photo days, school dances, etc. are important to students, parents and teachers.

A [link to the letter](#) to educators was included in an August PJ Library e-newsletter and has been posted on Jewish parenting Facebook groups. The e-newsletter and Facebook posts also direct parents to resources at the bottom of the JFGP Community Relations page, jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-community-relations-council. Included are links to holiday dates and descriptions, as well as resources parents can use to navigate incompatibilities between school events and important holidays.

"We want families to feel comfortable being advocates for themselves, and we are here as a resource to help them if they feel it is more than they can handle," says Rachel Nelson, Director of Educational Initiatives & Associate Director of Community Relations.

Parents needing additional information or help can contact Rachel at 503-892-7415, or rachel@jewishportland.org.

Interfaith Partners

The following cultural and religious organizations have joined the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Community Relations Committee to develop a draft policy on religious accommodation for school districts:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Cool Islam

Islamic Society of Greater Portland

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints-Portland Area

NAYA (Native American Youth and Family Center)

The Hindu Community

Oregon Chinese Coalition

APANO (Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon)

EXPANDING INTERFAITH EFFORTS

The JCRC also recognizes that conflicts between school and religious holidays extend beyond the Jewish community. This year, the JCRC built on the multicultural collaboration that presented history of discrimination webinars and the "Community Call to Confront Hate" summit (jewishportland.org/summit). The partners from that collaboration plus many more other communities have united to explore an interfaith approach to issues that may arise in the school arena (see box above).

"Every community that is not part of a majority religion experiences isolation around its holidays and cultural observances," says Rachel. "We don't want any community to feel isolated."

JCRC Chair Michelle Bombet Minch agrees.

"I wouldn't want this just to be a Jewish issue," says Michelle. "I feel like inclusivity is something we understand well – we understand being 'other,' we understand not being seen."

Rachel and Michelle both say this is an ideal time for groups to come together, because the Oregon Department of Education and many school boards across the state are talking about inclusivity, diversity and equality.

"We are coming together and asking them to walk the walk and talk the talk," says Michelle.

Rachel adds, "We wanted to put together a policy to address this globally."

A group of more than a dozen cultural/faith groups have collaborated in recent months to develop a policy to present to school districts around the state. The proposed policy is based on the comprehensive policy Eugene School District 4J developed: "[Accommodation for Religious Instruction and Observance](#)."

Drawing on that policy and input from the interfaith partners, attorney Hank Kaplan (vice chair of the JCRC and co-chair of the JCRC's legislative advocacy committee) created a proposed school policy. All interfaith partners have approved the proposal and now are considering how it should be presented to individual school boards for adoption.

STRONGER TOGETHER

"It's time for us to pull together and strengthen our relationships," says Michelle.

Although the new proposal has not been distributed yet, Michelle says the partnership has already borne fruit for the Jewish community.

Despite outreach from the JCRC, the West Linn-Wilsonville School District had initially scheduled the first day of school on Sept. 7, the first day of Rosh Hashanah. Several interfaith partners sent letters to the school board supporting changing the start date.

Recently, the school board voted to add a staff professional development day on Sept. 7, moving the first day of school to Sept. 8. The focus of the day will be on Care, Connection and Community to help educators prepare to welcome students back to in-person learning this fall.

A letter to WLWSD parents noted, "Establishing care and connection, especially early on in the school year, will be critical to the success of our students. ... We continue to hear how the impact of isolation during Comprehensive Distance Learning affected many students' social-emotional well-being, peer relationships and overall mental health."

This year, thanks to the efforts of the JCRC and the interfaith collaboration, Jewish students across the metro area will have the opportunity to join their classmates on the first day of school.

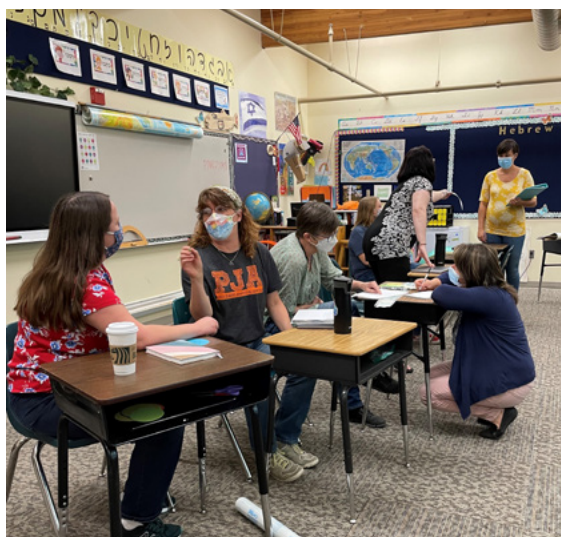
"Parenting Unvaccinated Kids-Back to School" recording now online

In August, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and PJ Library hosted a facilitated conversation, "Parenting Unvaccinated Kids in a Post-Vaccinated World – Back to School."

"This program was a great opportunity to hear from a medical expert on the best ways to keep our kids safe in an ever-changing time," says Rachel Nelson, JFGP Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations.

Forty parents viewed the live presentation. The Back to School session was recorded and can be viewed at jewishportland.org/unvaccinatedkids.

For more information, contact Rachel at 503-892-7415 or rachel@jewishportland.org.



Before school began this week, Portland Jewish Academy third- and fourth-grade teaching teams met to “pass the baton.”

Day schools bring students back into classrooms

Portland’s three Jewish day schools began classes this week. At Portland Jewish Academy, early childhood began on Monday and the day school on Tuesday. Preschoolers also began the year on Monday at Maayan Torah Day School with the rest of the students arriving Tuesday. All students began the year on Tuesday at Maimonides Jewish Day School.

With each week in September having at least one holiday, starting at the end of August gave the schools a few days to get students settled.

All three schools will close in September for the following holidays: Sept. 6 Labor Day, Sept. 7-8 Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 16 Yom Kippur, Sept. 21-22 Sukkot (first two days), and Sept. 28-29 Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah, with Maayan also closed Sept. 27.

All three schools plan full in-person learning this year.

“But we have technology set up for students if they had to be out for an extended period of time or if we needed to go remote,” says Maayan Principal Rabbi Yerachmiel Kalter.

“We are of course concerned for the health and well-being of our students,” says Maimonides Principal Karen DeNardo. “During these uncertain times when most of them are not able to get vaccinated, we will do all that we can to keep them at school and learning.”

Rabbi Kalter adds, “As the Delta variant surges and seems to keep on gaining steam, we are concerned. Additionally, it does seem to be affecting children at a greater level than last year. The good news is we are a fairly small cohort of families dedicated to making this work. Additionally, all our staff has been vaccinated and have put in place many safety precautions. We are monitoring all developments and are cautiously optimistic at this time.”

StandWithUs taps four for programs

StandWithUs has announced its 2021-22 Kenneth Leventhal High School Interns and Emerson Fellows, which include three high school and one college student in Oregon.

The local Leventhal Interns are Benjamin Rosenfeld, a junior at Catlin Gabel; Mazzi Katzen, a senior at Lakeridge High School; and Suretta Plawner, a senior at St. Mary’s Academy.

University of Oregon sophomore Rayna Davis is the Emerson Fellow.

This year, 150 students were selected in each program from 150 schools throughout North America. In August, both programs completed their respective virtual conferences, and students walked away energized to begin educating about Israel and combating anti-Semitism at their schools.

At the conference, students learned how to identify and combat anti-Israel campaigns. They explored the history of Israel and reviewed the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They also met with their regional coordinators. Aviv Attia continues as the StandWithUs Northwest high school speaker and Matthew Levin stays on as the Northwest senior campus coordinator.

“I am thrilled that we’ve grown to having three Leventhal Interns in Portland,” says SWU Northwest Executive Director Randy Kessler. “Students were drawn to join the programs because they wanted to learn more about Israel; but now, the rise of anti-Semitism in their schools and communities has become a motivating factor. Ben, Mazzi and Suretta, together with Rayna, are exceptional young leaders. I can’t wait to see what kind of creative programs they bring to their schools, synagogues and the broader Portland and Eugene communities.”

Created in 2012, the [StandWithUs Kenneth Leventhal High School](#)

[Internship](#) trains juniors and seniors, who identify their school’s educational needs when it comes to Israel and anti-Semitism and receive the tools to meet those needs.

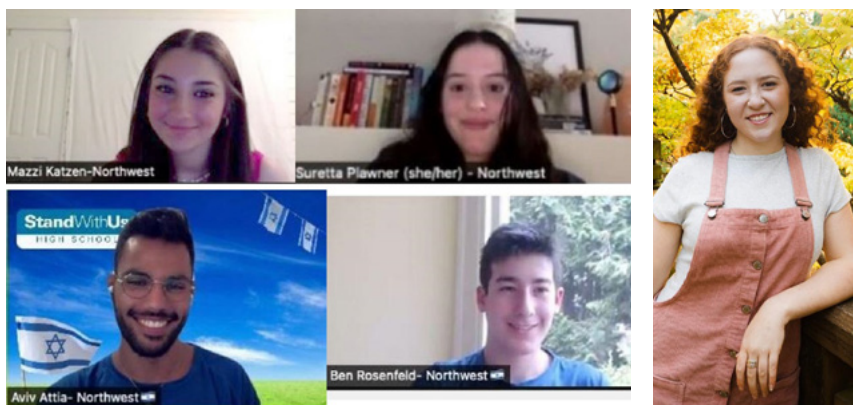
Mazzi says she joined the internship to “strengthen my abilities and have the proper knowledge and resources to educate and help guide my community on Israel and to address anti-Semitism.”

Through the internship, Suretta aims to “develop a more articulate understanding of Israel and its relationships with surrounding countries.” At its conclusion, she “hopes to feel more prepared to face certain challenges on a college campus.”

When Benjamin first visited Israel with his family, he came away with a deep appreciation for its culture. “I learned a great deal about Judaism and the history of Israel,” he says. “Back in Portland, I became more aware of the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic rhetoric. I knew the internship would be perfect, because it would help me improve my Israel knowledge, teach others in my community and combat anti-Semitism.”

Founded in 2007, the [StandWithUs Emerson Fellowship](#) is a prestigious one-year program that trains, educates and empowers pro-Israel student leaders on campuses.

After transferring to a public school from a Jewish day school, Rayna experienced much anti-Semitism. “I hated the feeling of being isolated or attacked for being proud of who I was and for sticking up for my homeland,” she says. Rayna joined the fellowship, “with the hope of educating others about Israel and anti-Semitism, thereby making a difference in the way people feel about Israel and the Jewish people. This has always been a huge passion for me, and I felt the fellowship was a perfect opportunity to grow, learn and make a difference.”



Clockwise from top left: Mazzi Katzen, Suretta Plawner, Rayna Davis, Ben Rosenfeld and SWU Northwest high school speaker Aviv Attia.

Educators turn national lessons into PAJE pillars

BY MEL BERWIN & RACHEL NELSON

We are one seminar away from finishing two years of learning with the Mandel Teacher Educator Institute, a national program for Jewish educators focusing on professional development.

One of the most impactful lessons we gleaned from the program was presented in the first seminar in November 2019. After three days of Jewish learning and teaching with our 44-person cohort, in Skokie, Ill., the MTEI faculty laid out the eight “pillars,” or principles, on which MTEI stands. These pillars communicate values such as “Teachers learn, and learners teach” and “Intentional creation of community.”

The faculty not only explained these core values, they truly lived and modeled them throughout the conference. For example, although many of the teachers are beloved and respected professors in their fields, they did not assume they knew how their teaching would land for us. They frequently checked in with participants and adjusted their approach based on the needs of our cohort, honoring the idea that we teach them just as they teach us. We saw how these teachers made their values explicit, lived them and often referred to them to clarify the “why” of their decisions about everything from the logistics of the conference to the content of programming.

From Mel:

I returned to Portland inspired to create pillars for the education community at Congregation Neveh Shalom, where I serve as Director of Congregational Learning. I worked over the next year with our teachers and education committee to craft and share pillars that articulated the core values of the programs I lead.

I realized that while I have certainly communicated some of the values and principles on which our education program stands, there are others that I might believe implicitly, but I might never have said out loud to the teachers or students or families. I wanted our community to have a clear set of values that we could refer to that communicates what matters most in this setting.

From Rachel:

I, too, wanted to translate those pillars into my work as the Director of Educational Initiatives at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. Specifically, I believed that PAJE, or Portland Area Jewish Edu-



Mel Berwin, right, is Director of Congregational Learning at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Rachel Nelson is Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. The two Oregonians have participated in the national, two-year Mandel Teacher Educator Institute.

cators, would benefit from creating pillars for the work we do together. The group of director-level educators representing preschool, camps, youth groups, day schools and congregational schools has met consistently under my leadership for the past seven years.

Together, we led a visioning workshop for these directors this past June. Fourteen educators gathered on Zoom to consider what PAJE is, and what we want to be as a collaborative education community. We asked them first to reflect and then respond anonymously on a prepared padlet to these questions:

- What does PAJE mean to you?
- What are barriers to participating in PAJE programs?
- How else could PAJE function in our community in an ideal world?

The responses to the first prompt included such themes as networking, opportunity for growth, shared resources, supportive colleagues, thought partners, collaboration, community and connection. The second question evoked a couple of strong responses: barriers included not enough time to participate and a sense of competition between organizations. In response to the third prompt, ideals included shared resources, mentoring opportunities and more professional development opportunities.

Next, the educators paired up in breakout rooms to read the MTEI pillars, reflect on them and write their own language for the pillars they believed apply to PAJE – both what is currently true and what is aspirational. Although these pillars are still in draft form, the ideas that emerged are significant. They include:

- Collaboration as a key
- Empowering leaders
- A focus on equity and accessibility for teachers and students
- Using Jewish teachings for learning and connection
- Fostering a growth environment through professional and personal development
- Peer-to-peer relationship building and small group cohorts
- Treating each other as equals and building trust.

The educators beautifully articulated values that are important to the group (collaboration, empowerment, equity, accessibility, growth environment, relationship and trust building) as well as the actions we take to foster those values (collaboration, using Jewish teachings, professional development and small cohort learning/gathering).

As the facilitators of this workshop, we both felt important, honest information was communicated by the educators about the dynamics and goals of our work together – both in terms of the ideals we want to live up to and the barriers that might impede us.

We are currently crafting these important ideas into pillars to present back to the PAJE community, which meets bimonthly through the school year.

From Rachel:

I believe these principles validate the work we do and also help guide my work as the convener of the group.

Planning and implementing this session felt like it was the next appropriate step with visioning where PAJE is going. I look forward to continuing the conversation as a larger PAJE cohort to hone in on the areas we should focus on. I went into the visioning session with some ideas as to what I thought our pillars should be, and that was validated, AND I appreciated the other pillars that shone through. I look forward to working with our educators to continue to provide meaningful opportunities for all of us to connect and to create synergies in the work we are doing.

PJ Library/JFCS present parent support groups in September

As the pandemic continues and our youngest still can't get vaccinated, the stress and anxiety can feel overwhelming. Know that you are not alone.

Join PJ Library and Jewish Family & Child Service for a chance to connect and create community. The group will be facilitated by

Dinah Gilburd, LCSW, and JFGP Director of Educational Initiatives Rachel Nelson, who oversees PJ Library locally. There will be two support group sessions in September – 8 pm Sept. 9 and 23.

Preregistration is required. To sign up for either session, visit jewishportland.org/parentsupportgroup.

Neveh Shalom wins Idea Generator award

Congregation Neveh Shalom, in partnership with two other West Coast Conservative congregations, won the learning category in the “Idea Generator – Visionary Awards.”

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism honored those who look to the future and develop creative solutions for the in-person/virtual engagement dilemmas of the post-pandemic environment. Entries focused on three categories: learning ideas; programming ideas; and ritual ideas.

Neveh Shalom Director of Congregational Learning Mel Berwin worked with educators at Congregation Beth Shalom in Seattle and Mosaic Law Congregation in Sacramento to develop a virtual program for families at the three congregations who don’t want or can’t send their kids in person.

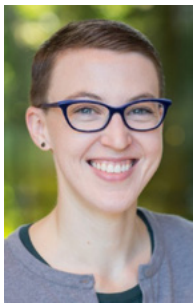
Mel says that she and her collaborators hope their innovative program will remain an idea here, but one that congregations in other parts of the country will be able to implement. She says the idea assumed each congregation has just a few students needing a virtual option and one program for all would provide the best experience.

“This program concept was based on the thinking that most of our families would feel comfortable coming back in person and a few families from each congregation would want or need to be online,” says Mel. “With the Delta variant so concerning right now, CNS has shifted our Sunday program so that we’ll be alternating weeks of in-person and online instruction for our K-6 community, and each family can choose what works best for them throughout the fall. The other two congregations I worked with are also making arrangements that meet the needs of their student and family bodies.”

Since winners in each category presented a webinar on their ideas, even if it is not implemented here, congregations with different conditions can put the collaborative online school into action.

OJCF hires office manager Dannica Anderson

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation welcomes Dannica Anderson (she/they) to the staff as Office Manager. The friendly voice greeting callers to the foundation belongs to Dannica. She



supports all aspects of the foundation by providing office management and administrative support, by staffing the board of trustees and other foundation committees, and by coordinating the Professional Advisors Group (PAG).

Dannica has extensive experience in operations management, program management and customer service and is excited to learn more about the world of nonprofit organizations. She is a recent transplant to Portland and is

open to recommendations for restaurants, parks and hidden gems. She can be reached at dannicaa@ojcf.org and 503-248-9328. Please join us in welcoming Dannica to OJCF and Oregon.

“Dannica has quickly become a valuable and valued member of the OJCF family. She brings strong customer service and administrative support as well as great enthusiasm. Dannica complements the OJCF’s strong team, which allows the foundation to build upon our services, guidance, and care for donors and community partners,” says Tara Siegmán, vice president of philanthropy.

Global Health Passport helps travelers

George Ciporkin, D.D.S., M.D., of Beaverton, founded Global Health Passport in 2016 to help travelers have a convenient medical record when visiting other countries.

His family immigrated in 1963 to Miami from Argentina, which then had the largest Jewish population in Latin America. His family joined a Miami congregation, and in high school he belonged to BBYO. He got the idea for the health passports when he was in Brazil and realized that he could not communicate in either En-



JFGP 2 Life takes fifth in Hood to Coast relay

The Hood to Coast team sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland finished fifth in the mixed masters category with a time of 27 hours and 41 minutes. JFGP 2 Life team members from left are: (back) Glen Coblens, Tracey Ducheck, Lauren Goldstein, Ray Mazloomi, Ben Drucker, Mark Zeitzer, Aaron Freedman and Michael Wu; (and front) Jenn Director Knudsen, Jessica Hilbert, Tonja Kraatz and Phil Zald. “The ingredients for a stellar Hood to Coast relay involve a positive and interesting group of van-mates, chocolate chip challah for Shabbat (thanks to Jenn Knudsen), epic sunsets/sunrises and moderate temperatures and LOTS of ruach,” says Lauren. “Such a fun group and an epic feat. I like to think we did the community proud ... and this swag is the coolest stuff around with the JFGP logo on it.”

glish or Spanish with shopkeepers who spoke only Portuguese.

“As a physician, I immediately thought: What if I have a medical emergency in Brazil where I can’t communicate my past medical history or my real-time current symptoms?” says Dr. Ciporkin.

Each passport-sized booklet provides concise, detailed and personalized medical information of the traveler translated into one of several available foreign languages. This medical information can save valuable time if the traveler needs to see a health-care provider abroad while not being proficient in the native language.

Individual booklets can be ordered in Spanish, Japanese, Chinese and Arabic. For groups with an order of 100 or more booklets, the company will arrange booklets in any foreign language.

“This revolutionary product based on years of educational training and clinical experience can markedly decrease the language barriers and communication limitations that currently exist in international travel,” he says. “The essence of this company is not only based on the concept of tikkun olam, but on the Jewish concept that if you save one life you’ve saved the world.”

For more information, visit globalhealthpassport.com.

Mediation company reaches out

Blend Mediation, a mediation company, is collaborating with JWiz, a Jewish professional services guide, to provide mediation services to the Jewish community.

“We are passionate about mediation as a first resort to conflict resolution. Our goal is to shift paradigms and raise awareness about the important role mediation can play in the human experience. We believe that tradition can be fostered and fulfilled in and with the Jewish community,” says Blend founder Alisa Kharis.

Alisa has been a litigant, a jurist, an attorney and an adjudicator in her professional career. She has experience in relationship and family issues, separation, divorce, parenting and support issues, custody, and adoption, as well as property, estate and probate, human resources, general business, real estate, landlord/tenant and neighborhood disputes.

Mediation sessions are available now and can be booked online at blendmediation.com or by phone at 888-301-8311.

Chaplain's Corner

Confronting our mortality

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN



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

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Upcoming issues

Issue date	Deadline
Sept. 15	Sept. 9
Sept. 30 (Thursday)	Sept. 23
Oct. 13	Oct. 7
Oct. 27	Oct. 21

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

During the High Holidays, we are supposed to confront our mortality. The challenge is doing so in a tactful, healthy way. Observing Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a way of performing time travel. We go back to our childhood and recall the sights, sounds and tastes, whether in synagogue or at home. We reflect on the year that was, celebrate and self-critique. We look to the future and consider our hopes, dreams and expectations. We remember loved ones who have died and face the harsh reality that, one day, family will light a yahrzeit candle for us to consecrate our death.

A recent trip to Houston to see my mom, siblings, nieces, nephews and cousins forced me to confront my mortality. My mom has begun to decline; she has lost much strength and vitality in the past five years. Though it was bittersweet to spend time with her and my two teenage children, I have no regrets. She still has plenty of stories to share. There was laughter along with joy and hugs.

In addition, I had to update my medical Power of Attorney during the visit. I did not enjoy revising the document that will ensure I receive the quality of care I want to receive, but I had to go through the exercise.

This visit painfully reminded me that I have crossed over a threshold. I have fewer years ahead of me than I have behind me. Coupling this with the fact that, as community chaplain, I consistently work with those who are ill or dying has been emotionally trying during the past weeks.

At times, I have felt as if I am in an emotional fog. I also feel as if time is in fast-forward. I keep looking for the brakes but fail to find them.

As the High Holidays draw close, more memories return. Sometimes it is overwhelming. I have been experiencing chaotic time travel, re-experiencing everything from childhood to COVID-19.

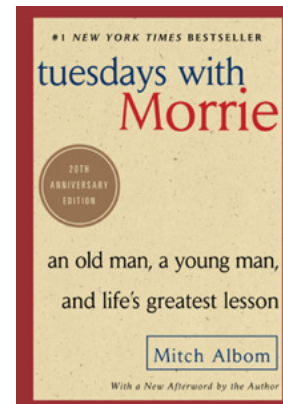
This year, I will continue my time travel with my teenagers. In our own way, we will remember what the High Holiday experience was, is and will be. When the time comes to light yahrzeit candles at home in memory of my dad, my wife's mom and my wife, I hope we will be able to share memories to keep their legacy alive. And I hope I will not dwell on the inevitability that, one day, they will light a candle for me.

I expect these High Holidays will be a positive experience, for the sake of my emotional health and the emotional health of my children. I hope we achieve a sense of emotional and psychological stability and balance.

A couple of weeks ago, I had a chance to officiate at an early morning wedding at Cannon Beach. The day before, at sunset, I walked along the shore. I did my best to be in the moment: I heard the crashing of the waves; I watched the

sun recede and seagulls fly low; I smelled the bonfires people had lit to stay warm; I felt the cool breeze on my face.

This reminded me of an excerpt from the book, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, written by Mitch Albom. He documented a series of meetings he had with his Brandeis professor, who was dying of ALS, Lou Gehrig's Disease. I share one excerpt from the book, appropriate for this time of the year as we confront our mortality.



"I heard a nice story the other day," Morrie says. "...The story is about a little wave, bobbing along in the ocean, having a grand old time. He's enjoying the wind and the fresh air – until he notices the other waves in front of him, crashing against the shore."

" 'My God, this is terrible,' the wave says. 'Look what's going to happen to me!' "

"Then along comes another wave. It sees the first wave, looking grim, and it says to him, 'Why do you look so sad?' "

"The first wave says, 'You don't understand! We're all going to crash! All of us waves are going to be nothing! Isn't it terrible?' "

"The second wave says, 'No, you don't understand. You're not a wave, you're part of the ocean.' "

"Part of the ocean," (Morrie) says, "part of the ocean."

I watch him breathe, in and out, in and out (pp. 179-180).

As we experience the High Holidays, let's simply keep breathing. And let's celebrate the realization that we are part of something infinitely greater than ourselves.

Rabbi's Corner

Remind us who we can become

Hashiveinu Adonai elekha v'nashuvah, hadesh yameinu k'kedem — Turn us, Infinite One, toward You so that we might return; renew our days like those of old. ~ Lamentations 5:21

BY RABBI BENJAMIN BARNETT

This verse is somewhat of a theme song for this season. The first and fourth words in the Hebrew come from the root sh-u-v, meaning “turn” or “return.” They express these days’ core practice, Teshuvah: Return, Repentance, Renewal.

Each year, the verse is chanted first on Tisha B’Av, then follows us into this month of Elul and on into Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur — the Ten Days of Teshuvah. “Return us to You,” we say, or “Turn us toward You.” One way or another, we are asking for help in our efforts to turn toward what is true and life-giving, to return to who we aspire to be in our lives and in the world.

As always, translation is interpretation. There are several words here that could go in various directions and create slightly different meanings. But the ambiguity is even more pronounced in the end of the verse: *hadesh yameinu k'kedem*. Those first two words, “renew our days,” are straightforward. But what do we mean when we say, *k'kedem*? Literally, “like they were of old” or “as they were in ancient times,” the phrase feels perplexing and even bothersome in this light, as if we were calling for a period that is “great again.” Is there a presumed better time to which we are longing to get back?

No, I do not believe that there is. *Kedem* is a word layered with meaning though. While it refers to the past, it also carries connotations of the future. *Kadimah* means “forward,” and *kedem* itself can also mean “east.” It is a point of origin, yet also a place toward which we look for things to arise or re-awaken. There is a reaching back as well as an imagining of what is possible. Perhaps the verse is saying: Remind us who we can become.

I think of Mother Teresa’s claim that “we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” Help us remember this, we are saying. Help us remember any vital wisdom with which we have lost touch.

There may not have been a time in recorded history when we truly lived with collective wisdom and mutual care. Certainly, in the history of the Jewish people back to our most ancient ancestors, the rights and well-being of everyone were never safeguarded equally. But this verse is a call not to remember who we were, but to recall our potential for who we can be.

Amidst this precarious moment in human history, these words and this season challenge us to recollect what we might have forgotten and reconnect with essential parts of ourselves that we right now profoundly need.

Renew our days, so that we may remember who we are. Remind us of who we might become.

Benjamin Barnett is the rabbi of Havurah Shalom in Portland and the current chair of the Oregon Board of Rabbis.



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.

BIRTH

ORION BACHARACH

Orion Bacharach, was born at home just after midnight, Saturday, August 21, to Ariel and Janique Bacharach. Orion was 8 lbs. 9oz, 21 inches. Both Janique and Orion are doing well. Orion is welcomed home by brothers, Gideon (5) and Adrien (3). Rabbi Gadi Levy, who performed Adrien’s *brit*, returned from Chicago for Orion’s *brit*.



WEDDINGS

ALEX PERRIN-JOSIAH HAMOVITZ

Alex and Josiah Hamovitz were married on Aug. 22 at Horning’s Hideout.

The couple will live in Portland. Josiah works in restoration ecology, and Alex is an instructional assistant at Portland Jewish Academy, from which she graduated. She hopes to pursue a career in wildlife rehabilitation/conservation in the near future.

Both Alex and Josiah are graduates of the University of Oregon. Alex is the daughter of Jon and Susanna Perrin.



DEVORAH BRODKIN-EZRA EPSTEIN

Devorah Brodtkin, daughter of Rabbi Ken and Aviel Brodtkin of Congregation Kesser Israel, married Ezra Epstein of Bergenfield, N.J., on Aug. 22, 2021.

The couple married in Baltimore and will be residing in Silver Spring, Md., where they met. Ezra will be studying for his rabbinic ordination as he prepares to work in Jewish education. Devorah is currently pursuing an MBA while working for the Kemp Mill Synagogue.

Ezra’s family has old Jewish southern roots from before the Civil War. His extended family enjoyed spending Shabbat Sheva Brachot in Portland, getting a taste of the Pacific Northwest.



Obituaries

HAROLD POLLIN

The family of Harold Pollin, z"l, announces with great sorrow that he passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021, at his home in Portland. Harold's immediate family include the love of his life, his wife, Jane; five children, Sharon, Andrew, Dave (Kirsten), Rachel and Melissa (Dave); 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He is a beloved cousin, uncle, great-uncle and dear friend.



Born on Oct. 19, 1935, to Morris and Jennie Pollin in Washington, D.C., Harold was the adored "kid brother" of Jack and Abe for his entire life. He moved with his young family to Portland in 1968, where he became an active and admired resident. Harold was the owner/operator of Pollin Hotels, including Aloft Portland, Hampton Portland Airport and the award-winning Sheraton Portland Airport. Committed to community service, Harold served on boards of numerous organizations as president and trustee. These included the Oregon Symphony Foundation (trustee), Jewish Federation of Greater Portland (president), Oregon Jewish Community Foundation (founding president), Jewish Education Association (president), Oregon Tourism Council – now Travel Oregon (board member), Portland Oregon Visitors Association – now Travel Portland (president) and Tri-County Lodging Association – now ORLA (trustee).

He was appointed to the Governor's Tourism Council and has been the recipient of the Grant Leo Rose City Award, Portland Oregon Visitors Association (1997); Restaurateur of the Year, 1990 (Oregon Restaurant Association); and Innkeeper of the Year, 1992, Oregon Lodging Association.

Funeral services took place at King David Cemetery in Falls Church, Va., Aug. 27.

Shiva continues at 7 pm through Sept. 1 in Portland at a location to be announced.

Donations in Harold's memory may be made to The Oregon Symphony, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, Congregation Beth Israel and the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

You can read a tribute at jewishportland.org/marcs-remarks/the-hospital-mensch-zl-august-27-2021.

ANATOLY MARKUS

Anatoly Markus, z"l, passed away Aug. 28, 2021, at age 91. Anatoly is loved and remembered by his wife, Roza Markus; daughter, Anna (Leon) Radutsky; and granddaughter, Victoria.

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

HOLLIS RISPLER

Hollis Rispler, z'l. Hollis passed away on Aug. 24, 2021, at the age of 49. He is loved and remembered by his wife, Allison; and children, Max and Ava; as well as his mother, Arlene Rispler.

A memorial service for Hollis was held Aug. 29 at Holman's Funeral Home.

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

KERRY BAKER

Rabbi Kerry Baker, z"l, passed away Aug. 23, 2021, at age 70 in Austin. He is survived by daughter, Ilana Hamilton (Portland); granddaughter, Rowan Hamilton; grandson, Lark Hamilton; son, Benjamin Baker; daughter-in-law, Elisa McCool; Gail Sherman, mother of Ilana and Ben; daughter, Emily Baker (Seattle); Lynda Baker, mother of Emily; sister, Bess Singer; and niece, Billie Singer.

Rabbi Baker was the founding director of the Jewish Education Association in Portland. The JEA later merged with Hillel Academy to become Portland Jewish Academy, where his son, Benjamin, was a member of the first eighth-grade graduating class in 1998.

Born on Jan. 30, 1951, in New Rochelle, N.Y., he graduated from Colgate University and attended Hebrew Union College. He received rabbinic ordination in 1977 and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2002 from HUC.

He served pulpits in Plattsburgh, N.Y., and Seattle, Wash., and directed the Santa Barbara Hillel before becoming JEA director. He moved to Austin, Texas, in 1987, where he served as executive director of the Texas Hillel Foundation at UT-Austin and founded Congregation Kol Halev.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Baker; his mother, Estelle (Wintman) Boxer; and his stepfather, Herman "Hy" Boxer.

A private funeral service was held Aug. 23, 2021.

Contributions in honor of Rabbi Baker's memory may be made to the Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood or the Democratic Party – organizations that he supported –

or to any organization that supports social justice or interfaith dialogue.

CHARLOTTE KLONOFF

Charlotte Klonoff, z"l, passed away peacefully Aug. 21, 2021, at the age of 101. She is survived by her two children, Robert Klonoff and Liz Klonoff, and their spouses, Heidi Klonoff and Kristi Alexander; and three grandchildren, Joshua Klonoff, Emily King and Olivia Fouser.

Charlotte was born Feb. 23, 1920, in Minsk, Poland, and raised in Winnipeg, Canada. She married Bernie in Portland in 1950. They shared more than 65 years together before he passed away in 2017. The two of them owned and operated the Beaumont Pharmacy in Northeast Portland. For many years, she sold high fashion clothing and fine jewelry at Meier & Frank in Portland. Even at 101, she was always dressed elegantly, including jewelry and makeup. She treated everyone with dignity and respect and genuinely cared about the pain and suffering of others.

Her primary focus in life was on her family – her beloved husband, children and grandchildren. She also adored her 10 brothers and sisters and their families and always kept in close touch with them. She was the last surviving sibling.

A graveside service was held Aug. 24, 2021, at Beth Israel Cemetery in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances in her name may be made to Robison Jewish Health Center, 6150 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy., Portland, OR 97221 or Brighton Hospice, 8050 SW Warm Springs St. #205, Tualatin, OR 97062.

BORIS FISHMAN

Boris Fishman, z'l, passed away in mid-August 2021 at age 83. Boris is loved and remembered by his wife, Lina Fishman; daughters, Tanya (Michael) Zaslavsky and Irina (Igor) Bakun; and five grandchildren.

He was born Nov. 28, 1937.

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

SUBMISSIONS

Submit obituaries to:

editor@jewishportland.org.

Obituaries are posted online as they are received at: jewishportland.org/obituaries.

Pay tribute to family or friends in memory of their dearly departed by making a donation in their honor. Call 503-245-6219 or visit jewishportland.org/kavodtribute

LESLIE AIGNER

Leslie Aigner, z"l, passed away Aug. 18, 2021, at the age of 92. He is survived by his wife, Eva; daughter, Sue; son, Rob; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

He was a beloved member of the Oregon Jewish Museum community from the museum's very beginning. Born in Czechoslovakia June 3, 1929, the same year as Anne Frank, Leslie survived years in a slave labor camp, the Budapest Ghetto, and the death camps of Auschwitz and Dachau.

Leslie was liberated in Dachau by American troops on April 29, 1945, a date he always referred to as his second birthday. After liberation, he returned to his home in Hungary to find that most of his family members had been murdered.

After marrying his beautiful wife, Eva, in 1956, they escaped from Communist Hungary. They settled in Portland and became the proud parents of Sue and Rob and were eventually blessed with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Leslie and Eva began sharing their stories when local Holocaust deniers became vocal in the late 1980s. As members of the Holocaust Speaker's Bureau, they spoke to thousands of students and adults across the Pacific Northwest. One of Leslie's proudest moments came with the creation of the Oregon Holocaust Memorial, which was dedicated in Washington Park in 2004.

Donations in Leslie's memory may be made to the [Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education](#) and directed to the Oregon Holocaust Memorial and Education Endowment.

A tribute from OJMCHE says, "We have lost a dear friend who was also a model of valor and a paragon of dignity. Les never complained, always greeted us with a smile, and, to the very end, embodied for us the deepest meanings of the word 'survivor.' May his memory endure as a blessing."

RUTH HARTZMAN

Ruth Hartzman, z"l, passed away on Aug. 12, 2021. She was the mother of Steven Hartzman (Debbie), Craig Hartzman (Jim) and Fred Hartzman (Andrea); grandmother of Daniel (Samantha), Randi, Emmarose (Gabe), Ethan, Alexandra and Nathan; and great-grandmother of Asher.

The service was Aug. 16 in Santa Barbara, Calif. Congregation Beth Israel offers condolences to the entire Hartzman family.



JEROME ROBERT NUDELMAN

Jerome Robert Nudelman, z"l, died Aug. 18, 2021, at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Shirley; his daughters, Sheila Casimo (Matt), Sharon Morell (Dean) and son Jeff (Anne); grandchildren, Kaitlyn Casimo, Blake Morell, Josh Nudelman and Sol Nudelman; and his brother Phil (Sandra), his Aunt Julie Donin, loving cousins and adoring nieces and nephews.

He was born in Portland on June 22, 1932. His parents were Al and Sonia (Donin) Nudelman. Jerry attended Alameda Grade School, Grant High School (Class of '50) and the University of Oregon (Class of '54), where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity.

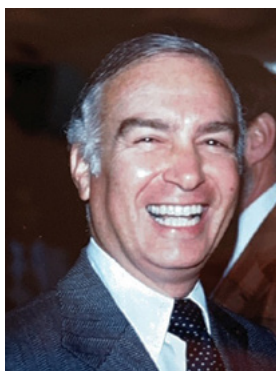
On Aug. 15, 1954, he married Shirley Soble. Jerry then began his military service in the Army Counterintelligence Corps in Baltimore and St. Louis, where he graduated number three in his class. After the military, he returned to Portland. Following a stint with Fisher Price Toys, he went to work for EKCO Housewares Company, where he won several national sales awards and was promoted to a regional manager. He was recruited to return to the toy industry and was named vice president of View-Master International and stayed in that position until he "retired," which consisted of several consulting endeavors for toy companies.

When he was not working, which was rare, Jerry loved working in his yard, traveling to their home in Maui and taking walks on the beach in Seaside with his poodle, Holly.

Jerry also spent long hours volunteering as the Cub Master for Pack 811, as a Little League coach and later as president of the League, as well as being a Mason, a Shriner, a Cycle Clown and president of the Pot and Kettle Club. During those active years, while traveling enough to be a member of the United Million Mile Club, he never missed dance or piano recitals of his daughters or sporting events of his son. Later on, he was a fixture at events of his grandchildren.

The funeral service was held on Aug. 19, 2021.

Donations may be made to Cedar Sinai Park, Friends of Robison or the Sonia Nudelman Floral Fund at Congregation Neveh Shalom.



DORIS ORGEL

Doris Orgel, z"l, a prolific children's author, died on Aug. 4, 2021, at age 92. She is survived by two sons, Paul and Jeremy Orgel; a daughter, Laura Orgel; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She moved from New York to Portland in 2019 and lived at Cedar Sinai Park so her daughter could help care for her during her last years.

Born Feb. 15, 1929, in Vienna, Austria, Doris, along with her sister (Lotte Lichtblau, a painter, d. 2013), and her parents, Ernst and Erna Adelberg, escaped Hitler's regime, arriving in New York City in 1940. Her childhood experiences form the basis of her 1978 novel, *The Devil in Vienna*, later filmed by Disney as "A Friendship in Vienna."

She graduated from Hunter High School as valedictorian and entered Radcliffe College. There she met Shelley Orgel, (1928-2018), who became a prominent psychoanalyst. She graduated from Barnard College, and they were married in 1949.

Her friend, the artist Maurice Sendak, encouraged her to try writing for children and illustrated her first three books – translations of 19th century fairytales. Throughout her career, Doris continued to translate German books.

Her first original book was *Sarah's Room* (1963), written in verse and illustrated by Sendak, the first of many for younger readers published in the 1960s and '70s. Some (*Grandma's Holidays*, *The Goodbyes of Magnus Marmalade* and *Phoebe and the Prince*) featured whimsically rhyming texts. Others such as *Cindy's Snowdrops*, *In a Forgotten Place* and *Whose Turtle* had themes of nature and children growing up.

Moving back to Manhattan, where she lived from 1979 to 2018, Doris was a staff writer at the Bank Street Writer's Lab, where she wrote and co-wrote a series of books for beginning readers. In later years, her deep interest in Greek and Roman mythology led her to write *We Goddesses* (Athena, Aphrodite, Hera) and three related books: *The Princess and the God*, *Ariadne Awake* and *My Mother's Daughter*.

An outgoing, energetic woman who loved swimming, tennis, travel, music (especially opera), cooking and social occasions, Doris was loved by her many friends and family for her affectionate, good-natured personality, quick sense of humor, great enthusiasm and warmth.



REBOOTED: BISTRO (Continued from page 1)

The menu, which is still extensive, has been pared down to one laminated page that can be wiped down.

"It's OK to cut the menu down, to cut the hours and days; it's OK not to have every kind of liquor on the shelf," she says, adding she was the only person putting that pressure on the restaurant. "COVID taught us how to step back and reassess ... to take things a little slower."

But Lisa won't compromise on food and service. Paring the menu down has helped ensure they can use fresh ingredients by Sunday and start afresh when they reopen on Thursday mornings.

"I am not prepared to offer less than the great service we have always had," says Lisa, who still steps in and cooks on the line to give staff breaks and "to make sure guests don't have to wait too long for their meals."

"We are back, but the city is not back yet," says Lisa. "There are no fun activities to do downtown ... there are no office workers to bring people into the restaurant."

Noting plays, concerts and festivals have yet to resume downtown, she adds, "We are somewhat of a draw, but not enough."

With that reality in mind, Lisa has reopened four days a week from 9 am-2 pm and 5-10 pm Thursday-Saturday and Sundays 9 am-2 pm. The popular restaurant debuted in 2000 to rave reviews and the "Restaurant of the Year" title from Willamette Week.

The importance of family is another lesson Lisa says she and other staff have learned over the past year.

Lisa has enjoyed spending Monday through Wednesday with her twin grandsons, Oliver and Julian, who have lived with her much of the time since their mother died in a fall while hiking in the Gorge. On summer Thursdays and Fridays, Lisa took the twins to B'nai B'rith Day Camp, which she calls "the loving community that embraces these kids" during the summer, just as Portland Jewish Academy does during the school year. Each weekend, the twins join their 17-year-old brother Taylor at their father's house. Sister Isabella, 18, is working in New Hampshire.

Lisa says some of her staff who have children can't return to work until the restaurant can be open for Monday through Friday shifts, giving them weekends with their children.

COVID CLOSURES

Mother's Bistro and Bar moved from Second Avenue to a much larger downtown location inside the Embassy Suites at 121 SW Third Ave. in 2018. Business was thriving until COVID hit.

16 Jewish Review Sept. 1, 2021



Standing just inside the large dining room at Mother's Bistro in early August, owner Lisa Schroeder sports a mask from B'nai B'rith Camp, where her 9-year-old twin grandsons spent the summer.

When Oregon Gov. Kate Brown banned seated dining to combat the spread of COVID on March 16, 2020, Lisa tried to keep some of her 102 employees on the job by offering takeout and delivery. But she was only able to keep about 14 people employed, and when Black Lives Matter protesters flooded downtown, those employees had difficulty getting to work.

She decided to shutter the restaurant temporarily and covered the windows with plywood murals painted by an artistic employee who paints under the name Xochit Ruvalcaba. While most of those murals now have been shipped to an archive in Oakland that is collecting BLM art, Lisa's favorite mural decorates the restaurant's new outdoor seating structure. That mural declares, "All mothers were summoned when he called out to his momma." The reference to George Floyd's plea as he was murdered by police in Minneapolis sparked the BLM protests, and Lisa calls it an important reminder of the prejudice and discrimination we face.

Lisa says the protests have largely dissipated and are no longer the issue keeping people out of downtown. "What is bringing us down is COVID. It is the remaining closures."

A WINDING PATH TO REOPENING

Lisa had planned to reopen April 29 with plans to serve Mother's Day brunch May 9. Then on April 27, Gov. Brown imposed new strict limits in high-risk counties to curb a steep rise in cases. Lisa postponed the reopening till June.

Though the world seemed to be moving past COVID, the disease had other ideas, and the Delta variant has once again forced a reassessment for businesses.

On Aug. 9, Multnomah County an-

nounced a new mask mandate taking effect Aug. 13 on indoor public spaces to combat the rise in COVID cases due to the highly transmissible Delta variant. People actively eating and drinking in restaurants and bars can take off their masks, but masks are required for customers who have left their table. Gov. Brown later announced a statewide mask mandates.

HELP FOR RECOVERY

Lisa is grateful for grants from two groups and the federal government that "allow us to breathe."

A group of gourmands in Washington state, Greg Hill Foundation and Restaurant Strong, gave Mother's Bistro \$5,000. The bistro received the same amount from the Restaurant Reboot Award by the Northwest Wine and Food Society. Those grants, which arrived before the federal government announced the Restaurant Revitalization Grant program, helped Mother's reopen.

The federal grant must be used over the next three years to pay salaries, buy food and other inventory, and make repairs. It also paid for the outdoor dining structure that seats up to 40 diners. Additional outdoor seating is available alongside the building under the awnings.

"This money will keep us afloat over the next couple years while the world tries to get back to some sort of homeostasis," says Lisa.

Lisa hopes the next couple of years will also allow the restaurant to once again host Passover seders, which feature her mother Belle's recipe for matza ball soup (also available on the daily menu). Though the bistro is not kosher or Jewish-style, there are plenty of motherly favorites on the menu, especially during the holidays.