

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

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Make a Difference: Volunteer Nov. 13 for Super Sunday

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is recruiting volunteers to make calls from 10 am to noon, Nov. 13, for Virtual Super Sunday. This annual event raises funds for the Jewish Federation's vital work that makes a difference in our local Jewish community, in Israel and around the world.

"Super Sunday is an event I look forward to every year," says Jessica Zutz Hilbert, JFGP's 2023 Campaign Chair. "I have really enjoyed getting to have one-on-one conversations with members of the community to hear about their involvement and priorities. It's also particularly fun to approach the day as a true team effort with so many of us working toward the same goal at the same time."

Super Sunday raises funds for the Federation's Campaign for Community Needs, which supports the network of organizations that make the metro Jewish community vibrant and strong.

"I feel particularly excited about this year, as we can truly begin to put the pandemic behind us and focus on the next incredible 100 years for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland," says Jessica.

For at least half of its 100-year history, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has used phonathons to help fund needed services in the community. For the first time in 2020, Super Sunday was held virtually, a successful format that allows volunteers to participate from the comfort of home. On Nov. 13, volunteers will be on the phones again, reaching out to hundreds of households.

To volunteer and make a big impact on the year ahead, register at jewishportland.org/supersundaynovember13. Volunteers will receive Zoom login and additional event details upon registration.

For questions, contact JFGP Chief Development Officer Wendy Kahn at 503-892-3015 or wendy@jewishportland.org.



Merryweather Birtwhistle skips through the abundant garden in Julia Waco's whimsical acrylic painting.

The Celebration of Art

WHAT: Art show and sale

WHO: 20 ORA Northwest Jewish Artists exhibiting

WHEN: 7-9 pm, Oct. 29, and 10 am-4 pm, Oct. 30

WHERE: Mittleman Jewish Community Center

ORA's light to glow in post-pandemic show

BY DEBORAH MOON

ORA Northwest Jewish Artists are eager to re-engage and share their creations with the community when the Celebration of Art returns to the Mittleman Jewish Community Center this month.

"It is our first big show since the pandemic, and we are so excited to be back," says painter Julia Waco, a longtime member of ORA. "Even if you are

not looking for artwork, it is a truly beautiful exhibition, and it would mean so much to me and our other local artists to share with you our passions and all our exciting new creations. An art show is so much more vibrant and exciting with a crowd."



New ORA member Eileen Millsap made this fused glass hanukiah.

See ART SHOW, page 10

INSIDE

Spotlight on Jewish Family & Child Service – page 2

Candles, candlemaking benefit Dignity Grows – page 2

Sukkot in pictures: Music Fest, meals, building, decorating – pages 4-5

Jewish Family Building Blocks – page 5

Events: Young adult fun, films, concerts, study – pages 6-7

OneTable urges civil discourse at Shabbat dinners – page 7

PNW camps to get JCamp 180 grants – page 7

Jobs Board: BB Camp – page 7

Chaplain's Corner: What Now? – page 8

Cedar Sinai Park is a family tradition for Roberta Wolff – page 9

Engagement: Fischer-Solomon – page 10

Obituary: Bergstein – page 10

Free online subscription:
jewishportland.org/subscribe

Agency Spotlight

Profiles of local beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 2022 Annual Campaign.



Justin Zellinger, a JFCS Board member, and son Matan (now 8) every year help pack Thanksgiving Food Boxes the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It is one of the agency's signature efforts and events. JFCS provides 150 boxes with many meal fixings – to feed about 600 people – to low-income clients, including Holocaust survivors, older adults, people with disabilities and families struggling during a tough time.

JEWISH FAMILY & CHILD SERVICE

Service Area: Social Service: Holocaust Survivor Services, Counseling, Disability Support Services and Community Support (emergency aid)

jfcs-portland.org | 503-226-7079

2022 Allocation: \$182,290

Mission: To improve the quality of life and self-sufficiency of the Jewish and broader communities throughout the Portland metro area in accordance with Jewish values.

On May 18, 2023, “Celebrating Generations” will mark the 75 years JFCS has provided stability and hope. Through the years, JFCS has been very flexible and poised to adapt and respond to community needs.

The pandemic was a challenging time for mental well-being, perhaps especially so for children and teens. This past spring, JFCS hired child and family therapist Laura Cohen, LCSW, to meet the needs of the community's youngest members.

Another service area has evolved at the opposite end of the generational spectrum. Care needs and costs are escalating as Holocaust survivors age. The agency currently serves 60 survivors, whose average age is 85. JFCS is grateful to the Jewish Federation for its increased overall allocation, a significant portion of which supports Holocaust Survivor Services.

“JFCS is dedicated to fulfilling clients’ desire to age with dignity and in place; Federation’s support helps us carry out this mission,” says JFCS Executive Director Ruth Scott. “The majority of (survivor) clients are from the former Soviet Union; 48 percent are from Ukraine. Many people aren’t aware of these survivors’ stories and how they differ from those of survivors from central and western Europe,” she adds, noting many suffered during Germany’s eastern blitz and then behind the Iron Curtain under Stalin.

JFCS is extending its expertise with Ukrainians by collaborating with certified partner organizations to provide for new refugees arriving from Ukraine.

Jewish Federation support also enabled JFCS to hire a volunteer coordinator two years ago. JFCS’ volunteer coordinator educates the community about agency needs and how individuals can help with their gift of time. To learn more, visit jfcsportland.galaxydigital.com.



Leslie Abrams of Yo Soy Candle will host a December fundraiser for Dignity Grows.

Help Dignity Grow with candle creations

Candlemaking is the next event in a series of *Rosh Chodesh* gatherings created to support [Dignity Grows](http://DignityGrows.org)’ mission to end period poverty while offering meaningful, enjoyable experiences for participants.

Dignity Grows provides free hygiene essentials packed in a discrete reusable shoulder bag. Each Dignity Grows tote is filled with a full month’s supply of hygiene products and period necessities. The Portland chapter of Dignity Grows is part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. The JFGP Women’s Philanthropy group hosts the project because it embodies the Jewish values of *tzedakah* (righteousness) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

“Bring Light Into Your Life” at 5 pm, Dec. 4. During the Jewish month of Kislev, the darkest time of the year, let light into your soul and help that flame grow by blending your own custom-scented, intention candle guided by Leslie Abrams, owner of Yo Soy Candle (yosoycandle.com). Attendees will also enjoy heartwarming teas and local chocolates as well as the opportunity to share their intentions and shine a light for each other. The cost is \$60 with \$25 going to Dignity Grows. In addition, 10% of this event’s sales and all December online sales will be donated to Dignity Grows.

“As a Jewish American woman who can relate to what it feels like to be a woman in this day and age, I believe safety, connection, confidence and empowerment are extremely important for our existence, health and well-being,” says Abrams about her decision to donate 10% of her busiest month’s online sales to Dignity Grows. “With the support of our communities and other women, I believe we can empower and lift each other up when the world feels heavy and unsafe.”

Whether you buy candles at the event or purchase them online, Yo Soy Candles make the perfect Chanukah gift and bring light to the fight against period poverty.

Proceeds from the *Rosh Chodesh* events go to purchase the personal and menstrual hygiene products needed to fill Dignity Totes. The totes are distributed by Dignity Grows partners, Transition Projects, Virginia Garcia Health Centers, Outside In, Self-Enhancement, Inc., A Safe Place and Divine Threads.

To register and to see the other *Rosh Chodesh* gatherings, visit jewishportland.org/dignity-grows-event-sign-up.

BORROW

REFER

GUARANTEE

GIVE

Jewish
FREE LOAN

Interest-Free Loans Available

- Adoption/Fertility Treatments
- Car/Home Repairs
- Education (youth & adult)
- Emergency/Crisis Situations
- Israel Experiences
- Jewish Day School/Preschool
- Jewish Summer Camp
- Life Cycle Events
- Medical/Dental Needs
- Senior Services
- Small Business
- Special Needs/Disability Assistance
- Paydown Interest Bearing Debt
- And More...



About Our Loan Program

- No interest or fees on our loans
- Repayment over 36 months
- Must be 18-years-old
- Must be a resident of Oregon or SW Washington for the past 6 months consecutively
- Loans are available to individuals or couples who identify as Jewish or live in a Jewish household
- Application materials are available online or by calling the JFLGP office
- Applications accepted year-round
- One cosigner from outside of the household is required for loans up to \$2,500 and 2 co-signers are required for loans over \$2,500 and up to \$5,000
- Emergency loans are available for housing related expenses up to \$1,500 with no co-signers

Questions?

Please contact us for more information:

(503) 892-7417

ben@jewishportland.org

www.jewishportland.org/freeloan



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PORTLAND



Sukkot from Ashland to Vancouver



Jewish Music Fest PDX



The Jewish Music Fest PDX headlined by the 8th Day band drew several hundred people for a celebration of Jewish culture in downtown Portland Oct. 13. "The Jewish Music Fest on Sukkot was a display of magical community unity and affirmation of strength and resilience," says Rabbi Chayim Mishulovin of the Jewish Oasis. "The year of *Hakel* opening event brought together about 600 people from all parts of the community to the beautiful Pioneer Courthouse Square. The food, special children's entertainment, huge sukkah with a wine bar and of course the 8th Day band made Portland's Living Room alive and bright that night." The event was hosted by the Jewish Oasis, the Chabad House in Portland's city center and the new location for the Everything Jewish store. It was cohosted by the Chabads in Oregon, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Portland Kollel and Congregations Ahavath Achim, Kesser Israel, Neveh Shalom and Shaarie Torah. **AT LEFT:** Rabbi Mishulovin with Noam and Michele Amir-Brownstein enjoy a *l'chaim* at the wine bar in the mega sukkah at the event.

See MORE PHOTOS on next page



Ashland Sukkot stories

Storyteller Devorah Zaslow (above with Stefan Schachter and her grandson Milton Zaslow) tells a Sukkot story to young families in Ashland's Havurah Synagogue sukkah.



Pizza in the MJCC/PJA Sukkah

On Oct. 12, 2022, Mittleman Jewish Community Center and Portland Jewish Academy hosted Pizza in the Hut. Friends young and old gathered in the sukkah for delicious pizza from Century Catering, songs from Shaina Zins and an explanation of the holiday from PJA's Amy Katz. The *lulav* and *etrog* were available for shaking, and it was a wonderful night gathered in community. Throughout Sukkot, an estimated 450+ people visited the sukkah in the MJCC courtyard.



Building *sukkat shalom* at Havurah

David Lewis, center, hands a roof beam up to Joel Bettridge as Harriet Cooke looks on during the Havurah Shalom sukkah build on Oct. 9. The sukkah was enjoyed by Havurah groups such as the Alte Rockers, the Poverty and Homelessness Committee, Shabbat School, Middle School and High School, the Israel/Palestine Committee and the Mah Jongg Group. Truly a *sukkat shalom*.

Sukkah decorating at Shaarie Torah

BELOW: Lots of fun was had as kids and families gathered to decorate the Shaarie Torah sukkah with apples, carrots, paper chains and more!



Building a bigger sukkah in Vancouver

The Congregation Kol Ami Men's Club built a new and expanded sukkah for the Vancouver, Wash., congregation this year. From left are Harvey Zwyer, Mark Wolf, Perry Hooyen, Bob Liberman, Tony Shelton, Todd Berinstein, Julian Levi (chair), Scott Horenstein, Matt Taylor, Barry Finkel, Steve Heffron and Josh Tygiel.



Building Block funds help families access Jewish experiences

To help build a vibrant Jewish future, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland offers several grants, scholarships and free loans to help Jewish families access Jewish experiences.

"Federation is proud to be able to support a broad range of Jewish experiences for families with children from birth through college, including preschool grants, One Happy Camper, trips to Israel, youth group convention funding and college scholarships," says Rachel Nelson, JFGP Director of Educational Initiatives & Associate Director of Community Relations. "These truly are the building blocks of a strong Jewish identity."

Information on all the programs can be found at jewishportland.org/buildingblocks.

Applications are now being accepted for several of the grants, including youth group

convention funding and Chai Israel.

Youth can apply for 18% of the published cost of regional or national (North American-based) youth group conventions (excluding transportation costs). Apply at jewishportland.org/youthgroups.

Originally scheduled to reopen for applications in December, Chai Israel recently resumed accepting applications for funds for teen and college Israel programs. In recognition of the importance of teens having a transformative Israel experience, Federation helps offset the cost of teen Israel travel. Find eligible high school experiences at findyoursummer.org. College and gap year programs can be found at masaisrael.org.

PJ Library is another building block for Jewish families. Families with children ages 6 months to 8 years old can sign up to receive free, age-appropriate books. Each

month, enrolled children get a free Jewish children's book about Jewish holidays, folktales or values such as being kind to others.

PJ Library is a program of the [Harold Grinspoon Foundation](http://HaroldGrinspoonFoundation.org), made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations.

Locally, PJ Library offers special programs where you and your kids can meet new friends, celebrate Jewish holidays and have fun. The monthly e-newsletter and Facebook page share news about local Jewish happenings and broader issues for Jewish parenting. PJ Library is for any family raising Jewish children – affiliated, unaffiliated, interfaith or nontraditional.

For questions about any of the Jewish Federation's building blocks, contact Rachel Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org or call 503-892-7415.

Oct. 27: Craft for a Cause

Join Jewish Family and Child Services and Moishe Pod for a craft night and doing some good from 7-9 pm, Oct. 27, at the Pod. Participants will make holiday cards to put in JFCS' Thanksgiving Boxes being distributed to families in need. Moishe Pod-WestPDX creates and hosts events every month for their Jewish peers in their 20s and early 30s.

RSVP at moishepodwestpdx.com/events.

Oct. 28: Booooozy Bar Crawl

The young residents of Moishe House Portland invite their peers to join a Booooozy Bar Crawl, 8-11 pm, Oct. 28. Has that incredible dinosaur costume been hanging in your closet for a few Halloweens in a row now? This year to celebrate Halloween, we'll be crawling our way through Portland bars to drink and dance the night away. We will start at the house and make our way out from there, so bring some candy and come in costume.

Moishe House is a global nonprofit that builds peer-led Jewish communities for young adults around the world.

Text 503-908-3394 with your name and a favorite costume from your childhood to RSVP.

Oct. 30: Trunk-or-Treat

B'nai B'rith Camp invites families with children in kindergarten through eighth grade to Trunk-Or-Treat in the BB Camp office parking lot from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, Oct 30.

BB Camp's office is located at 6443 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy. Guests should park in the lower parking lot and walk to the upper parking lot for the festivities. Campers will "trunk-or-treat" at various BB Camp stations. The cars will have Halloweeny games, spooky crafts and opportunities to win prizes. Don't forget your costume, trick-or-treat bag and Halloween ruach (spirit).

Free, but please register so there will be enough treats: bbcamp.org/trunk-or-treat. Questions? email aevonuk@bbcamp.org.

Oct. 31: Deadline to register for Israel trip

Registration for the Israel at 75 PDX to Israel 2023 closes Oct. 31. Join the Jewish Federation's trip to Israel March 20-28, 2023, to celebrate the Jewish state's 75th anniversary. If you are interested in joining the community trip, please visit pdxisrael.org.

Nov. 1: "Falling Out of Time" concert

One of Israel's most beloved musicians, Yoni Rechter, will perform in a concert at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in Beaverton at 7:30 pm, Nov. 1.

This special concert presents "Falling Out of Time," a song cycle based on the novel by the Israeli writer and Booker Prize winner David Grossman, composed by the Grammy award-winning Argentinian-Jewish composer Osvaldo Golijov and translated from Hebrew by Jessica Cohen.

Tickets and more information about the concert are available at thereser.org/event/osvaldo-golijov-falling-out-of-time/.

Nov. 3: ShulchanPDX Torah Study

Rabbi Stephen Moskowitz leads Torah study in person at the Eastside Jewish Commons or on Zoom 6:30-8:30 pm, Nov. 3. ShulchanPDX engages spirituality, arts and community using art pieces from history to discuss aspects of each Torah portion. All are welcome! For Zoom link, email rabbi@shulchan.org.

Nov. 5: Beer & Craft Night

Eastside Jewish Commons hosts Beer & Craft Night: A Night for Adults & for Kids at 6 pm, Nov. 5. Come purchase a glass of some of Portland's best craft beer to enjoy while your kids participate in a curated crafting activity. Educator and mikvah builder Leila Wice will lead kids in creating a Chanukah oil lamp. EJC staff members will also be present to help kids with crafts and cleanup while parents relax, sip and schmooze.

Find more information and to register: ejcpdx.org/events-1.

Nov. 6: Meditation Shabbat

Congregation Neveh Shalom invites the community to join its new Meditation Shabbat to be held the first Saturday of each month beginning Nov. 6.

The earliest practitioners of kindness would meditate for an hour and then pray, so that they could direct their hearts and minds to heaven. (Talmud, Brachot 30b)

An evolving series of practices will be incorporated into Neveh Shalom's regular sanctuary service, with the sermon slot dedicated to a focused meditation. The heart of Shabbat – including the *Shema*, *Amidah* and the Torah service – will be included in the morning service, 9:30 am-noon.

Nov. 6: Sho-far Sounds: Owen Broder Quintet

Moishe Pod launches its new concert series 7-10:30 pm, Nov. 6, at The 1905. This concert will feature a New York City-based jazz quintet led by Pod resident Owen Broder. The group will be celebrating the release of Owen's newest album and closing out their national tour at The 1905. The band will play two sets of music at 7 and 9 pm. Moishe Pod-WestPDX hosts events for Jewish Portlanders in their 20s and early 30s.

RSVP at moishepodwestpdx.com/events.



Alicia Jo Rabins stars in "A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff."

Nov. 10: Film: "A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff"

A free screening of the film, "A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff," will be shown at 6 pm, Nov. 10, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

A hybrid of musical memoir and narrative fantasy, "A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff" tells the story of Madoff and the system that allowed him to function for decades through the eyes of Alicia Jo Rabins, who watches the financial crash from her ninth floor studio in an abandoned office building on Wall Street. Fueled by her growing obsession, real-life interviews transform into music videos, ancient spiritual texts become fevered fantasies of synchronized swimming, and a vivid, vulnerable work of art is born from the unique perspective of an artist watching the global financial collapse up close. Now living in Portland, Rabins is a writer, musician, composer, performer and Torah teacher.

The wonderful evening includes music from Rabins, hors d'oeuvres and the film screening. Q&A with Rabins and the film's director Alicia J. Rose and producer Lara Cuddy will follow the screening. Free. Register at oregonjcc.org/kaddish.

Continued on next page

Events

Nov. 10: Screening of film on Rothko

A special screening of the acclaimed documentary “Rothko: Pictures Must Be Miraculous” and Q&A with director Eric Slade will be at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7:30 pm, Nov. 10. The event also includes a screening of Eric Slade’s profile of local Jewish Ocularist Fred Harwin. All ages are welcome. Tickets: \$5-\$18 suggested donation; no one turned away for lack of funds. Presented in conjunction with Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Screening sponsored by Russ Mahler. Register at ejcpdx.org/events-1.

Nov.12: Next Level Arcade

Moishe Pod-WestPDX invites young Jewish adults in their 20s and early 30s for an arcade night 6:30-8:30 pm, Nov. 12, at the Next Level Arcade in Hillsboro. More than 400 pinball and arcade games will be set to FREE play. The Pod will cover a portion of the \$20 fee. RSVP: moishepodwestpdx.com/events.

Nov. 13: Rachel’s Well Open House

Celebrate the fifth anniversary of Rachel’s Well Community Mikvah at open houses 1:30-3 pm, Nov. 13, and 2:30-4 pm, Nov. 17. Rachel’s Well is a ritual immersion pool owned and operated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and open and accessible to all in our community. We’re excited to celebrate five years in operation and invite you to stop by and see and learn what mikvah is all about. RSVP for address and details to caron@jewishportland.org.

Jobs board

B'NAI B'RITH CAMP

Assistant Director-Inclusion, Counseling SALARY: \$40,000-\$45,000 DOE; plus benefits

The Assistant Director-Inclusion and Counseling is responsible for building a vibrant Jewish community by guiding inclusive practices, specifically overseeing camper and staff care and the well-being of the diverse BB Camp community.

Community Care Director

SALARY: \$60,000-\$70,000 DOE; plus benefits

The Community Care Director is licensed and certified to deliver best-practice, trauma-informed care to children, teens, and young adults with mental and behavioral health challenges. The position is responsible for building a vibrant Jewish community by providing culturally competent mental health services, overseeing camper and staff care, and the well-being of the diverse BB Camp community.

(See below for link to full descriptions.)

JEWISH CAREER HUB

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland’s job board for the ongoing listing of job opportunities in the Jewish community currently features 12 Jewish job openings, including the two BB Camp positions listed above. See full descriptions for all of the openings or submit job openings at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs.

OneTable: Focus on civic engagement at Shabbat dinners before midterms

Heading into the 2022 midterm elections, OneTable and A More Perfect Union are teaming up to promote civic engagement, encourage participants to host Shabbat dinners with meaningful conversations, and share information about how individuals can be poll volunteers and monitors.

OneTable is a national nonprofit that empowers young adults (21-39ish) to find, share and enjoy Shabbat dinners. Launched in 2022, A More Perfect Union: The Jewish Partnership for Democracy seeks to mobilize the American Jewish community – across states, denominations, backgrounds and political ideologies – to protect and strengthen American democracy.

“We’ll definitely be encouraging our Portland hosts to create these types of dinners over the next few weeks,” says OneTable Cascadia Field Manager Abbie Barash.

The OneTable 2021 Impact Survey found that OneTable hosts and guests are looking for important social con-

nections within Jewish experiences, and participants are grateful to have OneTable as a safe place to gather around difficult issues. These findings help guide OneTable’s work to create space for participants to discuss these topics at the Shabbat dinner table.

OneTable has compiled resources at onetable.org/together to gather people, engage in constructive dialogue with a plurality of perspectives, and consider the roles we can play in strengthening civil discourse and society. You can use those resources to plan and host a constructive Shabbat dinner at onetable.org/hosting.

“At OneTable, we support people who are interested in creating meaningful and enriching Shabbat dinners,” says MJ Kurs-Lasky, OneTable’s Director of Partnerships & Jewish Learning. “When diverse groups of hosts and guests gather together to discuss issues that are important to them, they share an elevated sense of belonging and contribute to thriving communities.”

PNW Jewish camps among recipients of \$25 million in new JCamp 180 grants

B’nai B’rith Camp, Sephardic Adventure Camp, Camp Solomon Schechter and URJ Camp Kalsman will be among the recipients of a new JCamp 180 \$25 million investment in Jewish camps.

JCamp 180, a core program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, will support more than 100 nonprofit Jewish overnight camps over the next five years with the \$25 million Forward Together matching grant. Forward Together will provide unrestricted support to the camps along with capital investments that are necessary for camp success.

Harold Grinspoon, benefactor and cofounder of the HGF, believes camps are among the most important assets of the Jewish community, providing impactful experiences for Jewish young people to become enculturated in Jewish traditions, values and identity.

“I never was able to go to a Jewish camp, but I know they are crucial ways for young people to plant the roots of lifelong Jewish connections,” says Grinspoon, who has invested more than \$55 million dollars in Jewish camps through JCamp 180 over the past 28 years. “I was overjoyed to have visited multiple camps in person this

past summer after two summers away due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I saw camps brimming with life, although continuing to struggle with significant mental health, staffing and infrastructure challenges after the pandemic. The Forward Together grant renews my commitment to helping position Jewish nonprofit overnight camps for long-term sustainability for generations.”

Forward Together is a 1:3 matching grant in which the HGF disburses \$1 for every \$3 the camp raises. Each camp will receive a base allocation of funds; if they raise four times the allocation within the grant period, the camp will receive a \$10,000 bonus.

The grant will help camps build on past fundraising successes.

“The Harold Grinspoon Foundation support for Jewish summer camp is enduring, and we are proud to make this commitment over these next five years,” says JCamp 180 Director Sarah Eisinger. “This support will give the camps the resources and tools to maintain and steward their current donors and attract new ones. We hope this match gives the camps the confidence to continue sharing the power of Jewish camp so they can be sustainable into the future.”

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DEC. 7	DEC. 1
DEC. 21	DEC. 15

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

8 Jewish Review Oct. 26, 2022

Chaplain's Corner

What Do We Do Now?

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Whew! We made it through the High Holidays, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. I hope you had meaningful or even transformative experiences.

Now we have a lot of downtime on our calendar. Other than *Rosh Chodesh*, celebrating the new moon, we don't observe any Jewish holidays until Chanukah, which begins the evening of Dec. 18.

What can we do in the intervening days? I brainstormed some options.

We can devote time to refreshing and recharging. To do so, we need to be proactive and strategic. We will also need to be disciplined and create firm boundaries, guilt-free, around personal time.

But what then? What will we do with this time? What will we experience?

We can take ourselves out of our comfort zone and do something completely out of the ordinary. This can include a new hobby, or we can pick up an old hobby.

Years ago, before my kids were born, I tried to learn how to play harmonica. Far from being a natural musician, I chose an easy-to-play instrument. But then "life" got in the way. My wife and I moved to a new city. Our kids were born. Who knows what happened to that harmonica. Maybe I should buy a new one and try again.

We can also transform our residence. Why not redecorate a room? We can put new artwork or photos on the wall. We can create a workout space. Or if we have already done that, we can create a place where we can relax, read or listen to music. We can also clean our closets and give away clothes we have not worn for years.

What about devoting time to our relationships? We can renew a friendship or rekindle a connection with a family member. What about fostering a new friendship with someone we have never met before? One website we can visit is meetup.com. Using this resource, we can find people who have common interests, passions and hobbies. If you are in the 21- to 39-year-old demographic and are looking for a casual Shabbat dinner experience, you can visit onetable.org. At OneTable, you can learn how to host your own Shabbat dinner or find one in your neighborhood.

I can hear what you are saying. I am saying the same thing to myself. "All of that is easier said than done." But what excuses are we making if we refuse to set aside time to improve our personal quality of life?

At this point, I have fewer years ahead of me



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

At this point, I have fewer years ahead of me than behind me. I am asking myself how I can experience the most out of life.

than behind me. More and more, I am asking myself how I can experience the most out of life. It would be easy to stay with what is familiar. I could respond by saying, "I'm too old for that."

But then I think of my mom. From when I was a little kid, our running joke was asking "What do you want to be when you grow up?" She always answered "I'll let you know when I get there."

My mom kept remaking herself.

For years, while my dad made the money, she ran the home. How she had the energy and creativity to cook, clean and supervise four children from infancy to high school graduation is beyond me.

Along the way, as my siblings and I got older, she pursued her personal interests. She was a religious school teacher, a youth group advisor, a Sisterhood president, a synagogue board member and, ultimately, the synagogue's program vice president.

Year to year, she kept growing, exploring, changing and fulfilling her potential. But to this day, she never "grew up" and stopped.

My mom taught me the amazing lesson to keep pursuing the possible. I learned from her that there is no end point in developing our interests, learning something new, acquiring fresh skills.

She is my inspiration to make the most of the coming days when the Jewish calendar is quiet. In that spirit, I will strive to keep growing, changing and evolving to fulfill my unique potential. After all, I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up.

Rabbi's Corner

In addition to the Chaplain's Corner, The Jewish Review offers space for a Rabbi's Corner each issue. Our community's rabbis are invited to share their thoughts on the week's *parsha* or current events. To request a date to submit a column, email editor@jewishportland.org.

The Manor feels like home to Roberta Wolff

BY SYDNEY CLEVINGER

When Roberta Wolff decided it was time to move to Cedar Sinai Park's Rose Schnitzer Manor, she felt it was a sign that her mother's former Manor apartment was empty and ready for move in.

"Lo and behold, her unit was actually available when I called," says Roberta. "It was sort of meant to be."

Roberta's mother, Esther Kales, moved into Rose Schnitzer Manor just after it was built in 1987, and she lived there until her passing in 2005.

"It's a lot different now than it was when my mother was here and I would visit," says Roberta. "But everyone seems very content and happy and comfortable. One of the longtime housekeepers recognized me right away! And the caregivers are just wonderful ... It's a good feeling to know that people really care."

Roberta's grandfather, Louis Goldberg, a biblical scholar from Odessa, escaped Russia at age 19. In Austria, Louis came upon Sarah (Sadie), a young blonde who was drawing water. Sadie's father was a rabbi, and he invited Louis to dinner.

"My grandfather asked the rabbi, 'If I send for her will you let her come? I want to marry her' and the rabbi agreed," says Roberta. Louis sent for Sadie about a year after making it to the United States.

Roberta's mother was born in Portland and married Frank Kales. The family moved to Longview during World War II, and Louis arranged for his parents to come join them from Russia. They lived in the family's basement for a year.

"Here was this tiny little Russian couple with their babushkas and frocked coat and top hat walking down the stairs to the basement," says Roberta. "I think I was 7. I'll never forget that image of them."

Louis later moved his parents into the original Robison Jewish Home on Third and College Streets, which had opened in 1920 in the Jewish enclave of South Portland.

The family returned to Oregon when Roberta was 11.

"I remember my cousin and I going every Sunday with our parents and grandparents to the Home," says Roberta. "There were steps up to the big front porch. ... My great-grandmother, Bubba, would be on a chaise lounge on the porch. She was blind, so she couldn't see me, and we used to put money in her hand. I don't know why she needed money, but having it seemed to make her feel good."

Both Sadie and Louis also spent the last years of their lives at the Robison Home after it had moved to its current site on Boundary Street.



A FAMILY TRADITION: Roberta Wolff's great-grandmother Bubba lived in Robison Jewish Home's original building.



Roberta's grandparents, Louis and Sadie Goldberg, lived in Robison Home at its current location, now Cedar Sinai Park.

Drawing and painting came naturally to Roberta when she was very young, and though she "never really thought about" what she was doing while creating, she won many art awards.

"My father's family were very artistic people. His father was a couturier in France. And one of his relatives designed the military uniforms in Russia." However, Frank wanted Roberta to "have a profession," not become an artist.

So, Roberta selected the University of Washington to study interior design. After college, Roberta moved to New York and studied at the New York School of Interior Design.

"They had a lot of classes in the museums taught by famous people. It was fascinating for a small town girl from Portland," she says.

Returning to Oregon, Roberta was employed at Meier & Frank's flagship store in downtown Portland, which had its own full-scope, in-house design department.

"There were very few private, professional designers at the time, so we had clients from all over the country," she says. "It was the place to work. People would move to Portland and immediately call Meier & Frank's design studio to get a decorator to buy their furniture and drapes and carpeting. ... I felt pretty lucky."

Roberta married A.J. Wolff and had two daughters: Leslie Wolff is a U.S. geological hydrologist in California, and Cynthia Wolff designs and sells jewelry under her name. To be at home with her daughters, Roberta left Meier & Frank and began tak-



Roberta's mother, Esther; grandmother, Sadie; and Roberta. Roberta now lives in Esther's old apartment at Rose Schnitzer Manor on the Cedar Sinai campus across the street from Robison.

ing private clients.

Roberta began painting again after retiring. Her apartment at Rose Schnitzer Manor is filled with her drawings, charcoal sketches of ballerinas and a peaceful abstract of the night sky at the beach.

"Most of my paintings are good memories," says Roberta. "I've had a very emotionally deep life. And I'm glad to be here, home in Portland, at Rose Schnitzer Manor in a countryside environment, surrounded by people with similar backgrounds as mine."



Roberta Wolff, 2022.

ART SHOW (continued from page 1)

More than 20 ORA artists will exhibit artwork including paintings, drawings, metalwork, glass, fiber art, jewelry, pottery, sculpture, woodturning and photography.

"I'm looking forward to meeting the ORA community in person and for the first time showing my work in a Jewish context," says new ORA member Zac Banik, who says ORA has helped him build an understanding of himself as a Jewish artist. "I've been longing to share my work with the community and hear Jewish perspectives on the themes that my work deals with."

Eileen Millsap also joined ORA this year and found a place to share both art and Jewish values.

"As I have been working in my studio on glass menorahs, challah plates and other Judaica, I think about the families my work will be going to," says Eileen. "I want everyone to have beautiful Jewish objects in their homes. The Celebration of Art is the perfect place to share the art I love."

Julia says that during the pandemic, she missed the collective celebration of a creative community.

"Unlike an art gallery show where you might be a singular or dual featured artist of the month, here it is a shared experience, which I always found enriching and exciting," says Julia. "As an artist, I appreciate experiencing all of the inspiration and the end product of other creatives in a shared event."

Some of the artists met virtually as a support group during the dark days of the pandemic.

"The pandemic was challenging due to the extreme isolation," says Ellen Green. "Fortunately, I was an active participant in my ORA art support group. Once a month, we would discuss articles, books or other inspiring art activities as well as share our latest artwork. This art support group encouraged and motivated me to create new art. I am an optimist, and I needed to paint and print uplifting images during the last two years."

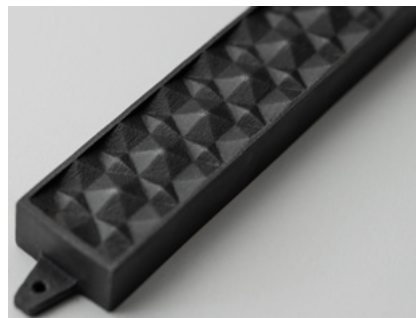
Julia also enjoyed the support group: "This group kept my eyes and my heart open during this time."

The isolation of the pandemic ultimately added an energy to Julia's work.

"Our NW Jewish arts group is called ORA, which in Hebrew means light or illumination," says Julia. "During the pandemic, a very dark period of time for everyone, I found illumina-



Red Tulip is an acrylic painting by Ellen Green.



Zac Banik's Pavel Mezuzah Case is a blackened-steel mezuzah case designed in a Czech-Cubist style inspired by the Heydukova Street Synagogue in Bratislava.

tion within my private inner world as a sanctuary in which I placed my energies to enrich. Consequently, my skies and garden landscapes became wilder in the application of paint and brushstrokes, and I sought to bring out more layering of colors and depth in the work."

Before the pandemic, Ellen started a series of meditation/art cards that were inspired by Torah. She says the cards were well received at the Celebration of Art in past years. This year, she plans to show a wide variety of art she created during the past two years.

"I created an abundance of hand-printed cards with a variety of themes," Ellen says. "My large paintings went from being on mixed media paper to canvas. I played with ink and watercolors as I listened to Torah study on Zoom."

Other artists participating in the show are Andrea Meyer, Annelie Thurin, Arlene Hirsch, Boris Uan-Zo-Li, Daniel Bluestein, Eddy Shuldman, Edith Crever, Glenn Decherd, Jack Liskear, Justin Carroll, Linda Bourne, Martha Decherd, Simcha Shields, Tom Gainer, Victoria Epstein and Yana Goldberg.

Life-cycle event

ENGAGEMENT Fischer-Solomon

Rabbi Tzvi and Esther Fischer are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Rachely, to Eli Solomon, son of Rabbi Yonah and Ellen (Elkie) Solomon of the Valley Village neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Rachely, 21, lives with her family in Detroit and works as a benefits specialist for LTC, a medical benefits company in New Jersey. Eli, 24, lives in the New York area, where he attends the Woodlake Yeshiva, a rabbinical yeshiva. A Jan. 26, 2023, wedding in Lakewood, NJ, is planned.

The Fischer family lived in Portland from 2006 to 2021, where Rabbi Fischer was head of the Portland Kollel, and both Rabbi and Esther Fischer helped establish Maayan Torah Day School.

Obituaries

LEONARD BERGSTEIN

Leonard Bergstein, z"l, passed away on Oct. 17, 2022, at the age of 76. Leonard is survived by his wife of 38 years, Betsy Bergstein; children, David Bergstein, Mikhael (Evan) Romain and Danelle (RD) Romain; four grandchildren; and brothers, Art and Zac Gordon.

Bergstein was born in New York City on Nov. 13, 1945, to Theresa and Abraham Bergstein. He attended Wesleyan University and earned his law degree from New York University School of Law. He moved to Oregon in 1972.

He was a veteran political consultant, lobbyist and KGW commentator, who had been scheduled to provide on-air election night commentary on KGW next month.

He was a legislative aide to Gov. Bob Straub and was an aide to Neil Goldschmidt when Goldschmidt was mayor of Portland and later U.S. secretary of transportation. Bergstein started his own consulting firm, Northwest Strategies, a leading political firm with primarily corporate clients for more than 40 years. He was an adviser to Oregon Supreme Court Justice Betty Roberts, Multnomah County Commissioner Gladys McCoy, City Commissioner Charles Jordan and Mayor Vera Katz.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) paid tribute to Bergstein on Twitter: "Len was instrumental with my start in public life by helping me earn a place with Gov. Straub on Oregon's board of nursing home administrators. I'm eternally grateful for his presence in my life and will miss him greatly."

Bergstein was an enthusiastic Portland booster who advised local political campaigns and nonprofits, including, mostly recently, the Albina Vision Trust, which is seeking to revitalize Portland's historically Black Albina neighborhood that was divided by the construction of Interstate 5. He was actively working to advance the trust's work at the time of his death.

He was a member of Congregation Beth Israel. A private family funeral was held with a Celebration of Life planned at a later date.