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# The JEWISH REVIEW

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Jewish Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen, pictured at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's offices Wednesday, June 28, 2023. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

## "Being present with people"

Rabbi Cohen takes on many roles with one unifying mission

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

*The Jewish Review*

There are few constants in Jewish Community Chaplain Rabbi Barry Cohen's day. Except for, perhaps, time spent in the car.

"Thank goodness for satellite radio," he said.

It makes sense that Rabbi Cohen is on the go a lot – within the approximately 5,000 square miles of the Portland area are over 31,000 Jewish households. Eighty percent of those are not members of a synagogue. When those families need a rabbi to officiate a funeral or visit a sick relative, they turn to the community chaplain.

Before Rabbi Cohen was hired into the role five years ago, families unaffiliated with a congregation in need of pastoral services didn't have a centralized resource available – it was a matter of seeing who would pick up the phone and who had time among Portland's rabbis. All too often,

the sad and frustrating answer was "no one."

"It always felt as if it were just one more justification of their not being involved when they couldn't get a rabbi like that because all of the congregational rabbis are already stretched very thin in this town," said Rabbi Ariel Stone of Congregation Shir Tikvah. As a member of the Oregon Board of Rabbis, she was heavily involved in creating the position, along with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, and in hiring Rabbi Cohen to fill it. Rabbi Stone recalled sifting through heaps of resumes, but Rabbi Cohen's stood out.

"I think we gravitated toward Rabbi Cohen's resume because of the things he put into that about how important relationships were to him," she said.

Relationships have been at the core of Rabbi

See **CHAPLAIN**, page 8

# Oregon Hillel turns 30, launches UO Jewish Alumni Association

## Weekend celebration culminates with Oct. 14 gala at Ford Center

By **ROCKNE ROLL**  
*The Jewish Review*

Oregon Hillel is turning 30, and the campus Jewish organization is throwing a party.

Coinciding with the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Hillel International, Oregon Hillel is hosting a celebratory weekend culminating with a dinner at the University of Oregon's Ford Alumni Center Saturday, Oct. 14 at 6:45 pm.

"It's a great milestone for us," explained Oregon Hillel Executive Director Andy Gitelson.

Hillel was founded at the University of Illinois in 1923, with the Oregon chapter taking shape in the late 80s thanks, in large part, to the work of Rabbi Hanan Sills z"l. Oregon was first housed in the Newman Center on the UO campus – with Catholic campus ministries as a roommate- before purchasing their current facility on Hilyard Street near campus.

This was about the time Sarah Rosenberg Brown arrived in Eugene.

"I'm from Albuquerque, New Mexico," she said, "and it just happens the two years preceding mine, students that I knew through our synagogue and through our youth group went to University of Oregon. So, when I came in the fall of 1994, they were already involved in the budding Hillel."

Brown got a lot out of her Hillel experience, ranging from her challah recipe to some of her closest friends. She talked about Hillel hosting speakers including Neil Fackenheim, Deborah Lipstadt and Elie Wiesel, and hosting a conference about ethics after the Holocaust.

"We got to create what we wanted to see," she said, "for

ourselves and for other Jewish students."

What they built grew quickly, and UO's Jewish student population has grown with, or perhaps because, of it.

"In the 90s, we probably had under 1,000 Jewish students that were attending U of O," Gitelson said. "These days it's more than double that, close to 2400 Jewish students and it's something that we're modeling and working for at Oregon State, too, is to take this blueprint that we know works. It's the reason that Jewish students are choosing to come to U of O; it's a great school, and there's a good quality of Jewish life and Jewish resources."

With antisemitism on the rise, especially on college campuses, Brown explained that Hillel remains an essential haven for Jewish students as well as a gateway for those who are curious about Judaism. A member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Board of Directors, Brown recalled that she grew up with Hebrew school, Jewish summer camp and a Jewish family life, but her first Shabbat dinner at the Hillel House in Eugene was still a milestone on her Jewish journey.

"When I sat at that first Shabbat meal, it was the first time that I chose to do something Jewish on my own versus it being told to me," she said, "and that was hugely liberating and exciting and really laid the groundwork for the work that I do in the community now."

That sense of forging one's own Jewish identity is a major motivator for Gitelson, who

See **HILLEL**, page 9

# "An Evolution of Empowerment" highlights women's voices in medicine - Jews included

By **ROCKNE ROLL**  
*The Jewish Review*

What started as a blog is now a book that holds to the same mission - uplifting the voices of women in medicine.

Dr. Avital O'Glasser's book, "An Evolution of Empowerment: Voices of Women in Medicine and Their Allies," co-edited with Dr. Shikha Jain, is a collection of pieces from the Women In Medicine Summit blog. The Women in Medicine Summit was founded by Dr. Jain, a college friend of Dr. O'Glasser, and the blog was launched two years ago.

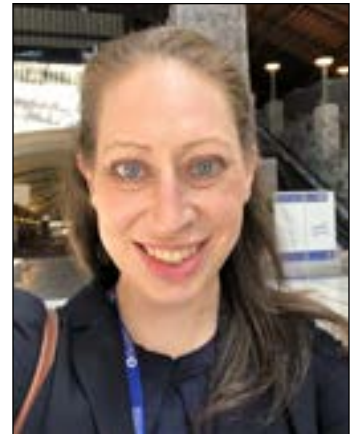
"One of the missions of the organization is to help women and other members of our professional communities identify when they don't have the voice that they need or want," Dr. O'Glasser said, "and then how to help amplify their voices and help people find their voices in personal and professional spaces."

Contributors to the blog ranged in age from retirees to elementary school students and included non-binary people and male allies. Amongst the collective authors are several members of the Portland Jewish community, including Dr. O'Glasser, Naomi Leavitt and Nadine Gartner.

"We have pieces of speaking to individual identities and self-exploration to the power of communities of women, both personally and professionally. Essays that speak to the data behind persistent gender inequities in the workplace, certainly mostly in medicine but in general, to that forward momentum of 'what can we do to change the norm, to overcome dogma and ingrained biased practices,'" Dr. O'Glasser said. "There's not just one scene."

While the book itself is not explicitly Jewish, Dr. O'Glasser sees Jewish values at the heart of much of its content.

"There's a lot of discussion about advocacy. How you can



Dr. O'Glasser (Courtesy Photo)

be an advocate for yourself, how you can be an advocate for the world, your patients and your communities," she said. "For me, personally, my identity as an advocate is so intimately tied to the theme of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and that Jewish value."

Other essays are more explicitly Jewish.

"There is a piece that I wrote almost a year ago, reflecting on the anniversary of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death on the eve of Rosh Hashanah and speaking about how to me, as a Jew and who actually had a family member who died on Erev Rosh Hashana, that there's a significant there's a spiritual significance of dying at the cusp of the new year," Dr. O'Glasser explained.

Dr. O'Glasser is a Professor at Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine, where she specializes in internal medicine. She completed her residency in internal medicine at OHSU after earning her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Throughout her career, she's seen the effects of discrimination against women firsthand.

"We weren't getting promoted at the same rate, we weren't getting seats at the table, we weren't getting the same salary offers. We weren't getting sup-

See **O'GLASSER**, page 6



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# "Monument" set to premiere

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Oregon filmmaker Michael Turner has found success by making the deeply personal broadly relatable. He brings that gift for universalization to bear on his Jewish heritage in his latest project, "Monument," which premieres today at the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival and will be shown Oct. 18 at Cinema21 in Portland through a partnership with the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

"Monument," made possible in part by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Women's Giving Circle, tells the story of Turner's grandmother, Lici, a survivor of Auschwitz who went on to construct a memorial to the Holocaust in her hometown of Sarvar, Hungary. An interview with Lici about the memorial is a foundational memory for Turner and his decision to pursue filmmaking.

"The Shoah Foundation came to her house when I was a kid and filmed an interview with her," he said. "I was not allowed to stay in the room while she told her story, but just seeing them set up the camera



and the lights, I knew that she was about to start talking about things that she never talked with us about."

Turner was inspired to begin making "Monument" in the aftermath of the Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting in 2016, around the time his daughter was born. He wrote the first draft of the opening scene of the film the morning after the attack.

"That really made me feel like my grandma's story wasn't yet complete, even though she

had died several years earlier," Turner said. "It centered me in what I hoped to pass on to my daughter, that there were lessons there about how to navigate the world that I was seeing unfolding in the news. That morning was kind of when the film started."

While Turner describes the Holocaust as a "black hole in the middle of the movie that the story revolves around," his relationship with his grandmother is the focal point of this work, which he hopes is a touchpoint that everyone can connect to.

"There's this part of her that I'll never really be able to touch, like all of us have this part inside us that other people can't really touch," Turner said. "I never really found a way to ask her these questions while she was alive and after she died, it suddenly seemed OK to ask her."

Women's Philanthropy entered the process earlier this year, providing a \$4,000 grant through the Women's Giving Circle to fund the film. This is a departure from their usual process, where the Women's Giving Circle starts working with a project near the beginning of their process.

"We understand that we do not have the capacity to fund an entire project like Michael's but we do have the capacity to

help him complete his vision and are honored that he chose us, the Women's Giving Circle, to help get his grandmother's voice out into the public," explained Federation's Chief Development Officer Wendy Kahn, "[to] share his love and admiration for her courage and the strength of everyone during the Holocaust and empower others to stand up now and have conversations within their families about the atrocities of the Holocaust and how to face today's struggles with courage and love."

"They provided us a grant to do a sound mix on the film, which is a really exciting part of the process where it's almost finished and we worked with a sound designer to really add emotion to the soundscape to really help my grandma's hometown come to life," Turner said.

Turner was part of a recent Art/Lab cohort at Co/Lab and previously produced the film "The Way We Talk," documenting his journey with stuttering.

"Monument" will be screened at Cinema 21, located at 616 NW 21st Ave in Portland Oct. 18 at 7:15 pm. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for seniors and available online at [ojmche.org/events/film-screening-of-monument](https://ojmche.org/events/film-screening-of-monument).

# Kesser Israel sign facelift a family affair

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

When Congregation Kesser Israel moved to their current home, there was nothing on the outside of their building to indicate that the Orthodox synagogue had set up shop. That was where Yak Feuer z"l came in.

Years later, his son and grandson have helped to renovate the distinctive sign, returning it to its former glory. Leslie Elder, who joined Kesser Israel eight years ago, explained that Feuer wanted to give something to the congregation for their new home. The Feuer family had been members of the shul at its former Meade Street location in South Portland, and Yak was an experienced metal worker whose art work is still prized around Portland.

"He volunteered to make this sign, he created this Kessler Israel sign that's up there now with the logo," Elder explained. "It's very nice."

But it had seen better days. Much of the finish had come off, and rust had started to settle in on parts of the lettering. The removal of a large tree on the west side of the building made the sign more visible, accentuating the need for repair work.

The Feuer family were once

again brought in, but this time it was Kimi, Yak's son, and his son, Tivon, who helped Yak install the original.

"It had some of the coating that was on the letters degraded and flaked off, and there was rust and and things like that," Kimi explained.

While Kesser Israel provided the materials, Kimi and Tivon, along with Avraham Schwartz, another former member from Meade Street who has since made aliyah to Israel, donated their time to make the repairs.

"They want to make sure that it looks good," Elder said. "I just thought it was a really beautiful thing."

"We were glad to do the work and keep the sign up, restore it to the original way that it was when my father first envisioned it," Feuer said. "It is not just a sign, it's also artistic endeavor."

With the rust removed and a new protective finish applied, the polished metal sign shines once more, as Yak Feuer intended.

"I think that's kind of how Jewish people look out, kind of like a light on the world, shining out," Kimi Feuer said. "I think my father wanted to convey that with the shiny sign especially in Portland where it's raining all the time."



From left, Tivon and Kimi Feuer conduct repairs on Congregation Kesser Israel's sign Thursday, Sept. 21. (Courtesy Congregation Kesser Israel)

## JCRC, partners tackle antisemitism in schools



Steve Netter, left, and Jack Goldstein, below, discussed their experiences with antisemitism in schools at a Jewish Community Relations Council program on the subject Thursday, Sept. 28 at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Goldstein, a junior at Jesuit High School, emphasized that "these occurrences still happen regularly today." Netter, whose 12-year-old son experienced severe antisemitic bullying, encouraged parents to "talk to the school. Be a pest. We have." (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



From left, 2023 Oregon Jewish Voices authors Kerry Cohen, William Deresiewicz, Miriam Gershow, Marvin Lurie, and Willa Schneberg. The quintet will read at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education Oct. 17. (Courtesy Oregon Jewish Voices)

## Oregon Jewish Voices returns for 24th year

By **ROCKNE ROLL**  
*The Jewish Review*

Willa Schneberg has been curating diverse groupings of Oregon writers for 24 years with one thing in common - a Jewish perspective.

Her brainchild, Oregon Jewish Voices, returns with a reading at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 pm, with a new crop of authors following in the footsteps of Sabena Stark, Sean Levy and David Biespiel to present their work. The only criterium for consideration is identification as Jewish.

"I would say that the majority of their readers are secular, but there have been some people who are observant who also read," Schneberg explained.

This year's authors are Kerry Cohen, William Deresiewicz, Miriam Gershow, Marvin Lurie, and Schneberg, who has released a new collection of poetry centered on her

work in mental health titled "The Naked Room."

"There's a whole section called 'The 50 minute hour' about the actual process of being with a therapist and one of the reviews I got is 'it's difficult to encapsulate what makes The Naked Room so special. Add Schneberg to the list of authors you turn to in your own crises and in the crises of others,'" she explained.

Cohen has written 11 books, including "Loose Girl: A Memoir of Promiscuity" and has been featured in numerous national outlets as well as on The Today Show, Good Morning America and Dr. Phil. Deresiewicz has published numerous best-selling works and has received numerous awards including a Hiett Prize for the Humanities. Gershow's second novel and first collection of short stories are both forthcoming; she's also an Oregon Literary Fellowship alum. Lurie's latest collection of Poetry was released this year and he

previously served on the Oregon Poetry Association Board of Directors.

"I was just thrilled that we were able to get [Deresiewicz]," Schneberg said, "because basically he lives in Portland, but he goes all over the the world to give lectures."

The diverse array of writings on show is intentional, Schneberg said, to help readers branch out of their usual genreconstraints. The event was a unique venue for Jewish authors when it began nearly a quarter century ago, and it remains a distinctive window into the divers of the Jewish literary world to this day.

"I see it as very much an opportunity for people to connect as Jews and I wanted to not be just for Jews.," Schneberg said. "People come now because they find these are interesting writers, just like people go to all kinds of diverse readings."

Tickets are \$8 for OJMCHE members and \$10 for the general public, and can be purchased online at [omjche.org/events](http://omjche.org/events).

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## O'GLASSER (continued from page 2)

port for child raising, pregnancy, fertility journeys, infertility journeys, breast-feeding," she explained. "This was happening before the pandemic, it has been magnified by the pandemic."

On the other side of the coin, women play an essential role in modern medicine.

"There's growing data that patients do better when they are treated by women. The patient outcomes are actually better and this includes surgery," Dr. O'Glasser said. "There's a concept called the 'Leaky Pipeline' where holding people back personally and professionally often starts as early as preschool, and when we talk about supporting people in their per-

sonal and professional roles, it actually starts has to start really, really young."

"An Evolution of Empowerment" is not merely a recitation of what's wrong with medicine – it's the foundation of a vision to fix it.

"It's not just an articulation of, 'This is the fact, this is the foundation, this is the lay of the landscape,' but there's a lot of forward thinking, creative problem solving expressed in the pages of this book," Dr. O'Glasser said.

"An Evolution of Empowerment" is in stock at Annie Blooms Books Southwest Portland.

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Portland sukkah builder Scott McKinley discusses his philosophy of sukkah construction and why Sukkot is so important to him on this episode of The Jewish Review Podcast. Click the logo above to download the latest episode!

# ***The Sukkah Season***

Clockwise from top: Congregation Neveh Shalom Mens Club member Edward Jacobowitz assembles the frame of the synagogue's sukkah in its courtyard. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review) Cedar Sinai Park maintenance technician Idriz Tahirovic secures the sukkah roof at the Cedar Sinai Park campus. (Courtesy Cedar Sinai Park) Members of Congregation Beth Israel sing together during the congregation's Erev Sukkot service in their sukkah in front of the main sanctuary building. (Courtesy Congregation Beth Israel) Chabad SW Portland Rabbi Motti Wilhelm coaches Saul Korin, right, in the waving of lulav and etrog at a Jewish Professionals lunch in the Mittleman Jewish Community Center sukkah. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



# CHAPLAIN

(continued from page 1)

Cohen's work long before he took this role, but when you are working with a family that has suffered a loss and need to comfort them while also preparing a meaningful service, those relationships need to form quickly. Every family, every person, every set of circumstances surrounding a death is different. Those differences affect everything from how to approach a grieving family member to how to structure and perform the funeral.

"There's an expression that was just hammered home not only in Rabbinical school, but also in my chaplaincy training program. It's being present with people," Rabbi Cohen said. "I am there. I am listening. I am paying attention. I am curious. I want to learn more."

Rabbi Stone explained that a member of Shir Tikvah's husband had passed away right as they moved to town, but before she had been connected with Shir Tikvah or any other congregation. It was Rabbi Cohen who performed the funeral, and it was an experience that Rabbi Stone said the widow remarked on most favorably.

"I was able to find out from her that it was a wonderful experience and that he did everything that she could have needed at this terrible, terrible time for her," Rabbi Stone said.

That presence is also a critical skill in visiting Jewish patients in hospitals around the area. Rabbi Cohen spends Wednesdays at Oregon Health & Science University Hospital. When other area hospitals have unaffiliated Jewish patients who are interested in receiving a visit from a Jewish clergy member, Rabbi Cohen gets the call – another way in which he has taken a burden off the congregational rabbis in the area.

Debra Mecartea coordinates the chaplaincy program at OHSU hospital. She described the Clinical Pastoral Education training that Rabbi Cohen has competed as the "gold standard."



Rabbi Barry Cohen, right, leads young travelers from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's March 2023 mission to Israel in shabbat blessings at a reunion for trip attendees at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center Friday, May 5. (Jewish Review file photo)

"Whether that is someone who is either accidentally listed as Jewish or someone who is really devoutly Jewish or would say they're atheist or something in between, I know that he'll be able to interact with them really well," Mecartea said. "He'll be able to get them the resources they need."

Often, Rabbi Cohen will come in knowing little more than that they are Jewish – they could be very religiously observant or not at all. Like in so many other situations, Rabbi Cohen takes this as an opportunity to listen and connect with the person and what they really need. Some want to pray; others simply want to connect with another person who shares their culture and background. Either way, his mere presence is valuable.

"What I have found is that even the people that may say that they're the most secular or agnostic even, given the opportunity to talk about spirituality, which can really open up a lot about where are they right now," Rabbi Cohen said. "What are their needs? What are their anxieties? What are their fears?"

Rabbi Cohen also spends time

at the area's retirement communities – he's at Cedar Sinai Park on Mondays and also has regularly scheduled time with five other communities and more sporadic connections at six more.

"He goes to where my mother lives and there's a lot of support," explained Susan Greenberg, Executive Director of Jewish Family and Child Service. "There's a lot of appreciation for what he does at the senior places that he goes to."

Rabbi Cohen also works with JFCS through their "Walking Beside You" grief support group and is working to expand his involvement in other JFCS programs in the coming months.

Rabbi Cohen's Mondays at Cedar Sinai start with breakfast, moving around the room saying hello. Much of this time early in the day could be defined as schmoozing, but those lighter conversations occasionally take deeper, heavier turns. After breakfast, Rabbi Cohen will go to visit a list of residents in their rooms, sometimes meeting with family members and others as he finds them, but sometimes the most important conversations happen in the in-between spaces

and times.

"People are always in the halls. They are always in the lobby. They've now set up a pool table," he said. "You walk by someone, and you start a conversation. Again, it may be surface level, but then again, they may say, 'Hey, can we go over into this corner over there? I really need to talk.'"

Cathy Zheutlin, Spiritual Life Coordinator at Cedar Sinai Park, explains that each person has individual needs, and that one of Rabbi Cohen's best talents is to identify and address that need.

"It's so individual; one person needs to know that they matter in the world, another person needs to be comforted, another person needs companionship," she said. "He can provide, one by one, those kinds of services."

At important times like Passover, Rabbi Cohen makes sure that people living in non-Jewish facilities have access to matza, but less festive activities like grief groups for widows and widowers are the bread and butter of those visits – and they often evolve in unexpected ways.

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Rabbi Cohen had been working consistently with 10 to 15 residents at Courtyard Village in Raleigh Hills for quite a while. “The group got back to me and said, ‘We feel like we’ve done enough of the grief work, but we still want to be together,’” he said. “So, it changed from being a formal grief group to a group that is trying to maximize meaning and significance from the aging process.”

There is so much more, too. While spending time with people at retirement communities and hospitals, Rabbi Cohen also networks with the staff of those locations so that when there are questions or concerns about issues related to the Jewish community, he can respond and be a resource.

Some of the interactions Rabbi Cohen takes on are not as emotionally heavy, like visiting a new-to-town fami-

ly and hanging a mezuzah on their doorpost, performing a baby naming for a child whose parents aren’t affiliated with a synagogue and even speaking at high schools around the area that are interested in learning about Jewish culture and history. As COVID-19 restrictions have lifted, Rabbi Cohen has returned to officiating weddings, performing a number this summer. As if he wasn’t busy enough, he also pens the Chaplain’s Corner column for each issue of *The Jewish Review*.

One of his favorite jobs, a role that he has been called on to fulfill frequently in recent weeks leading up to the High Holidays, is to serve as a member of a *beit din*, the rabbinical court that signs off on conversions to Judaism. A conversion candidate’s appearance before the *beit din* is one of the last steps in the process after a year or more of study and work with a rabbi and is truly a special mo-

ment for both the candidate and the rabbis involved. While Rabbi Cohen refers those interested in studying toward conversion to the Introduction to Judaism class offered by the Oregon Board of Rabbis, serving as one of the other two rabbis on a *beit din* offers a unique opportunity for connection.

“What makes the *beit din* so special is that in preparation, I get to read that person’s story, how they came to Judaism, why they want to embrace Judaism as part of their identity. And that prepares me to be able to have a just a genuine interaction with the conversion candidate,” Rabbi Cohen said. “We have very heartfelt conversations and interactions, you know, where everyone on the *beit din* gets to ask multiple questions about who that person is, what they have experienced, the challenges that may lie in the future, their favorite aspects of Judaism, favorite holidays, favorite foods. It’s very special, because it’s a very genuine interaction.”

One thing is certain – no two days are the same for Rabbi Cohen.

“It’s taken years to have a sense of comfort, knowing that every day can change,” he explained. “That being said, one of the things that drew me to the position in the first place is the whole idea that every day is going to be a little different. I’ve got to be prepared to really pivot to respond to a pressing need or even a crisis.”

Those places that need Rabbi Cohen are also sometimes far apart physically, thus his relationship with satellite radio.

“I’m able to use the time, not just dealing with Portland-area traffic,” he said.

The willingness to deal with that traffic and travel, as well as his training and talents, make Rabbi Cohen a unique part of the infrastructure of the Jewish community.

“I’m just one piece in the whole puzzle of how we’re taking care of people in our in our greater community,” he said.

Rabbi Cohen can be contacted at [chaplain@jewishportland.org](mailto:chaplain@jewishportland.org).

## HILLEL

(continued from page 2)

has been at Oregon Hillel for 11 years.

“We work to instill that they can define what Jewish life means for them beyond college and I take a great sense of pride in that,” he said.

That “beyond college connection” can hopefully expand with the formation of the University’s Jewish Alumni Association. As Jewish UO graduates have spread out from Oregon, Gitelson hopes that chapters of the JAA can provide them with connection and resources, personally, spiritually and professionally, in a way that’s meaningful for all involved.

“They can do something around the holidays, potlucks where our young alumni could tap into those networks when they settle in those communities,” Gitelson said. “Instead of relying on a Hillel or a Federation, or in addition to relying on Hillels and Federations and places like that, they hopefully will now have a Jewish affinity group that they can tap into and see who’s in their community and how can they connect.”

“One of the biggest parts of the alumni association groups is to sustain community that has already been created on campus and to create new community,” added Deshna Shine, Associate Director of Alumni Engagement at the University of Oregon. “We’re here to support that and manage logistics and administration and marketing and communication. We’re here to staff the events and to train and support the volunteers to be able to, to staff and support the events.”

More information on Oregon Hillel’s 30th Anniversary celebration can be found online at <https://www.oregonhillel.org/>



Rabbi Barry Cohen delivers a *d'var Torah* (scriptural lesson) at the opening of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review.)

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## NEXT ISSUES

Issue date	Deadline
OCT 18	OCT 12
NOV 1	OCT 26
NOV 15	NOV 9
NOV 29 (Hanukkah)	NOV 22

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# Chaplain's Corner

## The Transformative Power of Sukkot

By RABBI BARRY COHEN

Whew! We just made it through the High Holidays. I hope Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were meaningful, cathartic and memorable.

But we have only begun to celebrate. Next up? Sukkot, our holiday of thanksgiving. Sukkot is one of our pilgrimage festivals, historically when we would flock to Jerusalem. With Passover, we celebrated our exodus to freedom; with Shavuot, we celebrated the harvest (and later, the revelation of Torah at Mount Sinai); and with Sukkot, we celebrated another harvest, as well as our traveling through the desert to freedom in the Promised Land).

We find one of our most ancient references to Sukkot in Leviticus 23:42-43, "You shall live in booths seven days; all citizens in Israel shall live in booths, in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I the Lord Your G-d."

We also must emphasize the agricultural aspect of Sukkot. Centuries ago, farmers would dwell in temporary structures at the edges of their fields to maximize the time they could devote to the harvest.

Sukkot features three *mitzvot*, or commandments: spending time in a *sukkah*, shaking the *arba minim*, the lulav and etrog, and celebrating.

Spending time in a *sukkah* enables us to get reconnected with the land and with each other. The *sukkah* is a minimalistic structure: four poles, thin walls and a roof comprised of *sechach*, branches or bamboo. This structure provides basic protection from the wind, sun and rain, but not too much protection. More important is what happens within the *sukkah*. We can rest, eat a light meal, enjoy the evening, and weather permitting, even sleep.

A beautiful tradition is welcoming *ushpizin*, guests, into our *sukkah* and expressing hospitality. Symbolically, we can also invite Sarah and Abraham; Rebecca and Isaac; Rachel, Leah and Jacob; Joseph; Moses, Miriam and Aaron; as well as David, Abigail and Esther. All these biblical characters were wanderers and in need of



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hospitality and protection.

Fulfilling the *mitzvah* of shaking the lulav and etrog enables us to reconnect with the land and to show gratitude for the harvest. We read in Leviticus 23:40, "On the first day, you shall take the product of *hadar* trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days."

Think of how crucial the harvest was for our ancestors. If the harvest was inadequate in the spring and fall, hunger was sure to follow. We assume when we go to the grocery store or to the market that we will find what we are looking for. We forget about who planted the crops and who cultivated, harvested, packaged, transported and stocked them. Sukkot reminds us to be grateful for the interconnected web of people we depend on to put food on our table.

The High Holidays do not officially end until the conclusion of Sukkot. Our liturgy paints the image of the gates of forgiveness and how slowly and steadily they close. The Rabbis teach that though the gates of forgiveness may close at the end of Yom Kippur, they are not locked until the end of Sukkot. In that spirit, we can continue to reflect upon how it is not too late to secure the image of our highest selves. As we continue on our emotional/spiritual journeys, during Sukkot, we can stop along the way for rest and sustenance, both spiritual and physical. As we meet with family and friends in the *sukkah*, we can express gratitude and appreciation for one another and acknowledge how we depend upon each other and depend upon G-d.

During 5784 may we express gratitude for how interdependent we are for our safety, security, well-being and growth.

## Clergy Corner

In addition to the Chaplain's Corner, *The Jewish Review* offers space for the community's professional clergy to share their thoughts on the week's parsha or current events. Rabbis are invited to schedule a date to submit a 500- to 600-word piece. For more information or to request a date, email [editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org).

# Obituaries

## NORMA ROSENBERG

Norma May Rosenberg z"l was a titan, who woke up every day with the engine running, eager to learn and leave a meaningful impression on everything and everyone she touched. She was 94 years old, with plenty of gas left in the tank.

Vibrant wife of the Lester J. Rosenberg z"l, persistent mother of Steven "Rosy" (Ellen Lippman) Rosenberg and Lee "Rosy" (Partner-Pamela Roussos) Rosenberg, inspirational grandmother of Mara Rosenberg, Ilyana Rosenberg and Noa Rosenberg, fully engaged aunt to all of her nieces and nephews, a force of nature in her leadership work in the community, and an integrally spirited ally, mentor and moral compass to a nation of friends.

Norma grew up in San Antonio, Texas, daughter of the late Melville May and late Ethel Sacks, and sister to the late Melville May Jr. She lived her adult years in the Chicago area. So much to share in-between; words in this short bio will not properly do justice to her impact. Better to speak with those that knew her directly; there are so many across Chicago, the US and Israel.

Memorial contributions may be made to an organization that she and Lester helped build over decades and an organization that she literally gave her life to--Israel Tennis and Education Centers. If you would like to do so, Norma instructed us this is the absolute best way to honor her; the family agrees. You are welcome to share with anyone who would like to make a donation to support the Norma Rosenberg Children's Fund, which has now been established in memory of Norma. Please visit the ITEC website donation page, [itecenters.org/norma-rosenberg/](https://itecenters.org/norma-rosenberg/) or mail your donation to Israel Tennis & Education Centers, 3275 West Hillsboro Boulevard Suite 102 Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

## Burial Societies

Portland has two holy societies of volunteers who prepare the deceased for burial according to Jewish tradition: Chevra Kavod haMet and the Portland Hevra Kaddisha.

For questions about end of life, death and mourning, email [chevrakavodhamet@gmail.com](mailto:chevrakavodhamet@gmail.com), visit [ChevraKavodHaMet.org](https://ChevraKavodHaMet.org), or contact Michael Rosenberg at the Portland Hevra Kaddisha at [michael@cashcolan.com](mailto:michael@cashcolan.com) or 503-519-2454.

*Submit obituaries to The Jewish Review's new online form at [form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary](https://form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary).*

## Life cycle

*Submit births, b'nai mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and landmark birthdays to The Jewish Review's new online portal at [form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-life-cycle](https://form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-life-cycle).*



Click the logo for the latest episode of The Jewish Review Podcast

## Gratz College launches online adult Jewish education program

By RABBI DANIEL LEVITT

Gratz College

Gratz College is thrilled to announce the launch of its new series of online Continuing Adult Jewish Education Classes, designed to provide a transformative learning experience for individuals seeking to deepen their understanding of Jewish heritage, culture, and traditions from the comfort of your home.

Gratz College, a renowned institution with a rich history of academic excellence and commitment to Jewish education, is excited to offer a diverse range of virtual courses tailored to meet the unique interests and needs of adult learners. With highly knowledgeable instructors, a supportive learning environment, and a wealth of resources, participants can engage in an enriching educational journey.

These Zoom classes are open to individuals of all backgrounds and levels of knowledge, providing a welcoming and inclusive environment where participants can connect with fellow learners and engage in thought-provoking discussions.

Located in Philadelphia and founded in 1895, Gratz is the oldest independent and pluralistic college for Jewish studies in North America. From its inception Gratz holds the distinction of being the first institution of advanced Jewish learning to accept women on par with men.

The classes will be offered virtually on a weekly basis, with flexible schedules to accommodate diverse lifestyles. For more information and to register for Gratz College's Continuing Adult Jewish Education Classes, please visit [gratz.edu/academics/degree/continuing-education/gratz-scholars-program](https://gratz.edu/academics/degree/continuing-education/gratz-scholars-program) or contact Rabbi Daniel Levitt at [dlevitt@gratz.edu](mailto:dlevitt@gratz.edu).

## Rising Tide Gathering is Oct. 24-25

You're invited to a two-day virtual gathering Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 24-25 on Zoom from 9 am - 1:15 pm that will unite lay leaders, professionals, clergy, students, funders, volunteers, and educators from around the world. Together, we're dedicated to making mikveh experiences inclusive and accessible for

everyone in the Jewish community. During this event, you'll discover fresh insights, build meaningful connections, and find inspiration for Jewish ritual water immersion. Sliding scale from \$18 - 360. Register at [risingtide-openwaters.org/2023-gathering-registration/](https://risingtide-openwaters.org/2023-gathering-registration/)



## Oct. 5: Cafe Shalom Israeli Folk Dancing

Weekly open Israeli dance session Thursdays, 8-10 pm at CHCC, 8936 SW 17th Ave in Portland. All experience levels and ages welcome. Enjoy dancing in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere of dancers at all levels. Learn new dances and practice favorites and classics from long ago. \$7. For more information, contact Allison Victor at [allisuev@gmail.com](mailto:allisuev@gmail.com).

## Oct. 8: Israeli Folk Dancing at SWCC

Enjoy Israeli folk dancing at the Southwest Community Center with session leader Rhona Feldman Sundays, 2:30-4 pm. More information at [sites.google.com/site/pifdnews](https://sites.google.com/site/pifdnews).

## Oct. 9: Israeli Folk Dancing at Leedy Grange

Enjoy Israeli folk dancing Mondays, 7:30 - 10:30pm with this friendly group in Cedar Mill (now in our 10th year). The session, run by Sue and Donna, starts with easier, classic dances and moves on to newer forms, couples' dances, line dances, and teaching, too. Find us on Facebook at "Israeli Folk Dancing in Portland, OR."

## Oct. 10: Yoga for Renewal with Sido Sirkus

Come and enjoy/explore your inner self in "Yoga for Renewal," a gentle yoga class Tuesdays, 10-11 am at the Eastside Jewish Commons. Designed to help bring you back to yourself, to your own body and soul as we enter the season of turning within, planting the seeds of what will spring forth in the springtime (and we'll do it with humor and with heart!). This class is appropriate for both beginners and seasoned mature yogis. For more information or to register, visit [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Oct. 10: JFCS Cancer Support Group

Community is important.

Cancer is lonely. Jewish Family & Child Service has combined these two truths to create this support group open to anyone with a cancer diagnosis. The group will meet via Zoom the second Wednesday of every month at 3 pm and offer a safe space where people can be honest with one another and themselves – and where they are not taking care of others. The facilitators will listen to and support you in this important community of people with some shared experiences. Sponsored by the Holzman Foundation and Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. To register or for more information, visit [jfcs-portland.org/cancer-support](http://jfcs-portland.org/cancer-support).

## Oct. 11: Empowering Teen Girls with Yoga

Navigating adolescence can be emotionally, physically, and spiritually challenging for Jewish teens in a secular world. In this 6-week yoga series held Wednesdays, Oct. 11th-Nov. 15th, 4:30 - 6 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons, Rachel Stern (Heart-Shaped Yoga) will lead girls (Non-binary, gender-curious, and transgender girls welcome) ages 15 and 16 through a practice of movement, breath, meditation, and reflection in an intentional and safe space for exploration and curiosity. Together, we will co-create a community of mutual support, respect, confidentiality, and consent. All levels of yoga experience and ability are welcome! Supported by a generous grant from the Women's Giving Circle. \$36-\$72 sliding scale per person for the series. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. This class is limited to 10 participants, no drop-ins - participants must commit to the entire series. For more information, visit [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Oct. 13: JFCS Community Connection

Join Jewish Family & Child Service for weekly conversations Fridays, 10-11 am on Zoom: It is a space for anyone in the community to connect

with others and share what's on their mind. Online at [tinyurl.com/JFCS-Connection](http://tinyurl.com/JFCS-Connection).

## Oct. 14: Oregon Hillel's 30th Anniversary

Join Oregon Hillel Saturday, Oct. 14, 6:45 pm as we celebrate our 30th anniversary at the University of Oregon's Ford Alumni Center, 1720 E 13th Ave, Eugene, Ore. Cost is \$54 per non-student, \$18 current UO Students. Please let us know if you have See story, Page 2.

## Oct. 14: The Road Home choral concert

The Trinity Choir of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, the Kol Echad Choir of Congregation Beth Israel, and Pacific Youth Choir will join forces to present a concert of choral music entitled The Road Home: Songs of Belonging, Safety, and Hope at Congregation Beth Israel, Saturday, Oct. 14, 7-9 pm. Featuring music from composers Stephen Paulus, Leonard Bernstein, Ben Steinberg, Shawn Kirchner, Susan LaBarr, Jake Runestad, and PYC's new artistic director Christopher Maunu. The ecumenical program will draw on themes of physical and mental safety; the immigrant experience; and mutual efforts to care for all members of the human family. Free; donations encouraged. All proceeds raised will be equally shared between the represented organizations: Family Promise, NW Pilot Project, WeShine, and Profile Theatre. For more information, email [tracy@bethisrael-pdx.org](mailto:tracy@bethisrael-pdx.org).

## Oct. 15: JGSO presents Digging into Finding Aids

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon invites you, your family and friends to its upcoming program via Zoom Sunday, Oct. 15 at 10:30 am. Genealogists use all kinds of tools to help with their genealogy research. One of the best tools to understand and use when working with manuscript collections is a finding aid. Archivists develop

finding aids to help researchers navigate through manuscript collections to find information. This presentation will help genealogists read, follow, and use finding aids to discover their ancestors in archives. For more information or to register, visit [sites.rootsweb.com/~orjgs/index.html](https://sites.rootsweb.com/~orjgs/index.html).

## Oct. 16: Healing Perspectives

Hear a panel of Portland State University student leaders talk about their Israeli experience on their 10-day fact finding mission Monday, Oct. 16, 7 pm at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Explore how they will utilize their new perspectives to impact the campus climate. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions. Sponsored by Congregation Neveh Shalom's Israel360 and PDX Hillel. For more information, visit <https://nevehshalom.org/israel360/>.

## Oct. 17: Wondering Jews Podcast

Portland-based co-hosts Josh and Roy drop a new podcast Tuesdays, 6 am every two weeks, focusing on Jews and cannabis. [wonderingjewspodcast.com](http://wonderingjewspodcast.com)

## Oct. 20: Chronic Pain & Mental Health

Jewish Family & Child Service offers Mental Health Spotlight Friday, Oct. 20, 10 am on Zoom to shine a light on areas where all people – children through older adults, including self-identified disabled members of our community – struggle and can seek help. Mental Health Spotlight's goal is community outreach and providing pertinent information about topics our clinicians are tuned in to through their client work. Mental Health Spotlight is not one-on-one therapy. It offers groups, workshops and presentations — spaces for anyone in the community to connect with others and share what's on their mind. For more information or to register, visit [jfcs-portland.org/services/counseling/mental-health-spotlight](http://jfcs-portland.org/services/counseling/mental-health-spotlight).