The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Gala drew a sold-out crowd of 365 people to celebrate 100 years of the vibrancy, depth and breadth of programs and institutions that connect our community. The Gala raised more than $870,000 for the 2023 Campaign for Community Needs. See story and more photos on pages 10-11. Photo by Andie Petkus Photography.

Community study to begin

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, in partnership with the Lane County Jewish Federation, is sponsoring a population study of the Jewish community of Greater Portland, including Southwest Washington, the Willamette Valley and Lane County.

Studies such as this are conducted by Jewish communities all over the United States to estimate the size and characteristics of the local Jewish community and to assist Jewish communal organizations in making well-informed, data-driven decisions for the benefit of the entire community. The study will be conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University, one of the leading social science research centers in the world that focuses on contemporary Jewish life.

The last community study in Portland was conducted in 2008-2009, when the community was estimated to include more than 36,000 Jewish individuals.

“We know the community has experienced growth and change in the past 14 years, and we look forward to learning what the new study tells us,” says Caron Blau Rothstein, JFGP Chief Allocations & Engagement Officer.

Beginning in late October, you may be contacted by the Cohen Center or their research partners at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Survey Center and invited to complete a survey. If you were chosen at random to participate in the study, you may receive letters, phone calls and/or emails from the Cohen Center or UNH. If you receive a phone call from UNH at 603-397-0660, a text from 603-397-0765 or an email from Brandeis at noreply@qemailserver.com, it is valid and about the study. Survey responses will be confidential, and findings will be reported only in the aggregate. The more households that participate, the richer the information.

You can read more about the study on the Cohen Center’s website at brandeis.edu/cmjs/community-studies/portland.html

To learn more about participating in the study, please see Cohen Center’s FAQ at brandeis.edu/ssri/communitystudies/faqsurvey.html

If you have questions about the study, contact Caron Blau Rothstein (caron@jewishportland.org) or Professor Matthew Boxer (mboxer@brandeis.edu), who is leading the research team for the study. Results of the study will be available late spring 2023.
Harley Gaber’s large-scale photomontage, which focuses on Germany from the Weimar Republic through World War II, is on display at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

As in his art, Gaber’s life was shaped by opposing forces – love and loss, accolades and discouragement, visibility and invisibility, connections and separations, accomplishments and disappointments. When Harley Gaber ended his life in 2011, his DIE PLAGE photomontage work went into storage in Portland. This installation of DIE PLAGE at OJMCHE is the first public showing of the work since then.

“It provides a fascinating glimpse into the artist, the piece and the questions that underlie it – from nationhood to loyalty, propaganda, perpetrators, displacement, and the role of individuals in the course of history and the plagues of our times,” says guest curator Melissa Martens Yaverbaum. She is the executive director of the Council of American Jewish Museums.

Born in 1943, Gaber was an American-Jewish minimalist composer and visual artist, known for rearranging the language of art and music.

Starting in 1993 through 2002, Gaber worked on DIE PLAGE. Throughout that period, he traveled in Europe and Germany, visited the concentration camps at Buchenwald and Dachau, and photocopied hundreds of images in German archives – depicting the Weimar Republic through the Holocaust. Gaber spent these nine prolific years collaging images into unexpected arrangements and juxtapositions; the resulting 4,200 canvases became DIE PLAGE. OJMCHE is exhibiting about 400 of those pieces.

While DIE PLAGE offers a different perspective on the events surrounding the Holocaust, Gaber did not create it to be solely about the Holocaust. Gaber wrote, “my goal is to show that while the historic trappings of our existence are transitory, the impulses that give rise to them remain constant. The collaged images themselves, with their altered plausibilities, represent the notion that the boundaries we like to believe are immutable are nothing of the sort. It is my hope that the viewers of my work will see the dual nature of what is being depicted. On the one hand, DIE PLAGE is an homage to that period, summoning up the loss of ideas, energy and ultimately human life. DIE PLAGE is also a warning that if and when a culture allows itself to be built on a foundation of silencing individuals and their personally unique thoughts in favor of an expedient collective goal, everyone will be made to suffer. The poet Heine stated it very clearly: ‘Where they burn books, they will soon burn people.’”

The exhibition is funded by Dan Epstein and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation with additional support from the museum’s Arnold and Augusta Newman Photography Fund. DIE PLAGE will be at OJMCHE, 724 NW Davis St., through Jan. 29, 2023. The museum is open 11 am to 4 pm, Wednesday-Sunday. For more information, visit ojmche.org.

Film, talkback explore painful, racist history

Screen the documentary film “Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America,” Oct. 20-24, and then participate in a moderated discussion with the film’s writer and co-producer Jeffery Robinson.

“This film is so powerful,” says JCRC Director Bob Horenstein. “Jeffery is a Harvard-educated Black lawyer who did a great deal of research and learned things about painful parts of our history that he didn’t learn about in school and didn’t know as an adult.”

The film is presented by the Jewish Community Relations Council in partnership with the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, who organized a civil rights mission to Georgia and Alabama last April and a Black/Jewish dialogue starting in November.

“I believe every high school student should be required to watch this film in American history class,” says Horenstein, Director of Community Relations and Public Affairs for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. “We still have a degree of systemic racism in this country, and we need to acknowledge and address the implications of that.”

Horenstein notes that over that past few years, a backlash in some parts of the country has prevented schools from teaching students about America’s white supremacist history.

In the film, Robinson has real conversations with people on the street, including a man he sees waving a Confederate flag at passing cars. In the conversation, the man shares his mistaken belief that slavery had little to do with the Civil War. Robinson also talks with a survivor of the 1921 Black Wall Street Massacre in Tulsa, which few Americans had heard about.

“George Orwell warned us that ‘Who controls the past controls the future,’” says Robinson, the founder and executive director of The Who We Are Project. “A false narrative about the role of white supremacy and anti-Black racism in the United States has led to our failure to make significant, lasting progress on the issue of racial justice. Knowledge can change people’s views, people’s opinions and their behavior.”

See the film’s trailer at thewhoareproject.org/the-film. Register for the screening and talkback with Jeffrey Robinson at tinyurl.com/5aespwyn.

During the filming of “Who We Are,” Jeffery Robinson talks with Stacey Toussaint, who shared her “Slavery and the Underground Railroad Walking Tour,” revealing unknown truths about slavery in New York City and its imprint on centuries of American history. Slavery in New York began in 1626, and by 1793 more than 42% of NYC households enslaved people. Just two streets away from the current New York Stock Exchange, men, women and children were bought and sold in one of the largest “slave markets” in the country.
In-person Israeli folk dancing is back

The Portland area has weekly Israeli folk dance sessions Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays.

Whether you haven’t danced in a while (think summer camp or your college days) or want to try something new in the new year, Portland Israeli Folk Dancing has it all covered. Each week, dozens of dancers come together for camaraderie, exercise and the joy of dance.

There is beginner and intermediate instruction along with circle, line and partner dances.

Current sessions include:
- Sunday afternoons, 12-2:30 pm, outdoors at the Multnomah Arts Center (7688 SW Capitol Hwy. in Portland) with Rhona Feldman.
- Monday evenings, 7-10 pm, indoors at Leedy Grange (835 NW Saltzman Road in Cedar Mill) with Sue Wendel and Donna Cole.
- Thursday evenings, 7-10 pm, indoors in Burlingame (8936 SW 17th Ave. in Portland) with Allison Victor.

The Israeli folk dance community in Portland has been active for more than 50 years.

“I hear over and over again, from dancers these past few years especially, that coming together to dance (on Zoom and in person, even masked) is a highlight of their week,” says Sue Wendel, session leader on Mondays. “And now we are looking to bring in past and new dancers to continue and grow this wonderful and fun tradition.”

All sessions comply with Oregon Health Authority and CDC guidelines. Requirements regarding vaccination and masking vary from session to session and depend on the status of Covid. Dancers are asked to stay home if they don’t feel well. Ventilation, safety and health of dancers are top priorities.

Visit Facebook “Israeli Folk Dancing in Portland, OR” for news and information. Visit sites.google.com/site/pifdnews for details. For questions, contact Sue Wendel at pifdnews@gmail.com.

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In the coming months, The Jewish Review will feature one of the 18 local beneficiary agencies that received allocations from Jewish Federation of Greater Portland’s 2022 Annual Campaign.

Cedar Sinai Park

Service Area: Jewish Elder Care
cedarsinaipark.org | 503-535-4300
2022 Allocation: $191,000
Mission: Cedar Sinai Park’s mission is to provide residential and community-based care to our elders and adults with special needs, allowing them to live with comfort, independence and dignity in a manner and in an environment based on Jewish values.

Cedar Sinai Park’s nimble response to another year of Covid gives leadership an optimistic outlook for the future.

“The Jewish community, of which the Jewish Federation is a key part, was more supportive than ever, which is not only humbling but offers a quiet force that is a huge differentiator for our organization,” says Kimberly Fuson, CEO, Cedar Sinai Park.

As it continues to evolve and improve, the elder care campus is poised for a sustainable future. The agency is developing a focused and engaging workforce recruitment and retention strategy. Leadership continues to focus on a culture of community where individuals seek to work and live.

“Cedar Sinai Park is a community where those who live and work can continue to grow and learn – a place that encourages being your best self,” says Fuson. “We are a community where opportunities to create new goals and try new experiences abound. We are blessed with a deeply dedicated board of trustees, volunteers and supporters. Our staff are our lifeblood, and it is through their devotion we bring life, joy and love. The real work comes not just from your head, but from your heart and soul.”

The senior living campus has volunteer opportunities seven days a week, year around. Volunteers can share their talents and passions to offer activities such as art, music, gardening and cooking or can visit residents or bring their pets for visits. The campus is developing a Saturday volunteer program to bring in extra joy for Shabbat. To volunteer, contact Volunteer Coordinator Kim Hughes at 503-535-4005.

Secure Community Network’s Regional Security Advisor Jessica Anderson will offer free in-person and online safety training programs this fall.

Stop the Bleed will be offered in person at the Eastside Jewish Commons and Mittleman Jewish Community Center. The other two programs, BeAware: Introduction to Situational Awareness and Countering Active Threat Training, will be available online.

Anderson compares safety training to using seatbelts and sunscreen.

“We have habits and patterns we adopt every day just in CASE something happens,” she says. “For me, it’s all about making a little file folder in the brain for crisis response, and if it happens, your brain has that folder to go to for reference – it speeds up your reaction time.”

In Stop the Bleed, participants gain the ability to recognize life-threatening bleeding and intervene effectively. Stop the Bleed is a national program, like Red Cross First Aid and CPR, designed to train non-first responders how to stop potentially fatal bleeding.

The number one cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding. This means that the person next to a bleeding victim is the one who is most likely to save them until advanced care arrives.

“The training is relevant to all aspects of our lives,” says Anderson. “I think about it in relation to engaging in outdoor recreation, household accidents, hunting or arriving upon the scene of a car accident.”

Attendees will learn three easy concepts and be able to practice them and learn how to use a tourniquet on themselves and others.

Anderson says participants in past classes have told her they appreciated the information and enjoyed the hands-on portion. At in-person classes, participants are able to identify their personal capacity to assist another person and learn modifications if they need them.

The class will be offered 7-8 pm, Oct. 26, at the EJC and 7-8 pm, Dec. 6, at the MJCC.

Anderson says that past offerings of the two online courses have had good attendance.

BeAware: Introduction to Situational Awareness will be on Zoom Nov. 8 and Dec. 13.

“Situational awareness is very self-reflective in that each person has to learn how to evaluate themselves for the degree of situational awareness they innately have – everyone is different,” she says.

“But it’s possible to learn how to be more observant and tuned in, all without feeling like you’re living life with your head on a swivel.”

Countering Active Threat Training will be on Zoom Nov. 29 and Dec. 13.

“CATT is a great course for learning how to react when something immediate and alarming happens, and you want to get out of wherever you are,” she says. “It doesn’t have to be a worst-case scenario, but it will help participants understand how their body will react, teaches them options for moving out of a situation, and teaches them how to do that faster and quicker than if they have to try to come up with solutions to a situation at the moment.”

Secure Community Network is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. The local position is funded via a four-way partnership of SCN, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Endowment Fund and contributions from 17 different Jewish organizations across the region.

For more information and to register for any of the courses, visit jewishportland.org/events/security-training. For questions, email Anderson at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org.

Residents in Cedar Sinai Park’s Harold Schnitzer Center for Living, like Marion, enjoy enriching activities that boost mental and physical health and give life purpose.
REGISTRATION CLOSES OCTOBER 31
REGISTER TODAY!

The Jewish Federation is excited to officially open registration for our rescheduled Centennial Trip to Israel! It’s a special year for Israel...its 75th anniversary...and we’ll be there to celebrate!

We have developed a fantastic itinerary that will include experiences planned for 2020 and some new/different ones, as well.

The opportunity for participating in a group b’nai mitzvah is available. See the 2023 Trip website for the draft itinerary and registration.

Priscilla & Tony Kostiner and
Kathy Davis-Weiner & Michael Weiner
Israel 2023 Co-Chairs

www.jewishportland.org/israel2023
Oct. 13: Living Indefinitely in a Sukkah
Congregation Beth Israel invites the community to join special guests from Street Roots in the sukkah (1972 NW Flanders St.) for a discussion about homelessness in our community. “Unsheltered: Living Indefinitely in a Sukkah” begins at 1 pm, Oct. 13. Hear from Street Roots Deputy Director Andrew Hogan, who will discuss the causes, effects and solutions around homelessness. Street Roots vendors of Jewish heritage will share their personal experiences of been unsheltered. Ask questions about this challenging issue and engage in dialogue about what we can do to help. Lunch/refreshments/snack will be served.
Please RSVP to tracy@bethisrael-pdx.org.

Oct. 14: Young Adult Sukkah Shabbat
Moishe House invites young adults to celebrate Sukkot and Shabbat in their sukkah, 6-9 pm, Friday, Oct. 14.
Come eat a nice meal under the sukkah. Enjoy pizza and popcorn and settle down around the sukkah to watch a Jewish horror movie.
Feel free to bring pillows, blankets, snacks to share (or not share).
Text 503-908-3394 to RSVP and for location.

Oct. 23: "Year that Broke the Supreme Court"
Pulitzer Prize winner and Supreme Court expert Linda Greenhouse will speak about “The Year that Broke the Supreme Court” at this year’s Oseran Lecture at Congregation Beth Israel.
Greenhouse is the featured speaker at the 2022 Oseran Family Lecture on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 4 pm at CBI’s main sanctuary (1972 NW Flanders St., Portland). No RSVP is necessary for this free lecture.
For almost 30 years, Linda Greenhouse reported on the Supreme Court for the New York Times and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1998 for that reporting.
Greenhouse teaches at Yale Law School and has written numerous acclaimed books on the court. They include The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction; Becoming Justice Blackmun; Justice on the Brink: The Death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg; The Rise of Amy Coney Barrett, and Twelve Months That Transformed the Supreme Court; and The Burger Court and the Rise of the Judicial Right (with Michael J. Graetz).
This series brings nationally renowned speakers to address the Portland community at Congregation Beth Israel. Previous lecturers have included Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Robert Reich, E.J. Dionne and Bryan Stevenson. For details, call CBI at 503-222-1069.

Oct. 23: NYC Jewish genealogy research
The Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon presents a New York City Insider’s Guide to Research featuring Steve Harris at 10:30 am, Oct. 23, on Zoom. Harris is a consulting genealogist with extensive experience assisting clients with their family histories. Born in Brooklyn, he has deep roots in New York City but now lives in California. He is a past president of the California Genealogical Society and is on the San Francisco Bay Area JGS board.
The program is free. All JGSO Zoom meetings feature closed captioning. Register at tinyurl.com/mr83y23n.

Oct. 26: AG Rosenblum speaks at OJCF lunch
Oregon Attorney General Ellen F. Rosenblum will join the OJCF Professional Advisors Group for a lunch program Oct. 26.
The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation PAG lunch will begin with networking at 11:30 am at the Hilton Downtown Portland. Complimentary lunch and the program will be from noon to 1:30 pm. Rosenblum will discuss areas of priority for the Oregon Department of Justice.
A former federal prosecutor and state trial and appellate judge, Rosenblum was first elected to a four-year term as Oregon’s 17th Attorney General in November 2012. She was re-elected to a second term in 2016 and to a third term in 2020. She is the first woman to serve as Oregon’s Attorney General.
Her priorities include consumer protection and civil rights – advocating for and protecting Oregon’s children, seniors, immigrants, crime victims and those saddled with education-related debt. Chaired by Walker Clark and Lindsay Krivosha, OJCF’s Professional Advisors Group comprises professional advisors in various legal and financial fields who support the mission to build and promote a culture of giving in Oregon and Southwest Washington that supports a thriving Jewish community.
There is no fee for this in-person event. OJCF will apply for CLE and CPE credits. Email Noah Rosenberg at noahro@ojcf.org to RSVP by Oct. 19.

Oct. 26: Israel’s first Druze shlicha on Zoom
“My unique story as a Druze emissary in the rich mosaic of Israeli society” will be the topic of a noon, Oct. 26, Lunch and Learn program on Zoom.
Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh is a shlicha of The Jewish Agency for Israel at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. In April 2019, Kamal-Mreeh was elected to the Knesset as a member of the Blue and White party, making history as the first Druze woman to become a member of the Knesset.
Previously, she worked for the Israeli Broadcasting Corporation, where she hosted a program in Arabic focusing on the social and cultural issues concerning Arab youth in Israel.
The free program is hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.
“Gadeer is an incredible representative of Israel to the Jewish people,” says JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner, who heard her speak at the JPRO conference earlier this year. “She epitomizes the openness in Israel to all her citizens.” To receive the Zoom link, register at tinyurl.com/vvttf4wr.

Oct. 27: Israel360: One Immigrant’s Experience
Congregation Neveh Shalom Executive Director Fred Rothstein will share his family’s experience in moving to Israel as new immigrants in 1995.
This program is presented by Israel360, a series that considers many aspects of Israel from diverse viewpoints. It will be at 7 pm, Oct. 27, in Neveh Shalom’s Stampsler Chapel, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane. Register at nevehshalom.org/israel360/.
Learn to disagree constructively

In the current political climate, most people concur that civil discourse has deteriorated to an extent that endangers democratic government. We are unable to listen to one another, let alone understand each other. We have progressively tuned in to the exclusive echoes of our own silos.

Is it possible to find the courage to productively engage those with whom we disagree? Can text study of Biblical stories and their diverse interpretations empower us to engage more constructively in disagreements today?

Emily Simon and Dr. Sharon Pollin are both graduates of the Pardes Institute's Mahloket Matters program. They recently spent eight weeks learning from classic and contemporary Jewish texts to engage productively in conflict conversations “for the sake of Heaven.”

“Our Jewish tradition has long recognized that there are both constructive and destructive ways to express differences, mahloket,” says Pollin. “The Pardes program taught us that there is a way to engage constructively across differences by examining our traditional and contemporary texts in the format of the traditional beit midrash (study hall). And, by learning how to disagree respectfully over Jewish texts, we can use this model to shine a light on problems that we face in our society today and to facilitate civil discourse.”

According to Emily Simon, “the power of ‘the beit midrash way,’ sitting respectfully with one another and really being open to intent listening and understanding, yields amazingly rich and productive conversations. The contradictory nuances of our texts, along with diverse opinions from the group, demonstrate how we can engage more constructively in all kinds of debates, especially including those that are polarized politically and ideologically.”

Pollin and Simon are excited to share the Mahloket Matters curriculum with the Portland and Ashland Jewish communities. They will be team teaching a five-week class Sundays, 3:30-5 pm, Oct. 23 until Nov. 20. The Portland group will meet in person with Dr. Pollin in Portland at the Eastside Jewish Commons, and the Ashland group will meet in person with Ms. Simon at Temple Emek Shalom. With the magic of technology, they will present shared simultaneous robust class offerings even though the two groups will be approximately 300 miles apart.

An introduction to the Rabbinc Concepts of the Beit Midrash Way starts the program. The curriculum will continue with:
• **Meet or Refuse to Meet?** From Korah and Moses to Political Adversaries Today
• **Fear War or Trust Peace?** From Jacob and Esau through Chamberlain and Menachem Begin to Today
• **Xenophobia or National Security?** From Pharaoh and the Israelites through Japanese Internment to Today
• **“Fake News” or Uncovering the Truth?** From Joseph and his brothers through Jefferson and Hamilton to Today.

Cost for five-session class is $36. Register for the Portland group at [tinyurl.com/ms8v8c9m](http://tinyurl.com/ms8v8c9m).

For the Ashland group, email Emily Simon at esimonesq@gmail.com.

After 2-year hiatus, Celebration of Art returns

ORA Northwest Jewish Artists will once again sponsor the Celebration of Art after a two-year pandemic hiatus. The Celebration of Art will take place at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, OR 97219.

Twenty-two ORA artists will show and sell their work 7-8 pm, Saturday, Oct. 29, and 10 am-4 pm, Sunday, Oct. 30. Artwork will include paintings, drawings, jewelry, glass, fiber arts – wearable and decorative, pottery, sculpture, woodturning and photography.

ORA is a group of Jewish artists in Portland who create opportunities to exhibit members’ works of art, conduct educational workshops and strengthen our community through shared experiences.

For more information, visit [northwestjewishartists.org](http://northwestjewishartists.org).

Left: Painting of a girl by Edith Crever, a senior in high school.
Right: Necklace by Victoria Epstein is called Counterweight.

JFCS urges ‘Planning Ahead’

Jewish Family & Child Service believes in the importance of anticipating the future and invites you to do the same.

On Friday, Oct. 28, JFCS presents “Planning Ahead: A Jewish Imperative to Plan for the Unmentionables” by Jerry Cohen, JD, MPA.

Cohen is a retired attorney and immediate-past state director for AARP Oregon. The free morning session—from 10 to 11:30 am at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center—focuses on end-of-life planning, specifically on Advanced Directives. These crucial documents provide information to care providers and loved ones about specific, personal wishes. There will be time for Q&A, and refreshments will be served.

Cohen says his workshop breaks down and uses language that the “nonexperts” among us can understand to demystify the process of “developing plans for loss of mental capacity or end of life.”

“From a Jewish ethical perspective, it’s imperative to plan ahead for one’s family and to express in advance one’s personal wishes,” he says. “I expect attendees to leave with a better understanding of advanced planning and with the motivation to begin or revisit the next steps to develop and implement such plans. I hope people will take action because of this workshop — for themselves and their loved ones.”

Missy Fry, LCSW, CAGCS, who is JFCS’ behavioral health social worker, invited Cohen to present the program.

“By offering this workshop, we hope to promote empowerment and choice, particularly during a time when one has the potential to feel powerless,” says Fry.

This opportunity is thanks to generous funding provided by Jewish Federations of North America. Reservations are not required. For questions, email missyfry@jfcs-portland.org.
PDX Hillel's newest staff members, Maddie Herrup (left) and Linoy Yechieli (right), staff a booth at Lewis & Clark College to welcome Jewish students to campus.

**PDX Hillel gains Israel and social justice fellows**

Greater Portland Hillel has two new staff members for the 2022-23 school year – a social justice intern and an Israel fellow/shlicha (emissary).

Maddie Herrup is the Springboard Social Justice Fellow for PDX Hillel. Linoy Yechieli arrived in Portland in August to serve as the Jewish Agency for Israel Fellow.

“Even though Maddie and Linoy have only been in Portland for a short time, they have already made such a huge impact on our campus communities,” says PDX Hillel Executive Director Hannah Sherman.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Maddie recently graduated from Brandeis University in Boston, where she studied anthropology and public health.

Prior to coming to PDX Hillel, she worked as a student intern at Diller Teen Fellows in Boston. A focus of her social justice work is mental health advocacy and incorporating mindfulness and contemplative practices (such as meditation and prayer) into her work. Her intention is to bring this to every interaction she has in her work and to uplift others in their identities and in their Judaism.

“Maddie’s passion for and expertise in wellness will allow us to support students in their mental health journeys, something so crucial in the face of the mental health crisis today,” says Hannah.

Linoy Yechieli grew up in Kiryat Shmona, a small city in the north of Israel.

Since she bought her first guitar, she has been writing songs and performing her original music. In 2016, she graduated from the Open University with a B.A. in psychology and music. She attended Levinsky College of Education, graduating with an M.A. in music therapy in 2018.

For the past five years, she has been working in the music and music therapy fields with diverse populations of different ages, developing projects to encourage inclusion and social equality in Israel. At PDX Hillel, she wants to inspire students’ lifelong connections to the people and the land of Israel.

“Linoy brings her passion for relationship-based engagement to everything she does, and this work will allow us to build bridges to other faith and cultural groups, creating new partnerships for a thriving pro-Israel community on our campuses,” says Hannah.

Since 2008, PDX Hillel has been serving Jewish students on Greater Portland’s college campuses. This fall, PDX Hillel has already engaged more Portland-area Jewish college students than ever before, an increase of 10% over the record-breaking numbers from the same time last year.

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**Ex-Portlander creates fun film during Covid Premiere in Charlie Chaplain Theatre very fitting for “Ain’t We Got Fun”**

When he was growing up in Portland, David Alan Ruben loved watching Marx Brothers comedies and other classic films.

“I have always enjoyed comedies with an extra dose of controlled madness,” he says. “When you watch a 1930s comedy, the timing feels like a well-oiled vaudeville act. The dialogue, sight gags, pratfalls, tap routines … are all timed to precision.”

The son of Danny Ruben and Kellie Kaplom, he graduated from Tigard High School before earning a bachelor’s degree in music theater from Illinois Wesleyan University. He worked at Portland’s Tin Pan Alley Theatre Company and then moved to Los Angeles in 2010 to pursue his passion to work in film.

He returns to Portland several times a year to see family and to attend Kol Nidre services at Congregation Beth Israel.

In 2020, he was in southern Oregon directing a big budget feature film when Covid shut down the production.

Back in L.A., with lots of actors and production crew with nothing to do, Ruben, Kathy Rich-McFarland and Jon Tosetti decided to “play” and create something.

“It exploded in a good way,” says Ruben.

Repertee Pictures produced the 1930s-style musical comedy “Ain’t We Got Fun,” which had earned 24 film festival laurels by Oct. 4. Adler & Associated Entertainment acquired worldwide rights to the film and presented the industry premiere Sept. 8 at the Charlie Chaplin Theatre at Raleigh Studios. It should be released in spring 2023, likely in indie theaters or streaming.

The film was shot over 16 days in what Ruben calls “Film Boot Camp.” The 10 principal actors and crew all tested negative and then sequestered themselves at the cabin where the film was shot. Food delivery was the only thing that came onto the sequestered set during shooting. Crowd scenes were shot in L.A. at the end of production.

The film is shot in black and white and features nine Tin Pan Alley songs that were in the public domain.

“We tried to use songs that weren’t famous, so it would feel like they were written for the movie,” says Ruben. He believes only the title song, “Ain’t We Got Fun,” will be recognized by most people.

The madcap film features a film producer who discovers he produced the wrong film. When the unions want it shut down and investors want it released, he flees with the final reel to a cabin.

“Chaos ensues,” says Ruben, noting gangsters, prostitutes and other oddball characters pursue him to the woods. “It’s as silly and fun as it sounds. … We just made it to entertain people. I feel we need that today. It’s good, clean fun with a bunch of Yiddish words thrown in.”

Ruben hopes to arrange a screening in Portland next year. Until then, you can see a trailer for the film at [youtu.be/yyu_5RBkIZU](https://youtu.be/yyu_5RBkIZU).
Bees & Brews raise funds for JFCS Disability Support Services

Just prior to Rosh Hashanah, Jewish Family & Child Service held Bees & Brews, a fundraising event benefiting JFCS’ Disability Support Services. Nearly 100 people of all ages – including DSS clients – came to Leikam Brewing for a great evening of nosh, kosher beer, spirits, honey tasting, live music, an art auction and community. Special features included a video about DSS and the opportunity to thank Janet Menashe, who is retiring after seven years of dedication to JFCS and its DSS family. Shayna Sigman, DSS manager, expressed gratitude for every person who joined JFCS to support disability work in our community.

“We all had a terrific time, connecting with new people and also gathering in person with longtime clients and supporters,” she said.

DSS exceeded its fundraising goal, thanks to Bees & Brews attendees and generous event sponsors: Gloria Bacharach Family Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, Rabbi Michael and Cantor Ida Rae Cahana, Rabbi Daniel and Carol Isaak, Esther and Albert Menashe, and Corinne and Larry Spiegel.

For more information about DSS, visit jfcs-portland.org/disability-support-services.

Jewish Movie in the Park celebrates Jewish culture

When Chabad Young Professionals/Chabad Northwest partnered with the city’s Summer Free for All program to produce Jewish Movie in the Park, some 350 people of all ages turned out.

“The goal of the event was to bring people together for a fun, relaxing Jewish-themed evening in an outdoor public setting – to celebrate Jewish life and culture openly and proudly,” says Sheina Posner, who leads CYP/Chabad NW with her husband Rabbi Meir Posner.

Before moving to Portland in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic, Sheina worked at the New York headquarters of Chabad Young Professionals International.

“On the East Coast, you’ll know somebody is Jewish in 10 to 20 minutes of conversation,” says Sheina. “(Here) it doesn’t come up unless you ask … it’s not that strong identity that comes up right away.”

After talking to people in the crowd, Sheina says she estimated about half of them were Jewish. Of the half who weren’t Jewish, she says about half told her they didn’t know anyone who is Jewish.

“Maybe they just don’t know that they (their friends) are (Jewish) because it doesn’t come up,” says Sheina. “We need to be diverse. We need to show our diversity. For me, it’s really important to bring up that awareness.”

The Posners continue to seek ways to reach out to young Jewish professionals and those who live in Northwest Portland. Sheina wants to connect with individuals and organizations to collaborate on making Portland a place people can feel safe and proud to be a Jew.

“Portland is a very nonreligious city in general,” says Sheina. “The people that come to us aren’t religious. … We want them to have the knowledge that there are Jewish things happening, and you can come be a part of it proudly.”

For information on upcoming events or to get involved with CYP/Chabad NW, visit pdxcyp.org or call 503-583-2025.
Gala celebrates past, present and future

“All of you here ensure the vibrancy of Jewish Portland,” said Jewish Federation of Greater Portland President and CEO Marc Blattner as he welcomed nearly 400 people who were “finally able to come together to celebrate Federation’s 100th birthday … as we begin our next century.”

L’Chaim Gala Chair Ed Tonkin said when planning began in 2019, they knew the second century would look different from the first.

“Our community thrived under duress,” said Tonkin, noting a strong Jewish Federation ensures a vibrant Jewish community. “It’s not the first time we have overcome challenges … Together, we will continue overcoming challenges.”

JFGP Chief Development Officer Wendy Kahn introduced a video reminiscing on Federation's 100 years of vibrancy, depth and breadth. “There are so many programs, institutions, places and opportunities for individuals and families to connect Jewishly … and the Jewish Federation proudly continues to convene and connect the community through our capacity to raise and allocate funds and provide leadership for the community.”

Trevor Bryant, a young adult who moved to Portland three years ago, said that is exactly why he supports the Jewish Federation. “I’ve always been very involved in the Jewish community … but when I think of who works for everyone, I think of the Federation.”

Add your support for the community at jewishportland.org/campaign-for-community-needs.

CALL & RESPONSE – At left, JFGP Campaign Chair Jess Hilbert, President and CEO Marc Blattner, and Board Chair Mindy Zeitzer took turns at the podium to call on the community to celebrate the past and support the future. Below, attendees responded by making their commitment to the 2023 Annual Campaign for Community Needs raising more than $870,000.
Time to Party!

The dance floor was a hopping place for two hours as Patrick Lamb & The Hit Factory played popular hits that got all ages moving.

SPECIAL MOMENTS – It was a wonderful evening for couples, families and friends to celebrate together as part of a community.

KEEPSAKES – Gala attendees could visit the photo booth for a souvenir portrait to remember the elegant evening.

JEWISH FEDERATION TEAM – The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland staff worked hard to create a successful gala and then enjoyed the elegant evening to celebrate Federation’s first century and move forward to the next hundred years.
Chaplain's Corner

Sukkot’s call to be grateful

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

We can all be grateful for something in our lives, despite the daily challenges we face, despite our ongoing stresses, strains and worries. Judaism devotes an entire holiday to the value of gratitude with Sukkot, which immediately follows the High Holidays.

With Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, I hope we took advantage of this annual opportunity for self-reflection and renewal. I hope that we are looking forward with optimism to the year that will be and have clear goals of what we plan to experience and accomplish, how we want to grow, how we plan to heal.

Celebrating Sukkot is a wonderful opportunity to take our first healthy steps in the New Year. It began the evening of Oct. 9 and ends the evening of Oct. 16. Sukkot emphasizes the value of gratitude, a value that often gets lost in our busy, rushed, high-pressure lives.

We can feel gratitude by viewing our reality in proper perspective. Here’s an example of how I have inadvertently experienced gratitude: Every so often, I have to take my high-school-aged son and daughter to doctors’ appointments, often followed by trips to the pharmacy. I learned that if we ever want to see pain, suffering, frustration, anger, disappointment or discouragement, go to the waiting room of doctors’ offices or stand in line at a pharmacy. Pay attention to everyone around us. Listen to their words and the tone of their voices. Notice the nuances of their body language. Then compare what they are feeling to whatever we are feeling.

These experiences have placed my concerns in perspective, and as a result, I felt gratitude for what was good in my life rather than over-emphasizing what I believed was going wrong.

This lesson is captured in one of Judaism’s many stories that have been handed down through the generations. The story takes place in a school when the students were complaining to the teacher about all of their problems. The teacher decided to give them a homework assignment. She instructed them to go home and put all of their troubles into a bag and then bring that bag to school tomorrow morning.

The next day, the teacher asked the students to walk around the room and look inside their classmates’ bags to see their troubles. After a few minutes, she had them to return to their seats. Then she asked a simple question: “Who wants to trade their bag of troubles with any of their classmates’ bag of troubles?”

None of the students wanted to trade.

We may think our bag of troubles is too heavy, too cumbersome or even at times overwhelming. But most of us have no idea what other people are truly going through with their own bag of troubles.

When we place our experience in the context of other people’s experience, our bag of troubles gets a little lighter and a little easier to carry. When we talk about our bag of troubles with a family member, a trusted friend or a counselor, we obtain the skills we need to know when to carry our bag of troubles, when to put it down and when occasionally to air it out and empty part of it.

Please know that I am not saying that our problems are illegitimate or inauthentic. I share this story because it teaches that all of us have stresses, challenges and problems. Our goal is to keep them in perspective and not allow them to overwhelm us. Knowing that everyone is struggling with their own bag of troubles can make our bag easier to carry.

But more importantly, knowing that we all have a bag of troubles reminds us that we also have a treasure trove of gratitude. These sources of gratitude can balance out our bag of troubles. I bet if we try hard enough, we can find we have more items in our treasure trove of gratitude than in our bag of troubles.

I close with words from Mishkan Hanefesh, the Reform Movement’s High Holiday prayer book: Have I grown during the past year in my ability to experience and express gratitude? Am I consistent in expressing gratitude to loved ones and friends? Do I look for things to feel grateful for – or things to complain about? Do I feel appreciated by others? What have I done during the past year that has earned someone else’s gratitude?

Let us all use the holiday of Sukkot to answer these personal questions and to improve our quality of life in the coming year. Hag Sukkot Sameach!

Rabbi Barry Cohen

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

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

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Climate Corner:

**Fall gardening for winter prep**

BY SARA SAFDIE

Autumn is a difficult time for me in my garden. I look at the squash plants, now desperately putting out their last remnants, the still-green tomatoes, the last of the strawberries and all the browning flower seedheads. I’m thankful for the abundance yet sorry to see it go.

This is also the end of the shmita year, the once-every-seven years of rest for the land, so it’s appropriate to think of things to do to help our gardens rest productively for the long winter ahead. Here are some suggestions for “winterizing” gardens and yards.

• Let the fallen leaves lie. Autumn leaves provide food for soil and cover for beneficial hibernating insects. Sweep walkways clear, but do not put leaves into yard waste bins. If you want a tidier look, you can shred them and stew them around your yard. In any case, do not use leaf blowers, because they produce both noise and climate-changing pollutants.

• Resist the urge to deadhead flowers. I know they look ugly, but they are immensely important for the winter. Because of my constant battle with squirrels, I had to give up using a birdfeeder, but spent flower heads provide sustenance for birds – not squirrels or rats – when food is less abundant. I have seen a variety of birds come and peck at these seed heads over the winter months. They clean up the seed heads and perhaps help increase the flowers’ spread in the spring. Feel free, however, to cut back the hips from rose bushes, as they will put their energy into the hips rather than maintaining the overall health of the bush.

• Plant winter crops. Now is still a great time, especially since it’s been much longer than usual, to plant cover crops like fava beans. Favas won’t grow much over the winter, but you’ll have a head start on this delicious spring crop. Not only are they tasty, they add vital nitrogen to the soil. You can also put in hardy crops such as kale and chard and lettuce varieties such as radicchio, arugula and frisée. If you let these go to seed, you’ll never have to plant them again!

• Most important: Never use chemicals! Yes, dandelions will probably survive a nuclear war, but that doesn’t mean we have to fight a chemical war against them. Stay away from herbicides, like RoundUp, that include glyphosate and pesticides that employ neonicotinoids. Not only have they been shown to cause cancer, they kill off valuable pollinators like honeybees and bumblebees. When the runoff enters our waterways, it kills fish and other aquatic animals. There are more environmentally friendly ways to deal with weeds and pests. Two examples are lady bugs, available at garden centers, which will devour aphids, especially from aphid-prone brasicca plants. A cheap stirrup hoe helps eliminate weeds, especially in garden paths.

Happy sustainable gardening!

Sara Safdie has been a member of the Climate Action Committee since its inception in 2020. She taught college writing classes that focused on sustainability. She serves on the board of the Hillsdale Farmers’ Market and, under the auspices of HIAS, is coordinator of the Neveh Shalom Ukrainian Welcome Circle.

We are looking to expand the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland’s Climate Action Committee. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Rachel Nelson at the Jewish Federation (rachel@jewishportland.org).

Genealogy society seeks treasurer

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon is seeking a new treasurer for appointment to the Board of Directors effective January 2023.

JGSO is a small nonprofit with assets of about $6,000 and fewer than 100 financial transactions per year. Treasurer time requirements are minimal using basic financial software and preparing occasional reports to the JGSO Board. The ideal candidate is a person familiar with the genealogical mission of the organization and a firm commitment to accurate financial records. The treasurer must be a current paid member of JGSO.

The treasurer oversees all financial transactions of JGSO.

The current treasurer will be available to orient the new treasurer, transfer records and software (Quicken), and provide any needed training for the position. Prior experience is welcome but is not required. Members of the board receive no compensation.

If interested, please contact JGSO President Janice Sellers or current Treasurer Barry Kast by sending a message to JGSOOregon@gmail.com with “Treasurer” as the subject.

Moishe House has opening for resident

Moishe House PDX is seeking a new resident to move in this fall.

This is an opportunity to help sustain the young Jewish community with a special program budget, enjoy subsidized housing in a central location and foster lasting relationships with the folks you live with.

The Moishe House model supports young adult leaders in their 20s and early 30s, allowing them to create vibrant Jewish communities for themselves and their peers. Moishe House Portland has been supporting the young adult community in the greater Portland area for over a decade!

Email moishehousepdx@gmail.com to inquire.

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**ESTELLE DIAMOND**

Estelle Diamond, z”l, passed away on Oct. 4 in Fort Meyers, Fla., at the age of 93. She is loved and remembered by her nieces, Congregation Neveh Shalom member Nancy Diamond.

**MANFRED LEO “DICK” HEIMANN**

Manfred Leo “Dick” Heimann, z”l, passed away on Sept. 27. He is loved and remembered by his dear wife, Mary Heimann; daughters, Nicole Heimann (Robert) Sacks and Illisa Heimann (Eric) Polis; and grandchildren, Jacob Aaron Sacks, Adina Polis and Kylie Polis. The funeral was held in Las Vegas, Nev., on Oct. 2.

Congregation Neveh Shalom extends our deepest condolences to the extended Heimann/Sacks/Polis family.

**LEA MAE HECHT**

Lea Mae Hecht, z”l, passed away on Sept. 21, 2022, at the age of 93. Lea is survived by her brother, Robert Mesher; daughter, Beverly (Rob) Hecht-Levy; son, Bruce (Anne) Hecht; grandchildren, David (Caity) Abouaf, Michael Abouaf, Aaron Levy (Hailey Poyser), Hailey Hecht and Karley Hecht; and great-grandchildren Aiden Abouaf and Lyla Abouaf. Lea was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Hecht.

Lea was born May 29, 1929.

She was a member of Congregation Beth Israel.

The funeral was held Sept. 23 at Shaarie Torah Cemetery.

Donations in Lea’s memory can be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research.

**DEBORAH LEVY**

Deborah Levy, z”l, passed away on Sept. 15, 2022, in Massachusetts. Deborah is loved and remembered by brothers, Jonathan (Nancy Stone) Levy, members of Portland’s Congregation Neveh Shalom, and David (Kelly) Levy of Washington, D.C.; sister, Judith (Kenneth Rodgers) Yaldatel of Cape Cod, Mass.; a niece; nephews; and cousins.

**WALTER KOTKINS**

Walter Kotkins, z”l, passed away on Sept. 11, 2022, just shy of his 97th birthday. He was the beloved father of Congregation Shaarie Torah’s former president Stephanie Kotkins.

Walter is survived by his children, Steph (Edith), Frederick (Karyn) and Ronald (Eve); grandchildren, Sarah, Naomi, Jimmy, Jasper, Kaylee, Jaclyn, Bryanna, Andrea and David; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Adeline “Sissy” (z”l), brother, Buddy (z”l) and granddaughter, Melinda (z”l).

The funeral was held Sept. 13 at Shaarie Torah Cemetery.

The family requests that remembrances be made to the Shaarie Torah Cemetery Fund.

**WILLIAM ROGOWAY**

William Rogoway, z”l, passed away in early September 2022. He was the father of Congregation Kesser Israel member Ben (Abby) Rogoway.

The funeral was held Sept. 8 at Harbor Lawn Mt. Olive Mortuary and Memorial Park in Costa Mesa, Calif.

**HAL MICHAEL BASS**

Dr. Hal Michael Bass, z”l, passed away on Sept. 4, 2022. He was the father of Kol Ami’s previous rabbi, Rabbi Aviva Bass. Congregation Kol Ami offers condolences to Rabbi Bass, her children and her extended family. Cards may be sent to Rabbi Bass at 10667 Lake Shore Dr., Wellington, FL 33414.

**VICKI WIESE**

Vicki Wiese, z”l, the sister of Congregation Kol Ami member Stacey Segal, passed away early in September 2022.

Vicki had been struggling with cancer, but her death was unexpected. Kol Ami sends condolences to Stacey and Kevin, their children Isaac and Olivia, and their extended family.

**GALINA TAYCHER**

Galina Taycher, z”l, passed away on Aug. 23, 2022. She is survived by her son, Anatoly “Nathan” Taycher, and her grandson, Roman Taycher, both of the Portland area.

Galina Taycher was born on May 13, 1930, in the daughter of electrical engineer Shaul Clayman and his wife, Emma Kurlat, in the sunny and joyous city of Odessa, Ukraine, the Jewish capital of humor on the Black Sea shore. She had a very energetic, outgoing personality and was the height of good company. She liked to sing and dance, played the piano and loved to tell anecdotes. When World War II started, Galina was 11 and was evacuated with her family to Kazakhstan. They spent more than three years there until her city was free of Nazi occupation and they were able to return home.

In 1946, she met her husband, Semyon, and they spent the next 71 years together until his death. After the war, there were feelings of peace, happiness and a better life despite all of the obstacles they had to face. Galina became a pediatrician and specialized in children’s neurology, treating birth traumas and kids with cerebral palsy. She worked over 30 years at the same clinic and had the highest qualifications in her area of expertise. She lived in SW Portland for the past 28 years. The family attended Congregation Neveh Shalom. She would always make sure you had enough or more than enough to eat when you visited.

She is buried at the Ahavai Shalom cemetery next to her husband (who died almost exactly five years before she did).

**SANDRA LANDSKRONER**

Sandra Landskroner, z”l, passed away on June 21, 2022, at the Vancouver Hospice; she was surrounded by her loving sons, Kevin and Kyle; grandson, Max; and sister and brother-in-law, Gerri and Mark London.

Sandy was born to Bessie and Maurice Krass in Vancouver, British Columbia. She attended the University of British Columbia and graduated with a B.Ed. She later received her M.Ed. from the University of Oregon. Sandy spent decades teaching in the Portland School District. She specialized in teaching children with dyslexia. An entrepreneur, Sandy built a cookie business called Campus Cookies. Her business was featured in The Oregonian.

Sandra was married to Charles Landskroner (deceased). She moved to Vancouver, where she married Ed Oser.

Sandra is survived by her husband, Ed Oser; sons, Kevin (Staci) and Kyle (Anne) Landskroner; grandson, Max Landskroner; sister Gerri (Mark) London; and nieces and nephews, Dana, David (Rachel), Noah, Gabriel and Aliya London; and many cousins.

The funeral was at Temple Shalom with Rabbi Carey Brown officiating. Burial was at Temple Shalom Cemetery in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The family wishes to thank to the staff at the Weinberg retirement community and the very caring nurses and doctors at the Vancouver Hospice.

**ESTELLE DIAMOND**

Submit obituaries to editor@jewishportland.org.

Obituaries are posted at jewishportland.org/obituaries.org.

[Submit obituaries to editor@jewishportland.org]