

# The JEWISH REVIEW

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## Mending the Social Fabric is ongoing work

BY DEBORAH MOON

When “Mending the Social Fabric” opens Oct. 7 at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, it will be a work in progress.

Just as *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, requires ongoing attention, Bonnie Meltzer’s interactive fabric exhibit will evolve over its four-month run with several “mending bees” inviting visitors to help restore the social fabric.



Long a community activist and artist who uses found objects and fabrics, Bonnie turned her attention to America’s social fabric Jan. 20, 2017. As she listened to OPB while working in her studio that day, she heard speaker talk about the unraveling of the social fabric. In 2018, she had an exhibit in Hood River with a room full of artwork that focused on unraveling.

But she was more interested in mending. She began to keep a notebook of quotes, sayings, metaphors and her own thoughts about *tikkun olam*. She called OJMCHE Director Judy Margles and proposed an exhibit.

“There is much about ‘Mending the Social Fabric’ that fits into OJMCHE’s mission and I was intrigued from the moment Bonnie described her intention for the project,” says Judy.

Originally scheduled to open in October 2020, the emphasis was to have been on citizen action, voting rights and immigration.

“The delay in opening turned out to be constructive for Bonnie as she was able to expand the themes of immigration, voting rights and civil rights to include the pandemic and racial justice,” says Judy. “Engaging visitors by encouraging them to take part in mending the work – a riff on *tikkun olam* – is a fantastic metaphor and deeply rooted in our work at the museum.”

See MENDING AT OJMCHE, page 6



Violinist, singer and Jewish music expert Michelle Alany discovered the joy and challenges of outdoor concerts during COVID.

## Rebooted by COVID: Music

*This series explores how organizations, businesses and programs are moving forward in a world that is still in flux.*

BY KERRY POLITZER

Portland prides itself on its diverse and vibrant music scene. But with the pandemic-related closing of venues, local musicians have had to reinvent themselves, searching out online opportunities and brainstorming new models of performance. While the pandemic has brought many challenges, some artists, including the Jewish musicians profiled in this article, are finding that its limitations are helping them to refocus on what is really important to them.

[Lisa Lipton](#), a clarinetist and composer who serves as executive director of the [Opera Theater of Oregon](#), explains, “Right when COVID hit, I had two tours planned. And at first, it was really rough, because I had all these things that were canceled. I had a solo show planned for my birthday.” Lisa, who books Polaris Hall, decided to use the venue to Livestream without a live audience. So after a successful solo performance, she began hosting Opera Theater of Oregon performances there as well.

The company commissioned the first African-American composer in its history, Damien Geter, to write “[Invisible: A Virtual Songspiel](#).” The work was adapted from the prologue of Ralph Ellison’s novel *Invisible Man*. “After that, there

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# Nearly 4,000 U.S. teens find needed joy in Israel

## 36 Oregon teens reap rewards of local and RootOne subsidies

Despite the global pandemic, 36 teens from Oregon were among the nearly 4,000 American teens who traveled to Israel this summer on multi-week trips designed and heavily subsidized by the new RootOne run by The Jewish Education Project. Two Oregon programs provided additional funds to help local teens experience Israel. The Jewish Agency for Israel, along with youth-serving organizations and Jewish residential camps, made the trips possible under unprecedented circumstances.

Teen struggles with mental health during the pandemic have been well documented. This has coincided with rising anti-Semitism, especially on college campuses, which made RootOne organizers and funders determined to launch the trips this summer. More than 20 teen organizations and summer camps, along with the Jewish Agency for Israel, worked together to navigate pandemic-related policies so that teens could experience Israel with their peers and expertly trained educators and guides.

In addition to RootOne funding, local teenagers also were eligible for funding from two programs that help teens experience Israel – CHAI Israel and Teen Israel scholarships. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, through its CHAI Israel program, provides up to 18% (maximum \$1,800) of the cost for any teen in the Greater Portland area participating in an approved teen Israel experience. The Arthur P. Krichevsky Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation provides the same level of funding for eligible teens engaged in synagogue-based Hebrew High programs.

Oregon's B'nai B'rith Camp launched Outdoor Jewish Adventure in Israel, which sent 13 teens to Israel for three weeks. The trip was filled with unique

hands-on experiences at various must-see destinations.

"After a year without BB Overnight Camp, an opportunity to travel and explore Israel together in a program rooted in BB Camp values was exactly what the teens were looking for," says BB Camp's Overnight Camp Director Bette Amir-Brownstein. She adds that BB Camp was thrilled to be a recipient of the RootOne Teen Israel Initiative grant funding, providing \$3,000 vouchers to each participant.

"The Outdoor Jewish Adventure in Israel! program was a truly life-shaping adventure full of joy, connection with other Jewish American teens and the incredible opportunity to connect with my Jewish identity," says Oregon teen participant Ravit Pearlman.

The BB Camp program prioritized the impact a trip to Israel has on teens, especially a trip rooted in Jewish camp values. Among many destinations and educational topics, participants focused on agriculture and sustainability when visiting the Negev Desert Region, explored Jewish history and identity when visiting Jerusalem, and concentrated on co-existence and diversity when visiting Tel Aviv. The trip was filled with nature and outdoor adventures, which included swimming in the Red Sea, climbing Masada, rafting down the Jordan River and rappelling down Keshet Arch.

NCSY sent over 1,600 teens to Israel including 16 from Oregon. Programs included TJJ, The Jerusalem Journey, a four-week travel program; the GIVE volunteering program; Rescue Israel, a medical training program in conjunction with Israel's volunteer ambulance corps Hatzalah; and Kollel Mechina, an intensive learning program for public school teens.

"This summer, more than ever, was crucial for the teens' Jew-



B'nai B'rith Camp sent 13 teens on an Outdoor Jewish Adventure in Israel. A visit to the Western Wall in Jerusalem was just one stop during the three-week trip.

ish connection," says Oregon NCSY Director Meira Spivak. "After spending over a year without regular communication with friends, teens are more depressed than ever. They finished the school year with less confidence, fewer social skills and a weaker Jewish connection. For the teens who were able to go to Israel this past summer, their lives were immeasurably impacted. They made friends, restored former relationships and regained the Jewish spark that was becoming dormant."

Launched in September 2020 by The Jewish Education Project with initial seed funding from The Marcus Foundation, RootOne significantly lowers the cost of teen travel to Israel and provides meaningful pre- and post-trip learning experiences so teens connect with Jewish peers and form their own Jewish communities.

"I was fortunate to visit with some of these teens in Israel; they fully immersed themselves

in their surroundings and so clearly appreciated the chance to learn, ask questions and also have fun," says Simon Amiel, Executive Director of RootOne at The Jewish Education Project. "It was wonderful to see, but the Israel trip is only one aspect of our efforts to develop a generation of Jews who will be proud to stand up for their beliefs in their high schools and on college campuses. RootOne differentiates itself by requiring robust pre- and post- education and engagement."

The iCenter for Israel Education serves as RootOne's primary educational advisor, training educators and leaders, who both lead trips and engage with teens before and after the trips. As teens return home, they are met with myriad opportunities coordinated by RootOne and their youth organizations to continue their Jewish learning and deepen their relationship with Israel and Israelis. As the teens head off to

Continued on next page





NCSY offered a variety of trips that drew 16 teens from Oregon this year.

## TEENS (continued from previous page)

college and young adulthood, Root One will create a pipeline to national organizations such as Hillel and others that will continue to engage them in meaningful Jewish experiences and community. Organizations such as Birthright Israel and Masa will provide future Israel experiences.

RootOne and its partner organizations are already looking ahead to trips next summer. For more

information about RootOne, visit [rootone.org](http://rootone.org).

Check with local Jewish youth organizations (BBYO, NCSY, NFTY and USY) and BB Camp about potential teen Israel experiences for next year.

For information and to apply for Portland-area scholarships for Teen Israel trips, visit [jewishportland.org/travelisrael](http://jewishportland.org/travelisrael).

## Jewish 9-year-old asks Portland City Council to address gun violence

In a Sept. 22 [article](#), the Oregonian wrote about a young Jewish girl who spoke before Portland's City Council asking them to address gun violence.

The article begins:

*Since witnessing a shooting at Rose City Park this summer, 9-year-old Hadar Kedem has been too scared to step back onto the field.*

*The fourth-grader was playing July 3 at the Northeast Portland park with her father and 12-year-old brother when she said she saw a group of people walk into the park and open fire on each other.*

*Kedem and her family escaped the park without injury, but the memory of the shooting stuck with her, and drove her to testify in front of Portland City Council.*

Hadar is the daughter of Andrew and Shoshana Kedem. The family are members of Congregation Shaarie Torah, and the children attend Portland Jewish Academy. They moved here from Israel five years ago.

"We named our daughter Hadar ... (which) shares a root with the word hiddur – beautification. In naming her Hadar, we were invoking a blessing that she, like the women who spun, dyed and wove those sacred vestments, be forever engaged in the work of bringing beauty into the world," wrote Shoshana in a post on [shmitaproject.org](http://shmitaproject.org).

What could be more beautiful than a world without gun violence?


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# MUSIC REBOOT (continued from page 1)

were a lot of things that we wanted to do, or we had programs to do, but we couldn't do them because they weren't live," says Lisa. "So I basically pitched a new idea called 'Dream within a Dream,' which we're working on right now." This 12-episode multimedia work, which is being funded by the Miller Foundation, is about Lisa's "weird pandemic dreams." Episodes will be viewable at the Opera Theater of Oregon website in early October.



Lisa Lipton

Lisa is also a busy performer with years of experience playing klezmer music. She recently recorded klezmer-inspired tracks for the film score of "French Exit," a movie featuring Michelle Pfeiffer. The clarinetist also performs with Fredson the Jeffy, a contemporary improvisation trio with klezmer influences.

Violinist, singer and Jewish music expert [Michelle Alany](#) has used her time during the pandemic to pick up yet another instrument – the accordion.

"I never got the technology together to really do the Zoom thing, so I didn't do a lot of online stuff," she says. "And then (I was) thinking, I now finally have time to work on all these music projects. But emotionally, I was feeling really stuck and not really able to access the violin." Fortunately, a colleague gifted Michelle with an accordion, and she began to take Zoom lessons with local accordionist Mike Danner.

Through the accordion, Michelle found her way back to the violin. "Just beginner's mind again, having that freshness. We did some remote recording projects and then a few lawn concerts ... (we were) finding these moments of connection outside."

Michelle began to play outdoors frequently. "Now a lot of venues are struggling, and it's hard for them to figure out protocol. Outdoors people feel safe, and when you have the option and the weather, it has a huge impact in terms of just alleviating a lot of concerns."

She soon discovered that this option poses its own challenges. "There's a whole side of, wow, I have to figure out how to get a PA and set up and basically create a venue," she says. "And to deal with all the ticket purchasing and RSVPs, and all the things that I have to transmit in terms of information for all the people that want to come to a show at a place that is normally a backyard."

The [Driveway Jazz Series](#), which is hosted by this writer, is an outdoor, socially distanced concert series that takes place on the front lawn of a SE Portland bungalow. The shows are streamed live on Facebook. The series, which has been funded by the Regional Arts and Culture Council this year, is a way to support local jazz musicians and nurture the community in a COVID-safe way. Artists have included veteran bassist Chuck Israels and Pink Martini vocalist Jimmie Herrod.

Rather than perform outdoors, acclaimed pianist/composer [Ezra Weiss](#) conceived of an online musical revue called "[Is Everybody Here?](#)" The revue also included Jimmie's vocals. Ezra says, "It was right when the pandemic started in March 2020. I just sent email to some friends, because I knew that for everybody, all of our stuff had stopped. All of a sudden, we all had a lot more time." The theme of the revue was the coronavirus crisis. Ezra commissioned different artists to write their own material, while he contributed some of his own.

"It evolved very organically," Ezra says. "(Blue Cranes keyboardist) Rebecca Sanborn sent me this email with the song that



Bassist Chuck Israels, saxophonist Rob Scheps and George Colligan on keys perform in a Driveway Jazz Series hosted by George's wife, Kerry Politzer.

she had done; it's just epic and beautiful. So once she did that, I heard it and was like, well, now we have to do it."

Ezra talks of how the revue helped to dispel the isolation that everyone felt. "Especially at that time, we were all just in front of our computer screens. I felt very distant from everybody. So that night, I remember feeling like we're experiencing this event together."

In addition to producing the revue, Ezra has been using his time to focus his energy on his family and a new project: a musical theater work based on Benny Zerkowicz's *The Golem's Gift*.

"It was supposed to open at the Northwest Children's Theatre last May; it had been commissioned before the pandemic," he says. "Obviously, they canceled their season. So (Benny) and I've been writing this, and it's gotten way bigger than it ever was supposed to be because of the pandemic."

He adds with a laugh, "It's the most Jewish thing I've done since my bar mitzvah." The score draws from klezmer music.

While the pandemic has been a difficult time for the Portland musical community, local musicians continue to exhibit creativity and ingenuity. And the increasing variety of online and outdoor performance options is keeping the scene afloat.

## Stephanie Schneiderman innovates to debut new solo album

Portland singer songwriter Stephanie Schneiderman is set to release her first solo album in nine years. The Portland album release party, originally planned as a fully in-person affair, will be livestreamed on [Facebook Live](#) at 7 pm, Oct. 16, from the gorgeous and spacious confines of Portland's brand-new Tree Farm Building in the Industrial District of Inner SE, overlooking the Morrison Bridge. A limited number of VIP tickets are available at [Brown Paper Tickets](#), but the concert will be streaming worldwide.

The album will be available for download via her [Bandcamp](#) page beginning Oct. 1. As a lead up to her CD release, and in true pandemic-era innovation, she is playing three



unplugged sets at three iconic Portland locations. She's calling this "[City Serenade](#)."

Fans can purchase the new album in person and hear stripped down versions of her new songs with the ambient city sounds as her backing band. The first was Sept. 26 in Forest Park. Still to come are 1 pm, Oct. 3, at Tilikum Crossing Bridge and 1 pm, Oct. 10, at Albina Railyards.

While this is the first solo album in several years, Stephanie has remained busy with other artistic adventures.

"I've been involved with the Jewish community in many ways, mostly as a performer," says Stephanie, who produced the first three Oybaby/That Baby CDs. "My good friends up in Seattle, Rob and Lisi Wolf, created a video for young Jewish

Continued on next page



## ALBUM

(cont. from page 4)

kids and asked me to create the accompanying soundtrack for Oy Baby, Oy Baby 2 and That Baby. My sisters, Lisa and Kim (Schneiderman), joined me in the recording studio, and it was a really successful project.”

Through the years, she has performed for B'nai B'rith Camp, Mittleman Jewish Community Center, Congregation Neveh Shalom, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and other Jewish groups, as well as at Jewish weddings and funerals.

She has been busy recording and touring with her all-female collaborative, *Swan Sovereign* (formerly Dirty Martini), which has two releases – Arctic (2014) and Valentine (2017).

Stephanie has a keen passion for *tikkun olam* and giving back. She organized Portland's first humanitarian concert series, Voices for Silent Disasters, which raised \$70,000 for Mercy Corps in Uganda. Now she is penning a musical that raises awareness about human trafficking, which she has spent a great deal of time researching.

This new album combines her past sonic explorations – folk, Americana, trip hop and pop – into a beautifully dark and deeply introspective recording that is as lush as it is intimate. Funded through pre-purchases and house concerts, Crossfire is a self-released labor of love that celebrates both her community and her maiden voyage as self-producer.

“It was empowering to tap into all of my experiences throughout my career and to wrap all of that wisdom into the writing, arrangement and production of this album,” she says. “Recording two electronic albums ... learning to play drums ... writing with Swan Sovereign – musically, this feels like the fusion of all the places I've been.”

To download the album, visit [stephanieschneiderman.com/crossfire-digital-download](http://stephanieschneiderman.com/crossfire-digital-download).

Get Oct. 16 concert tickets at [brownpapertickets.com/event/5239719](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/5239719) or join online at [facebook.com/StephanieSchneidermanMusic/live](https://facebook.com/StephanieSchneidermanMusic/live)

## New books by three local authors

Three Portland women – Laura Arnold Leibman, Linda Cohen and Catherine Ehrlich – have authored new books.

In August, Oxford University Press released *Once We Were Slaves: The Extraordinary Journey of a Multiracial Jewish Family*, by Reed College professor Laura Arnold Leibman. She is the author of several books on the Jewish family, including *The Art of the Jewish Family* (2020), which won three National Jewish Book Awards.

In *Once We Were Slaves*, Dr. Leibman examines a multiracial family that moved from slavery to freedom, from Blackness to whiteness, and from Christianity to Judaism. “In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, race was remarkably fluid for wealthy, racially ambiguous people,” she writes.

An obsessive genealogist and descendant of a prominent Jewish family, Blanche Moses believed her maternal ancestors were Sephardic grandees. Yet she found herself at a dead end when it came to her grandmother's maternal line.

Using family heirlooms to unlock the mystery of Moses's ancestors, *Once We Were Slaves* overturns the reclusive heiress's assumptions about her roots to reveal that her grandmother and great-uncle, Sarah and Isaac Brandon, began their lives poor, Christian and enslaved in Barbados.

Tracing the siblings' extraordinary journey, Leibman examines artifacts they left behind in Barbados, Suriname, London, Philadelphia and, finally, New York, to show how Sarah and Isaac were able to transform themselves and their lives, becoming free, wealthy, Jewish and – at times – white. While their affluence made them unusual, their story mirrors that of the largely forgotten population of mixed African and Jewish ancestry that constituted as much as 10 percent of the Jewish communities in which the siblings lived, and sheds light on the fluidity of race in the first half of the 19th century.

[lauraleibman.com](http://lauraleibman.com)

Linda Cohen's second book, *The Economy of Kindness: How Kindness Transforms Your Bottom Line*, went on sale in mid-September.



Her first book, *1,000 Mitzvahs: How Small Acts of Kindness Can Heal, Inspire and Change Your Life*, was published by Seal Press in 2011. That book followed Cohen's two-and-a-half-year journey to perform 1,000 acts of kindness – mitzvahs – to honor her father's

memory after his death in 2006. Since its publication, Cohen has become a nationally recognized kindness expert and professional speaker.

She calls her second book “my COVID silver lining.”

“I'd been dragging my feet about writing my second book for a couple of years now,” she says. “I just knew how much work it was. Lock down and not traveling gave me some more focused time to get it done. I am really excited to share it with organizations and businesses who are ready to focus on cultivating kindness in the workplace.”

Cohen says kindness in the workplace has a stunning return on investment. Kindness decreases stress, reduces employee burnout, and builds increasing levels of happiness and satisfaction in the workplace. *The Economy of Kindness* provides real life examples of companies that have employed kindness as their secret weapon to build and maintain their organizations.

Cohen earned her BA from American Jewish University and an MA in Jewish communal services from Brandeis.

[lindacohenconsulting.com/lindas-new-book/](http://lindacohenconsulting.com/lindas-new-book/)

*Irma's Passport* by Catherine Ehrlich is set for release Oct. 12. The biography is the culmination of six years of research into her charismatic grandmother's personal memoirs. The book explores how propaganda drives political divisions similar to those we face today.

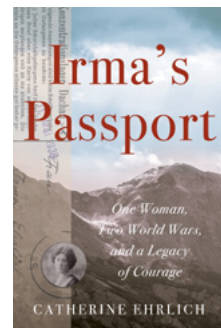
Ehrlich trained as an Asian linguist (University of Michigan) and diplomat (Johns Hopkins SAIS). She and her husband moved to Portland 1992. She served as a fund-raiser for the Audubon Society of Portland and is a director of the Arts Mandalay Foundation.

Irma was from a prominent political family and used her wits and language skills to save her son and help other Jews. Prior to World War I, Irma studied languages as one of the first female university students in Prague. Her cousin, Franz Kafka, was a fellow student, and Albert Einstein was a young professor. Irma's language skills later would provide a passport to freedom.

After WWI, Irma moved to Vienna and married rising Zionist politician Jakob Ehrlich. Jakob's passionate advocacy for Vienna's Jews led to his murder at Dachau, and Irma pulled every possible string to facilitate her escape from Vienna along with her son Paul (Catherine's father).

They escaped to London, and she gave talks across Canada and England to raise funds to save countless refugees. After Irma and Paul moved to New York, she continued her motivational speaking tours raising money for Youth Aliyah with Hadassah and United Jewish Appeal.

[irmaspassport.com](http://irmaspassport.com)



# MENDING AT OJMCHE (continued from page 1)

Bonnie also added themes of isolation and safety nets – which is represented by the central feature of the exhibit. Bonnie had envisioned a large fabric with tears that people would help her mend. But a gift from an old friend added new depth and solved the problem of how to arrange such an exhibit. Kindra Crick gave Bonnie a supply drop parachute from 1943. The World War II parachute had been in the barn of her father-in-law, William A. Lanford, for decades.

“A parachute is a symbol of safety, it is insurance,” says Bonnie.

That symbolism combined with the enormous expanse of fabric solved her problem.

Another problem was also solved by a gift. Bonnie wanted to embroider her collection of sayings on the exhibit, but that would have been challenging on the parachute itself. When her friend Mary Dickson gave her 150 handkerchiefs Mary’s Aunt Evelyn had collected on her travels, those handkerchiefs became the canvas for the quotes.

Before COVID shutdowns and restrictions hit, Bonnie had scheduled 10 sewing bees for people to come and embroider a quote on each handkerchief.

When gathering became impossible, she did most of the embroidery herself, but some friends picked up handkerchiefs and quotes and embroidered them at home.

In her notebook, Bonnie had written her thought that “Immigrants are a golden thread woven into the American tapestry.” To represent the contributions of immigrants, she began

collecting fabrics from around the world. A post on Facebook brought in dozens of donations.

“Dozens of people gave me fabric from around the world, including fabric that was sent from Poland,” says Bonnie. “Dozens of people volunteered, dozens of people donated. I am so moved by all the people who helped me, and most of all the people at the Jewish museum.”

## MENDING THE SOCIAL FABRIC

**WHAT:** Interactive fabric exhibit by textile artist Bonnie Meltzer. The core of the exhibit is a parachute with a 314-foot circumference displaying handkerchiefs embroidered with text that amplifies the mending motif.

**WHEN:** Oct. 7, 2021-Jan. 30, 2022

**WHERE:** Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, 724 NW Davis St., Portland

### RELATED PROGRAMS:

**Mending Bees:** The museum will schedule dates (including Oct. 7, 9, 10, 16, 17) when visitors can meet the artist and mend the tears. The parachute, a symbol of safety, has rips and tears; over the course of the exhibition, interactive community building happens as visitors mend the damage.

**Zoom talk,** Noon, Oct. 12: Bonnie will be in conversation with Rachel Seiger of the Denver Jewish Community Center and textile artist Eli West of Portland Textile Month.

**INFORMATION:** [ojmche.org](http://ojmche.org) | 503-226-3600



Artist Bonnie Meltzer shows off the parachute at the core of her new exhibit “Mending the Social Fabric.” The parachute will be draped to create five rooms with different themes – safety net, justice, voting, life and mending. On the table next to Bonnie are some of the textiles from around the globe that will be mounted on the walls around the parachute.

## Full range of after-school youth programs returns to MJCC

Beginning in October, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center will offer a full selection of after-school programming for the first time since the beginning of COVID.

“We have been fortunate enough to offer limited programming throughout the pandemic, but offering a full lineup of youth after-school recreation and enrichment activities will be very exciting,” says Ashley Scacco, MJCC recreation, fitness and youth programs manager. “Some new and exciting programs available include Chess Wizards and open drop-in soccer for kids of all ages. Our gymnastics and climbing instructors will finally make their return ...

after almost two years.”

All programs are open to all, with lower enrollment fees for members. Masks are required in the center for everyone aged 5 and up except when actively engaged in sports activities or eating or drinking.

Located at 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, the J is open 8 am-3 pm Sunday and 6 am-9 pm Monday through Friday.

Youth Recreation/Enrichment classes start the week of Oct. 4. Classes include Mad Science, Skyhawks Soccer, Skyhawks Football, Skyhawks Baseball, gymnastics, tae kwon do, rock climbing, art, chess, boys volleyball and Kidfit. All classes are

five-week sessions, to be followed by a second five-week session of each class.

Youth drop-in Soccer (PreK-18 years old) will run 3-4:30 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning Oct. 6 in the Sportsplex. The sessions are free to members or \$10 drop-in for guests.

For registration and information on the youth classes, visit [oregonjcc.org/sports/youth-classes](http://oregonjcc.org/sports/youth-classes).

Adult Soccer Leagues also begin in October. Registration is required by Oct. 12, with the leagues starting Oct. 19. Register at [oregonjcc.org/sports/indoor-soccer/adult-leagues-info](http://oregonjcc.org/sports/indoor-soccer/adult-leagues-info).



# Happenings

See more online and in-person events at [jewishportland.org/community-calendar](https://jewishportland.org/community-calendar)

## Oct. 6-Dec. 8: Are we our mothers' daughters?

The 10-session online course "From Antiquity to Today: Are we our mothers' daughters?" begins Oct. 6. The course will meet on Zoom at 11 am Wednesdays, Oct. 6-Dec. 8, to explore the role of women in Jewish history from heroines of the Bible to modern Jewish women born in the Russian and Soviet empires.

The course is presented by the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Women's Giving Circle.

The program will bring participants closer to their Jewish roots by exploring the connections between biblical and ancient Israeli heroines such as Miriam, Shiphrah and Puah; the daughters of Tzelofchad, Deborah, Ruth, Esther, Bruriah and Shlomzion ha Malka; and their modern counterparts such as Nehama Leibowitz, Ida Nudel, Golda Meir, Rachel Bluwstein, Miriam Ben-Porat, Ida Kaminska, Lina Stern and Doris Katz Kaplan. Each session will focus on two different Jewish women throughout history, and one session will introduce a couple (male/female). The class will be taught by Yuliya Mauzer. Cost is \$10.

[oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events/from-antiquity-to-today](https://oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events/from-antiquity-to-today)

## Oct. 7-10: ReJewvenation Women's Retreat

See story on page 11.

## Oct. 8: For Educators: Plight of Refugees

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education presents a half-day Zoom program for educators: "Connecting the Past with Today: The Plight of Refugees with Echoes and Reflections." The free course will meet 9 am-noon Oct. 8. Three PDU



**FILM OPENING:** Vladimir Friedman and Maria Belkin star in "Golden Voices," a new romantic comedy set in Israel. The film opens in Portland on Oct. 29 at Living Room Theaters. Watch the film's trailer at [youtu.be/v-mRqkHvAG4](https://youtu.be/v-mRqkHvAG4). Photo courtesy of Music Box Films.

credits are available.

As the Afghanistan refugee crisis unfolds, we have yet another opportunity to explore connections between historical examples and current events. Participants will begin by learning about the history of Jewish refugees during the 1930s and 1940s. Multimedia resources available for classroom use will be shared. Following historical background, educators will participate in a model conversation for how to implement a student-driven discussion on similarities and differences to the current situation.

For more information, email [education@ojmche.org](mailto:education@ojmche.org). Register at [ojmche.org/events](https://ojmche.org/events).

## Oct. 12: Mending the Social Fabric noon talk

See box on page 6.



## SOLOMON'S LEGACY

THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PORTLAND'S  
SOLOMON'S LEGACY SOCIETY PRESENTS:

PROTECT. PRESERVE. CONSERVE.  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE PUBLIC TRUST

Featured Speakers: Professor Mary Wood and Nigel Savage

Join us:

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM (PDT) - Zoom

\*Networking will begin at 11:50 AM in facilitated breakout rooms.  
Program to follow immediately.

Register:

[www.jewishportland.org/legacy](https://www.jewishportland.org/legacy)



To learn more, please contact Wendy Kahn  
(503) 892-3015 or [wendy@jewishportland.org](mailto:wendy@jewishportland.org)

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BY JENN DIRECTOR  
KNUDSEN

To Shayna Sigman, distressing statistics aren't just numbers to consider and ignore. Rather, they're figures she'd like to improve.

And she's doing just that regarding inclusion and accessibility for Jewish children with disabilities.

Shayna, CSWA, is the manager of Disability Support Services, one of four Jewish Family & Child Service programs. One of her professional passions is creating accessible Jewish spaces for people of all needs and abilities. In September, she launched the first of three trainings for Jewish educators in both synagogue- and school-based settings. (See box for more details about this and related JFCS offerings.)

Shayna cites disturbing stats from a study conducted less than 10 years ago that explored the experience of disabled children at Jewish summer camps nationwide. The numbers extrapolate to youth with disabilities in classroom settings, as well.

The Foundation for Jewish Camp data show that of 131 survey participants, 16 percent of Jewish campers with a disability were sent home, and 46 percent of that same population had been turned away from other Jewish institutions.

"I want to ensure 100 percent participation by all people, regardless of ability, in Jewish educational programs in local synagogues," Shayna says.

## **Jewish Family & Child Service Inclusion JFCS Disability Support Services offers inclusion and accessibility training for Jewish educators:**

- Congregation Shir Tikvah at the Eastside Jewish Commons, fall 2021
- Portland Area Jewish Educators (PAJE) in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Nov. 4

**"Re-entry into educational settings for educators,"** a three-part opportunity for educators in partnership with the Federation that features JFCS collaborator and Dinah Gilburd, LCSW, and Shayna Sigman

**"Coming Together,"** a group for parents and guardians whose children have disabilities

**Assistance for parents** whose children in public schools need an IEP or 504 Plan

**For more information** about any of these offerings or to schedule a training for your own school or synagogue, contact Shayna Sigman at [ssigman@jfcs-portland.org](mailto:ssigman@jfcs-portland.org)

Her training presentations – appropriate for both in-person and virtual classroom environments – are based on the philosophy of Universal Design, meaning all people benefit, not solely or especially those with disabilities. Further, educators learn how to integrate accommodations into all parts of their classroom, and they receive concrete tips and tools on how to create an emotionally and physically accessible classroom.

The training aids children with dyslexia, a learning difference, those on the autism spectrum and those with a physical or developmental disability.

"People get scared or nervous when they hear 'disabilities and accommodations and accessibility,' and they think they are

super-complicated, difficult, expensive things to do," Shayna says. "And that's not true."

"A lot of the things we try to teach about that are essential for kids with disabilities also are beneficial to all children," she says.

For instance, in her training sessions, which include individual and group work, Shayna notes different ways to teach a lesson. In addition to verbal instruction, lessons also can include visual and auditory clues as well as working in partnership with a child demonstrating frustration without the ability to express it.

Say a child throws his or her shoe across the classroom in a fit of pique. "The old-fashioned way of dealing with this behavior is separating the child,"

Shayna says. "Whereas, what I'm trying to teach is working with the child to figure out the *why* behind the behavior – irritation, avoidance of a tough skill, maybe it only was an accident – and supporting them to address their needs."

Before JFCS, Shayna worked three summers for B'nai B'rith Camp as its inclusion coordinator, shepherding BB Camp toward its National Inclusion Project certification. In her role, she worked with campers' parents to design individualized plans for campers who'd benefit from them, carried out by cabin counselors and campers' care team, says Aaron Pearlman, BB Camp's chief philanthropy officer.

This fall, Shayna's first training was conducted online for about 40 Congregation Beth Israel Jewish educators, including teen *madrichim*, or teachers' assistants.

"We really appreciated Shayna helping start our year from this student-centered, positive classroom-community perspective, especially as we return to in-person learning this school year for many of our programs and classes," says Ben Sandler, CBI's education director.

Shayna says, "My ultimate goal is to create a religious school system in our city that's inherently inclusive so that any parent seeking support or education for their child can make their decision based on the same thing other parents do – having nothing to do with accessibility."

## **New after-school Hebrew program set to launch in Portland**

The Nagel Jewish Academy after-school Hebrew program launches in Portland in October.

The Hebrew School for ages 5 to 13 will meet 3-5 pm, Monday-Thursday. The program is hosted by, though not affiliated with, Congregation Beit Yosef. Classes will meet in the Sephardic congregation's outdoor heated tent at 4200 SW Vermont St., Portland.

The first Nagel Jewish Academy opened its doors in September 2014 in California, offering after-school classes to Jewish children between the ages of 5 and 13 who do not currently attend a Jewish day school. The tuition is highly subsidized, and all Jewish children are welcome regardless of level of observance or background in order to make Jewish education easily accessible to all.

Hebrew language – speaking, reading and writing – Jewish holidays, texts and traditions will all be offered.

"Through its two hours a day, four-day-a-week curriculum, Nagel Jewish Academy aims to provide students attending public schools a Jewish education on par with that offered at Jewish day schools across the country, while catering to each student's individual needs and abilities," says Beit Yosef Rabbi Eliyahu Weisman. "One of the goals of Nagel Jewish Academy is to make Jewish learning fun. It is imperative that in this day and age children are presented with a positive experience and encouraged to cherish their precious connection to Judaism."

For more details about the program, call 646-256-1694, email [pdx@nageljewishacademy.org](mailto:pdx@nageljewishacademy.org) or visit [nageljewishacademy.org/](http://nageljewishacademy.org/)



## Rosenbaum Financial merges with Coldstream Wealth Management

Rosenbaum Financial, a 65-year-old Portland-based investment firm, has announced its merger with Coldstream Wealth Management, a like-minded, independent, SEC Registered Investment Advisor based in Seattle. Coldstream's company culture, investment strategies and planning focus are very similar to Rosenbaum's, and the firm is delighted to merge with such a compatible partner. The combined firm will encompass 30 financial advisors and 112 employees and will manage over \$6.7 billion in assets.

Mark Rosenbaum will lead Team Rosenbaum of Coldstream as Relationship Manager and Team Lead after serving as Rosenbaum Financial's President and Chief Executive Officer with more than 40 years of financial services experience.

Kim Rosenberg will be Relationship Manager and Wealth Planner for Team Rosenbaum. Kim joined Rosenbaum Financial as a financial planner and investment advisor in 2008 before being elevated to Managing Partner. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, she holds a Certified Financial Planner designation.

"We are excited to take the next step in the evolution of our business by merging with Coldstream," says Mark. He adds he was pleased with Coldstream Managing Shareholder Kevin Fitzwilson's "emphasis on delivering a great client experience and cultivating a strong internal culture ... (which was) in lockstep with our own beliefs. Beyond that, we were impressed by the quality of Coldstream's offerings and look forward to leveraging its size and scale to streamline our internal operations and boost our planning capabilities by providing new investment opportunities to our clients."

Rosenbaum Financial will operate under the Coldstream brand, and all its employees will remain in place. Rosenbaum Financial is a team of independent wealth advisors specializing in serving high-net-worth families and individuals, business owners, widowed or divorced women, and institutions. The transaction will allow the firm to leverage the quality of Coldstream's investment committee and build on the depth of services it already provides in a wide variety of areas – including investment manage-



Mark Rosenbaum & Kim Rosenberg

ment, retirement planning, insurance, estate planning, charitable giving, tax planning and business valuation, and succession planning. Further, by aligning forces with a larger firm, Rosenbaum Financial's existing professionals will have greater opportunities to enhance their skills and advance professionally.

Rosenbaum Financial has deep roots in Portland's Jewish community. Fred Rosenbaum, z"l, who founded the firm as an insurance business in 1956, was a refugee from Austria who arrived in England on the Kindertransport. HIAS settled him in Aberdeen, Wash., where he became a bar mitzvah at age 15. He joined the military at age 17 (lying about his age) and rose to the rank of General in the Air National Guard. Fred established a legacy of community service at Rosenbaum Financial. He and his wife, Jane, z"l, received the Maurice Sussman Award from the local American Jewish Committee.

As the firm's offerings evolved under Mark's leadership, it did not waver from a deeply rooted commitment to giving back. It supports numerous community organizations, including Camp Rosenbaum, a week-long youth citizenship camp that provides life-enhancing opportunities for low-income young people.

Mark has been a lay leader at several Jewish organizations over the years including serving as president of Jewish Family & Child Service, as well as treasurer of Cedar Sinai Park and AJC secretary and on the board of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

Kim has served as campaign chair and board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and is a former chair of AIPAC. She is currently an ambassador for the Eastside Jewish Commons.

Visit [rosenbaumfinancial.com/](http://rosenbaumfinancial.com/).

## Aviel Brodtkin joins Kesser staff to lead engagement

Aviel Brodtkin has joined the professional staff of Congregation Kesser Israel as Director of Community Engagement. Wife of Kesser Rabbi Kenneth Brodtkin, the Rebbetzin began her new part-time post this month.

In her new position, Aviel will work to enrich the community with programs, engagement and educational opportunities for the congregation.

"Our mission at Kesser Israel is to be a welcoming community built on Torah values, where people of all backgrounds will be inspired to a deeper relationship with Hashem," says Aviel. "Over COVID, Rabbi Brodtkin and I saw a need for more investment in our community offerings to continue moving closer to its mission."

Previously, she served as General Studies Principal at Maayan Torah Day School. She led the school from its creation in 2011 through June 2021.

She says her passion for building *ruach* (spirit) began when she was in high school, and she found joy in creating *ruach*-filled schoolwide programs.

"I was mesmerized by seeing its transformative powers on our school community," she writes in a letter to the congregation. "That is when my journey began in using my creative leadership to build community. It has been a joy for me to continue to do so as a principal the last 10 years. I am now super energized to bring that leadership to Kesser Israel."

Aviel plans to begin her new position by connecting with congregations to develop a vision for community engagement.

She can be reached at [Aviel@kesserisrael.org](mailto:Aviel@kesserisrael.org).



## Jobs board

### OREGON JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION Donor Relations & Marketing Manager

*Salary \$65,000-\$70,000 commensurate with experience. Benefits package includes medical, dental and vision insurance as well as the Jewish holidays.*

This position provides outstanding service to donors (80% of role) to help them achieve their personal philanthropic goals. It includes advising donors about giving approaches, community needs and foundation services, and it provides donor education programming. It requires stewarding trusted relationships with individual donors and families as well as local Jewish organizations. Marketing (10%) and other tasks (10%) are also included in the position.

Excellent analytic, organizational and communication skills are required. Knowledge of Jewish practices or engagement in the Jewish community is desirable.

Please visit the OJCF homepage, [www.ojcf.org](http://www.ojcf.org), for a link to the full job description and application instructions. Applications are due by Oct. 5.

# Chaplain's Corner

## Sukkot's Emotional Healing

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Too many of us are hesitant to acknowledge the breadth of emotions we have felt during the past year and a half. A common response is, "other people are suffering more" ... "it could be worse" ... "compared to others, I don't really have much of a right to complain."

When we respond this way, we do ourselves a disservice. When we downplay our unique experiences, we unfairly dodge our emotions. We construct a roadblock between ourselves and our feelings. This is not healthy. The hard reality is that in our own way, we have suffered during the past year and a half. We have gone through traumas. We have felt a range of negative emotions. If we try to escape this realization, we will fail. Somehow, someday, our emotions will catch up with us and negatively affect our physical, psychological or spiritual health.

Hardwired into our Jewish calendar is a holiday that helps us navigate uncertain times and contextualize our emotions – one that enables us to experience joy. This holiday is Sukkot. It began at sundown Sept. 20 and ended at sundown Sept. 28. Sukkot gives us a way to feel simultaneously multiple emotions, even contradictory ones, and foster valuable social connections.

A primary symbol of Sukkot is the sukkah, the ceremonial huts we construct in our backyards. The sukkah is impermanent, fragile and exposed, intended to be part of nature. I feel as if I have been dwelling in a pandemic sukkah for too long. Almost every day, I feel degrees of anxiety, sadness, frustration and anger about the impermanence of routines and habits, hopes and expectations I previously took for granted. Consistently, in my sukkah, I have felt threatened and afraid about all of the things that can go wrong for me, my family and friends.

But these are just emotions. The sukkah reminds me that what I am feeling right now is only temporary. I may feel these emotions right now, but what I feel is not the "new normal."

The holiday of Sukkot reminds me that other emotions are possible. One of these is gratitude. This pandemic has reminded us that we can feel multiple emotions at the same time, even contradictory emotions. I love how the emotion of gratitude is hardwired into the calendar with the Sukkot holiday. Inspired by Sukkot, we can hardwire gratitude into our emotions.



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

***The sukkah reminds me that what I am feeling right now is only temporary.***

A powerful Sukkot ritual is to express gratitude by gathering the four symbols of the harvest: the etrog, palm, myrtle and willow. Sukkot seamlessly allows us to be grateful for physical and spiritual sustenance. A healthy exercise is to pick four things from the previous year for which we are grateful. When we do so, our gratitude can lead to joy. Of note, another name for Sukkot is "Zeman Simchateinu," the season of our rejoicing. When we discover joy, we celebrate Sukkot.

Yet another Sukkot ritual is welcoming guests to celebrate together. For far too long, we have only been able to invite guests to visit virtually or not at all. Sukkot reminds us of the power of relationships. Traditionally, we invite our ancestors into our Sukkah: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and David; Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, Leah, Miriam, Abigail and Esther.

As COVID restrictions have begun to lift, we can reach out to family and friends, and depending on vaccination status, mask-wearing and social distancing, we can invite them into our homes. We can remember the power of sharing a cup of coffee, eating a pastry, telling a story and laughing ... and laughing some more. If we don't yet feel comfortable meeting in person, let's make an extra effort to meet virtually.

Sukkot gives us permission to express a wide range of emotions, which enables us to walk through the doorway to experience gratitude, joy and sacred personal connections.

## Rabbi's Corner

In addition to the Chaplain's Corner, the Jewish Review offers space for a Rabbi's Corner each issue. Our community's rabbis are invited to share their thoughts on the week's parsha or current events. The Oregon Board of Rabbis organized the project.

Rabbis are invited to schedule a date to submit a 500- to 600-word piece.

For more information, email [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org).

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## Upcoming issues

Issue date	Deadline
Oct. 13	Oct. 7
Oct. 27	Oct. 21
Nov. 10	Nov. 4
Nov. 24	Nov. 18

Submit news, photos  
and obituaries to  
[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)



# Agency column: Olami Oregon

## Empowering Jewish students

*The Jewish Review has offered the 18 agencies/organizations that receive allocations from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland the opportunity to write a column during the coming year. Following is the first column from Olami Oregon, formerly Akiva on Campus.*

### BY RABBI MOSHE DRUKMAN

It's not enough was the daunting realization that occurred to us after we began working with Jewish students at University of Oregon last fall as Akiva on Campus. If we are to inspire students to explore their Jewish identity our bywords would need to be these: relevant, engaging and empowering.

An important [survey and report](#) by the Pew Research Center confirms as much. One of the "10 key findings" about American Jews is that they are much less likely to say that religion is "very important" to them, compared with the average American (21% vs. 41%). Similar disparities exist regarding attending religious services (of any type) on a weekly basis.

The decline in positive association with religion does not occur in a vacuum. Pew [points out](#) that younger Jews (18-29) have less of a connection to Judaism altogether compared with older Jews (65+). Fewer younger Jews say being Jewish is very important to them (37% vs. 46%), or that they feel a great sense of belonging to the Jewish people (39% vs. 56%). The exception to these trends is Orthodox Jews.

And yet ... there is reason to be hopeful. Further [research](#) supports the idea that American Millennials and Gen Zers are almost equally spiritual as the rest of the population. When put together with decline in religiosity, this translates to a distrust of organized religion and certain 'traditional' conceptions of spirituality. Can Judaism flourish in a primarily decentralized system? An answer in the affirmative was powerfully expressed by two great Jewish leaders of the past 150 years: Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch and Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik.

Rabbi Hirsch declares, "If I had the power, I would provisionally close all synagogues for a hundred years ... What would happen? Jews ... without synagogues, desiring to remain such, would be forced to concentrate on a Jewish life and a Jewish home. The Jewish officials connected with the synagogue would have to look to the only opportunity now open to them – to teach young and old how to live a Jewish life and how to build a Jewish home. All synagogues closed by Jewish hands would constitute the strongest protest against the abandonment of the Torah in home and life ("Introduction by Translator" to Horeb)." Rabbi Soloveitchik argues against the religious outlook: "Judaism that is faithful to itself ... which brings the Divine Presence into the midst of empirical reality, does not center about the synagogue or study house. These are minor sanctuaries. The



*Rabbi Moshe Drukman is the director of Olami Oregon (previously Akiva on Campus at University of Oregon). Rabbi Drukman received smicha from Kollel Zichron Amram in Silver Spring, Md. He lives with his wife, Shaina, and their precocious toddler, Yerucham.*

true sanctuary is the sphere of our daily, mundane activities (Halakhic Man pp. 94-5)."

This articulation of Judaism as both personally empowering and meaningful was at the heart of our desire to join the organization Olami and become Olami Oregon. We know that the majority of young Jews don't see Judaism as relevant to their lives. As part of Olami, our timeless traditions and texts, and the wisdom they have conveyed through the ages, are accessible for today's students and young professionals.

Our vision is of a community that is connected to Judaism, Torah and God for all of the right reasons, in a way that is sustainable and provokes a natural love of Jewish living and transmission to future generations. Olami's mission is to enable young Jews, through mentorship, trips and innovative programming, to actualize the best versions of themselves on an individual and collective Jewish mission: to grow toward goodness, together, in order to make the world a better place.

### Olami Oregon

*Olami is a global community representing a united effort of organizations in more than 300 locations around the world to secure an inspired, engaged and knowledgeable Jewish tomorrow.*

*The Olami Foundation provides manpower, program development and management to enable students all over the world to experience Jewish living through textual study, Shabbat, seminars and trips, and through the bond between Diaspora Jewry and the state of Israel.*

*Olami Oregon will offer students increased programming through campus clubs including Olami JBiz, Olami JHealth and Olami JTech, as well as well-being and mindfulness programming through Olami Connect.*

*For more information, contact Rabbi Drukman at 404-532-8763 or [mdrukman@olami.org](mailto:mdrukman@olami.org).*

## ReJewvenate Oct. 7-10

ReJewvenation, a weekend getaway at B'nai B'rith Camp for women of all ages, will be Oct. 7-10, 2021.

Join a diverse community of women to kick up your feet and connect with friends new and old. Stay in the new ADA accessible cabins at BB Camp's beautiful lakeside retreat.

All ReJewvenation proceeds support camper scholarships. Throughout the weekend, there will be different opportunities to give back, helping to ensure that every child can experience a magical and life-changing summer. Through the generosity of ReJewvers past and present, countless children have come to BB Camp to discover themselves, learn new skills, embrace their Jewish identity and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

This year, the weekend will be streamlined to create more time and space (both literally and figuratively). There will still be plenty of activities but presented in more of an "open studio" format, with the flexibility to do more of what you wish, when you wish. Activities include arts and crafts, boot camp workout, canoeing and kayaking, cooking, Israeli dancing, mah jongg, massages and spa services mixology, movies, painting class, personal growth workshops, pool and hot tub, Shabbat services, yoga and more.

Before ReJewvenation, all ReJewvers must be fully vaccinated (submit proof of vaccine prior to arrival) and submit proof of a negative PCR test, taken within 72 hours prior to arrival. Upon arrival, we will conduct COVID screening, including taking temperatures.

Meals and activities will be held outdoors when possible. Masks must be worn in all indoor public spaces at camp and outdoors when physical distancing is not possible, except when actively eating or drinking.

For more information, contact Stacey Lebenzon at [slebenzon@bbcamp.org](mailto:slebenzon@bbcamp.org). To register, go to [bbcamp.org/rejewv-reg/](https://bbcamp.org/rejewv-reg/)

# Obituaries



**Ellana Arkin Blau**, z"l, spent the last three years of her life in Portland to be near her daughter Caron Blau Rothstein, right.

## ELLANA ARKIN BLAU

Ellana Arkin Blau, z"l, passed away Sept. 14, 2021, in Portland at the age of 85. She is survived by daughter, Caron Blau Rothstein; son-in-law, Ari Rothstein; and their sons, Jonah, Jesse and Samuel.

Born in 1935 in pre-state Israel to Malca and Yehuda Arkin, younger sister to Joseph and Leah, Ellana grew up on the family farm in Mazkeret Batya. When other Eastern European Jews headed to the shores of America, her ancestors settled in Palestine, creating the first successful agricultural settlement by observant Jews. Generations toiled the soil, planting orange groves and supporting what ultimately became the modern state of Israel.

Unlike the majority of her female peers, she didn't get married young and start a family. She wanted something different. Ellana served with distinction in the Israeli Air Force. With college not a viable option for most women in her place and time, she chose life in the burgeoning metropolis of Tel Aviv. She worked as a civilian with the military, enjoying all the art and culture Tel Aviv had to offer, traveling abroad on budget adventures, and crafting an education out of seeing, experiencing and doing.

In 1971, she met a dazzling visitor to Israel whose charm and charisma led to a whirlwind romance and international courtship. H. André Blau, a Ho-

locast survivor who resettled in California, and Ellana were married in October 1971 in San Francisco; they welcomed daughter Caron in 1972. They lived in Oakland where Ellana became the consummate hostess and homemaker, dedicated volunteer, lifelong learner, devoted wife and mother, and thoughtful friend that so many people knew and loved dearly.

André died in 1998, and Ellana relocated, dividing her time between Baltimore with Caron and her family and Boynton Beach, Fla. She was as devoted a mother, mother-in-law and Safta (grandmother) as anyone could imagine.

Three years ago, Ellana returned to the West Coast, joining Caron's family in Portland where they had moved a decade prior. The quality time together with their mother and Safta is something Caron, Ari, Jonah, Jesse and Samuel will always cherish.

She is buried in Mazkeret Batya, by her mother's side.

Donations in her memory may be made to [Rachel's Well Community Mikvah](#) c/o the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

## KEVIN NOAH HOWERTON

Kevin Noah Howerton, z"l, passed away Sept. 5, 2021, at age 37 in Portland.

He was born Feb. 15, 1984, in Pensacola, Fla. While his legal name was Kevin, everyone (except his family), knew him as Noah. As a child, Noah lived in Pensacola, San Diego, Mililani, Hawaii, back to San Diego, and on to River Vale, N.J., where he graduated from Pascack Valley High School. He attended Arizona State University for one year, continued his education at Santa Barbara City Community College and graduated with a degree in psychology from Humboldt State University. Following college, he pursued work in computer science. In spite of his psychology degree, his real talents lay in coding, and he was fluent in several computer languages but

most interested in Python. Over the years, he lived and worked in Brooklyn and San Francisco, settling in Portland. He missed New York for its diversity and vitality and dreamed of returning one day.

While untraditional in his expression, his Jewish identity and heritage were important to him. Noah is remembered by his family for the flash of his dimples and the mischievous sparkle in his eyes when he smiled. His humor was quick, insightful and incisive. He was intelligent, offbeat, empathetic and reflective. He was kind, loving and giving. Following a snowboarding accident in his teens, he struggled greatly with chronic pain and the accompanying mental health issues. Despite this, he lived his life with dignity and participated as fully as he could.

## JERROLD 'JERRY' MATIN

Jerrold 'Jerry' Matin, z"l, passed away peacefully Aug. 9, 2021, after Parkinson's disease took its toll. He is survived by loving wife, Geri; sister, Joanne; daughters, Laura, Kimberli (Charles) and Stephanie (Bill); extended family, Lori (Barry), Pamela (Jeff), Bruce (Teri); grandchildren, Rich (Bobbi), Ashley, Kyle (Katrina), Jason, Anna and Sarah; and

great-grandchildren, Hava and Harrison.

He was born Sept. 14, 1927, to Leo and Esse Matin in Portland, where he resided his entire life. He attended Grant High School and graduated from Stanford University. He was a member of Tualatin Country Club for 72 years where golf and Thursday night gin rummy were his passion, as was the B'nai B'rith Men's Camp. His life's work was selling and manufacturing in the furniture business. He married Yvonne in 1964, and a later in life marriage to Geri Reiter was filled with love and laughter. They were together for 37 years, which included 23 fun-filled years of extended stays in Maui. The trips stopped when puppy Jake joined the family and traveling ended. He was totally a "Great Guy." We will miss his smile, sense of humor, the old jokes and his love of life. Jerry was preceded in death by brother, Ron.

Remembrances may be made to Sherie Hildreth Ovarian Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 327, Gladstone, OR 97027.

## SUBMISSIONS

Submit obituaries to:  
[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org).

## Public Service Announcement



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