

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

Oct. 27, 2021 / Cheshvan 21, 5782 Volume 56, Issue 22

Rachel's Well: 4 years of immersions

BY DEBORAH MOON

When Rachel's Well Community Mikvah turns 4 on Nov. 1, the ritual bath will have enabled more than 1,200 traditional and contemporary immersions (see box page 14).

Rachel's Well is owned by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland with ritual supervision provided by the Oregon Board of Rabbis.

"Rachel's Well is here for the most traditional and for everybody who self-identifies as Jewish for the most contemporary of reasons," says Rachel's Well Mikvah Manager Caron Blau Rothstein, who is also JFGP Director of Community Planning & Allocations.

Before COVID limited access to the mikvah, nearly 400 immersions took place annually. In the past 12 months, despite pandemic restrictions, more than 250 immersions took



Rachel's Well Community Mikvah sits in a natural setting. A separate dish mikvah, foreground, is available without an appointment for kashering kitchen utensils (access information available on request: mikvahpdx@gmail.com). Photo by Josh Partee.

place. Numbers will likely increase as the mikvah resumes normal operations. This will include weekly drop-in erev Shabbat immersions for men, which were discontinued in March 2020.

"I am always so impressed

and amazed when I see the stats," says Rachel's Well Advisory Board Chair Ronnie Malka, who led the visioning process and capital campaign for the mikvah.

See RACHEL'S WELL, page 14

Meti shares tapestry of Jewish existence

BY DEBORAH MOON

TischPDX has received a grant from The Jews of Color Initiative to host a Sigd celebratory and educational event in Portland, led by a member of the TischPDX cohort (see box page 7). Sigd is an ancient Ethiopian Jewish holiday observed 50 days after Yom Kippur.

"Oftentimes, in Jewish settings, I find myself having to correct people with: 'Not all Jews do that' when it comes to conversations around holiday customs and rituals," says Metasabiya Habteyes, the event creator. "I want my community to look beyond Ashkenazi norms and experience the



Metasabiya "Meti" Habteyes

greater tapestry of our Jewish existence and be confident."

Metasabiya (Mee-taa-saa-biya) "Meti" was born in Israel.

Her mother made Aliyah from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to Israel in 1988 and met Meti's father in ulpan, a Hebrew learning center for new olim (immigrants). Her paternal grandfather was arrested by the Ethiopian government for covertly working with Israel to liberate Ethiopian Jews; he spent several months as a political prisoner until American Jewish organizations took up his cause. Meti moved to Portland about five years ago and says she loves the community she found here.

Co-founder Eleyana Fugman says TischPDX appeals to

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Interfaith coalition convenes homelessness summit

BY BOB HORENSTEIN

Over a year ago, the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council spearheaded the establishment of a broad-based interfaith coalition called United in Spirit. For the past several months, the coalition, which has Jewish, Christian and Muslim members, has been meeting with elected officials, nonprofits and business groups ("stakeholders") to discuss the growing problem of chronic homelessness as well as other ongoing problems plaguing Portland.

It became clear after 18 hours of such meetings that though these stakeholders were making efforts to address the homeless problem, they were not necessarily collaborating with one another, often working in silos and even pointing fingers at one another. For these reasons, there was little progress. Our coalition decided, therefore, that the time had come to invite all of the stakeholders to an emergency summit on homelessness.

That three-hour summit was held on Oct. 4 at Congregation Beth Israel and was attended by Mayor Ted Wheeler, Portland City Commissioner Dan Ryan, Metro President Lynn Peterson, Multnomah County Commissioner Sharon Meieran, Deputy Police Chief Mike Frome, officials from Central City Concern, Bybee Lakes Hope Center, HereTogether and the Portland Business Alliance, as well as members of United in Spirit. It was the first time these stakeholders had all gathered around one table.

As an organizer of UIS, I set the tone for the summit in opening remarks: "As faith-based organizations, we regard homelessness as a moral tragedy requiring urgent attention. Our shared goal as a united group of diverse organizations is to advocate for and support the civic and community collaboration and integration necessary to help Portland end this humanitarian crisis in our own backyard. ... We are concerned that

there does not appear to be a common roadmap to effectively address the problem. ... As United in Spirit, we are ready to lend a hand to support those political and civic leaders, agencies and groups willing to collaborate on the most equitable and effective solutions."

Though it was obvious at the summit that political leaders and civic organizations are taking different approaches to addressing the problem, there appears to be a consensus among those who spoke:

- Efforts are siloed as too many "stakeholders" are working independently of each other.

- Better coordination is needed among elected officials, organizations and volunteer groups all trying to help the homeless.

- There is a need for better data collection regarding the actual numbers of homeless living on the street (one alarming estimate is 7,000 in Multnomah County) and the availability of shelter beds and other alternatives.

- The public needs more information about positive outcomes from efforts underway to address homelessness.

• We must collectively define what it means to have a "compassionate response" to the problem.

- The energy of the community must be harnessed to solve a community problem.

The summit was an important first step – but only a first step – in creating cooperation and collaboration around efforts to solve Portland's homeless problem. Our coalition is hopeful that a follow-up meeting with COVID precautions in place will lead to a process for developing a comprehensive plan with full collaboration among our political leaders, nonprofit agencies, business groups and faith communities.

To learn more about United in Spirit, go to unitedinspirit.me.

Bob Horenstein is Director of Community Relations and Public Affairs for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

Shir Tikvah pulls a ton of sins from floodplain

BY DEBORAH MOON

Congregation Shir Tikvah collected the most trash of all the communities in 30 states and 18 countries that signed up to participate in this year's environmentally conscious Reverse Tashlich sponsored by Tikkun HaYam, repairthesea.org.

More than 2,000 people in 170 Jewish communities around the world reversed the tradition of tashlich, in which breadcrumbs or pebbles are cast into flowing water to symbolically cast off the sins of the previous year. In this ceremony, people remove human "sins" (marine debris) from the water in a collaborative waterfront cleanup.

The annual project, held the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, had a 240% increase over last year.

Shir Tikvah's crew, organized by Robbie Lambert, cleared 2,360 pounds of trash from the Johnson Creek Floodplain near the Springwater Corridor. The cleanup project went beyond trash pickup, though, and forged connections between the congregation and the homeless campers in the area.

"I am such a water person – put me around water, and I'm a happy person," says Robbie, who lives on a floating home on Sauvie Island. "I didn't realize we would get involved in houseless issues."



Congregation Shir Tikvah volunteers pulled more than a ton of trash from the Johnson Creek Floodplain as part of a Reverse *Tashlich* ceremony.

When Robbie volunteered to lead Shir Tikvah's Reverse Tashlich team, she envisioned cleaning up the beaches on Sauvie Island. But when she learned the nonprofit SOLVE had scheduled a beach cleanup there a day earlier, she contacted SOLVE and asked them for other ideas.

SOLVE suggested four sites along Johnson Creek; when Robbie scouted them, she found one that was in serious need of cleanup. Robbie spoke to the residents of the nearby homeless encampment on the Johnson Creek Floodplain, and they were delighted with her request to haul away the trash. She says that when the camp sets out garbage hoping it will be picked up, more often passersby dump more trash.

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Jewish effort to aid Afghan refugees grows

Groups in Portland's Jewish community have ongoing drives to collect [restart kits](#) for Afghan refugees being relocated to Portland. Both drives are in collaboration with [The Refugee Care Collective](#).

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland are collecting donations of all eight requested kits for these new arrivals, with drop-offs at the museum accepted through Nov. 19. Beit Haverim and the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, which share space, are concentrating their collection efforts on bathroom and cleaning restart kits through Nov. 10.

The Collective's mission is to help refugee families rebuild their lives and return to a state of self-sufficiency and empowerment. RCC partners with the three local resettlement agencies – Catholic Charities of Oregon, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Lutheran Community Services Northwest – to serve and meet the needs of refugee families and individuals in Portland. RCC also partners with the Oregon Department of Human Services to support refugee youth.

"As Jews, we know what it is to be a refugee, a stranger in a strange land," says Deborah Reisman, who is coordinating the project for Beit Haverim. "We have felt the



As of mid-October, about 70 restart kits for Afghan refugees have been dropped off at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Kits will be accepted at the museum through Nov. 19.

comfort of hands that reached out to us and the anguish when people turned away."

She adds the Beit Haverim board endorsed the project immediately: "Our cultural history of exile and persecution heighten our connection to the plight of the Afghani refugees. This effort resonated with all of us."

Donations of items for bathroom and cleaning kits, of completed kits, can be dropped off 9 am-2 pm, Tuesday-Friday, through Nov. 10, at Beit Haverim/LOUCC,

1111 Country Club Road, Lake Oswego. There is also a bin in the courtyard for after-hour donations. Donations of cash and gift cards (Fred Meyer, WinCo, Target and IKEA) can be mailed to Beit Haverim, P.O. Box 311, Lake Oswego, OR 97034. Deborah and Beit Haverim Tikkun Olam Chair Barbara Gold are joining two LOUCC volunteers as "super shoppers" to use the cash/gift card donations to purchase items for the restart kits.

For questions about the Beit Haverim effort, contact Administrator Jaime Gross at 503-568-1241 or office@beithav.org.

OJMCHE and JFGP request donors choose from the variety of kits needed, such as kitchen, bedding, personal care and cleaning kits. [Select a kit](#), go shopping for the listed items (they need to be new), and then place the items in a clear plastic tub that can close and label the top of the container with the restart kit type. You are encouraged to include a handwritten, unsealed note welcoming the family.

You can drop off kits at OJMCHE (724 NW Davis St., Portland) during museum hours, 11 am-4 pm, Wednesday-Saturday until Nov. 19. Or you can drop off your kit at the Refugee Care Collective warehouse in Tigard (10160 SW Nimbus Avenue, Suite F-3) noon-3 pm, Sept. 18, Oct. 23 and Nov. 20.

TRASH (cont. from page 2)

On cleanup day Sept. 12, Robbie arrived early to coordinate the cleanup with the residents. Once volunteers arrived, "We chatted and played with their dogs. We got to know the people."

"We have to meet people – then they become a person," adds Robbie, a retiree who used to volunteer as a GED tutor working with homeless youth at Outside In.

The group was able to haul away more than a ton of garbage thanks to another connection Robbie made. FindingPDX.com, run by volunteers Chris Bean and Dave Kephart, brought their trailer to haul away everything Shir Tikvah collected.

After winning \$500 for their efforts, Shir Tikvah is planning to donate to FindingPDX to help with future cleanups. Robbie is working with Chris to schedule future cleanups for the Shir Tikvah crew.

Shir Tikvah also participated in a collection drive to gather supplies for the houseless. Shir Tikvah member Sonia Marie Leikam and Abbie Schwalb, both part of the Free Hot Soup network, invited people to drop clean supplies useful for camping at Leikam Brewing.

Robbie is delighted to have both cleanup and aid for the houseless as part of her congregation's repertoire.

You can see more in a video spotlight from Tikkun HaYam at youtube.com/watch?v=i3AoR0yqPXM.

News in brief

Young adults sought for Moishe Pod West Portland

Casual young adult Jewish programming is coming to Portland's west side, and Moishe House is looking for the right two young adults, ages 21-32, to make it happen.

This isn't a job. These two people will live together and be Moishe Pod West Portland, hosting three programs per month such as a Shabbat dinner. Moishe House, the international organization, will provide funds for the programs as well as a rent stipend (the residents can live in a place of their choosing). This is a perfect opportunity for those who want to build community.

If interested, reach out to Director of Expansion Joshua Goldberg at joshua.goldberg@moishehouse.org or 248-425-8080.

Drop-in child care, Chai Baby return to MJCC

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center is bringing back drop-in child care and the Chai Baby Indoor Playground.

Drop-in child care for ages 6 months to 5 years is available 8:30-11:30 am, Monday-Friday. Adult must remain in the building while child is in the child-care program. Parents or caregivers can work out or relax at the MJCC while their children enjoy games, books, coloring and more. Pre-registration not required. Child may stay for a maximum of two hours per session. Member cost is \$8. For more information, visit oregonjcc.org/childcare.

Beginning Dec. 1, the Chai Baby Indoor Playground will meet the first Wednesday of every month. Chai Baby is free and open to parents/caregivers and their children up to 5 years old. Meet friends while the children run, sing and have a kosher snack.

For more information, visit oregonjcc.org/indoorplayground.

UO taps Josh Frankel for athletic dept. award

Student athletes from the football and volleyball teams when the University of Oregon's athletic department was just beginning its current rise to national prominence, as well as a long-time staff member who began her tenure at Oregon around the same time, have been selected to receive the department's annual awards.

Football player Josh Frankel will receive the 2021 Leo Harris Award. Volleyball's Michelle "Shellie" Nisle has been tabbed for the 2021 Becky L. Sisley Award. Current UO athletic department staff member Beth Campbell has been named the 2021 Order of the O honoree. The awards ceremony will held at a later date.

A certified financial planner and portfolio manager, Frankel has individual and institutional clients concentrated in Portland, Vancouver, Eugene, Bend, Medford, Spokane and California. He was hired by Ferguson Wellman in 2013 to launch and grow West Bearing Investments. Since 2013, he has helped grow the company to \$315 million in assets under his management.

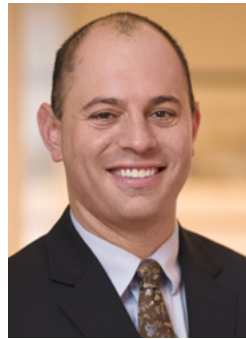
Frankel has also been active in his community and as a UO alumnus. The Duck Athletic Fund and UO Foundation donor is a past chair of the Oregon Club of Portland. He is also a member of the UO Mentor Program for current student athletes and the UO Alumni Association. Frankel is the current chair of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and is also a board

member with New Avenues for Youth. He has served as board president of the Greater Portland Hillel and on the boards of B'nai B'rith Camp, Cedar Sinai Park and Mittleman Jewish Community Center. In 2020, Frankel was selected for the 20-member Portland cohort of the Wexner Heritage Leadership Program, which began this spring after being delayed by the pandemic.

"The UO holds a very special place in my life," says Frankel. "My experience as a student athlete helped prepare me to be a better father, a better husband, a business executive and community leader. I am forever grateful for the UO."

The Alumni Athletic Award was originated in 1967 by the late Leo Harris, former UO director of athletics, and his family and was later renamed the Leo Harris Award in his honor. It is presented to an alumni letterman on the basis of at least 20 years of achievement and service since graduation.

Frankel may be best remembered as the backup kicker who came off the bench following an injury to the starter and drilled a triple-overtime, game-winning field goal



versus USC in 1999. He was a member of four bowl teams as the program began its ascent to becoming one of the nation's top teams.

Frankel toiled on the scout team as a walk-on freshman before earning his way up the depth chart. He shared kicking duties over his next two seasons before his clutch field goal versus USC that gave Oregon a 33-30 win in three overtimes. He also made four of five field goals against Arizona in 1999 to preserve a 44-41 victory. He was given a scholarship following Oregon's 24-20 win over Minnesota in the 1999 Sun Bowl.

Frankel's most productive year came as a senior in 2000, when he made 13 of 25 field goals and 37 of 39 extra point attempts. That season, the Pacific Palisades, Calif., native made a career-long 47-yard, game-winning field goal in the Ducks' 27-24 win at Washington State. He also hit five of five extra points in Oregon's 35-30 victory over Texas in the 2000 Holiday Bowl.

Frankel finished his career with 150 points on 26 of 41 field goals and 72 of 77 extra points and was an All Pac 10 honorable mention selection in 1999.

He received his degree in journalism in the spring of 2000 and returned to Oregon to earn an MBA in 2006. Frankel has worked in the financial sector since then and is currently an executive vice president at West Bearing Investments, a division of Ferguson Wellman based in the Portland area.

Congregations in Greater Portland area

Ahavath Achim (Sephardic)
6686 Capitol Hwy.
Portland, OR 97219
503-227-0010
ahavathachim.com

The Alberta Shul
503-703-5205 | albertashul.org

Beit Haverim (Reform)
111 Country Club Dr.
Mail: PO Box 311
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
503-568-1241 | beithav.org

Congregation Beit Yosef
4200 SW Vermont St.
Portland, OR 97219
971-220-8152

Beth Israel (Reform)
1972 NW Flanders St.
Portland, OR 97209
503-222-1069
bethisrael-pdx.org

Chabad of Clark County
9604 NE 126th Ave. # 2340
Vancouver, WA 98682

360-993-5222
jewishvancouverwa.com

Chabad of Hillsboro
965 SW Brookwood Ave.
Hillsboro, OR 97123
503-747-5363 | chabadh.com

Chabad of Gresham/E County
503-389-0312
facebook.com/JewishGresham

Chabad of Lake Oswego
www.jewishlo.com

Chabad of NE Portland
503-309-4490
jewishnortheast.com

Chabad Center for Jewish Life SW Portland
2317 SW Vermont St.
Portland, OR 97219
503-381-7119 | jportland.com

Chabad at Reed College & SE Portland
3355 SE Steele St.
Portland, OR 97202
503-752-2258 | jewishreed.com

Chabad Young Professionals/ Chabad NW
503-583-2025 | Pdxccyp.org

Tigard Chabad
12555 SW Summer Crest Dr.
Tigard, OR 97223
971-329-6661
jewishtigard.com

Gesher - A Bridge Home
503-246-5070
ourjewishhome.org

Havurah Shalom (Reconstructionist)
825 NW 18th Ave.
Portland, OR 97209
503-248-4662
havurahshalom.org

Kesser Israel (Orthodox)
6698 SW Capitol Hwy.
Portland, OR 97219
503-222-1239 | kesserisrael.org

Kol Ami (Reform)
7800 NE 119th St.
Vancouver, WA 98662
360-896-8088

jewishvancouverusa.org

Kol Shalom (Humanistic)
2420 NE Sandy Blvd.
Portland, OR 97223
kolshalom.org

Neveh Shalom (Conservative)
2900 SW Peaceful Lane
Portland, OR 97239
503-246-8831
nevehshalom.org

P'nai Or (Renewal)
c/o Hillsdale Com Church
6948 SW Capitol Hwy.
Portland, OR 97219
503-248-4500 | pnaiorpdx.org

Shaarie Torah (Conservative)
920 NW 25th Ave.
Portland, OR 97210
503-226-6131
shaarietorah.org

Shir Tikvah (Independent)
2420 NE Sandy Blvd.
Portland, OR 97232
503-473-8227
shirtikvahpdx.org

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jewishportland.org/pleasedontshowgala



The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's First-Ever Please Don't Show Gala is a fundraising "event" for these challenging and unpredictable times. It is for donors like you who support our community's vital work and understand that even though we cannot come together in person, we can give our support as one community.

Happenings

Oct. 29-30: Shaarie Torah installs Rabbi Oren

Congregation Shaarie Torah will formally install Rabbi Gary Ezra Oren as the Conservative congregation's senior rabbi Oct. 29-30.

On July 1, 2021, Rabbi Oren became the 10th rabbi to serve the congregation since it was founded in 1905. He succeeds Rabbi Joshua Rose.

The congregation invites the community to join in person or virtually for learning and celebration to welcome in Rabbi Oren with a very special Shabbat and Installation ceremony.



The weekend will feature guests Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson and Rabbi Cheryl Peretz. Rabbi Artson is Vice President of American Jewish University, where he serves as Abner & Roslyn Goldstine Dean's Chair, [Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies](#). Rabbi Peretz is associate dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Rabbi Oren said he is pleased to "help folks have a chance to learn with a great teacher in Rabbi Artson."

Shabbat service and the Installation Ceremony are open to the public and free. During Shabbat morning services, Rabbi Artson will teach about "Character Counts: What Makes Someone a Disciple of Abraham?" Havdallah, followed by the installation ceremony, will begin at 6:30 pm. A Friday dinner and Saturday evening cocktail party with keynote speakers have limited attendance and required sponsorship levels.

All attendees for all events must be fully vaccinated if eligible and masked at all times in our building.

More information about the installation weekend, visit shaarietorah.org/installation/

Oct. 30-Nov. 5: Screening, talk "Upheaval"

Congregation Neveh Shalom, Israel 360 and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland invite you to a free online screening of the documentary "Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin" to be enjoyed anytime between Oct. 31 and Nov. 5. A free Zoom discussion with the film's director, Jonathan Gruber, will be at 7 pm, Nov. 4.

Watch the incredible life story of former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin – imprisoned by the Soviets, orphaned by the Holocaust, crowned Peacemaker by the Nobel Prize Committee – in this captivating documentary.

To reserve your space for the Zoom discussion and receive the links to the movie, please register at jewishportland.org/movie.

For questions, contact Rachel Nelson at 503-892-7415 or rachel@jewishportland.org.

Nov. 8 & 15: PJA virtual open houses

Hop on Zoom to learn all about Portland Jewish Academy. Learn about the middle school at 6 pm, Nov. 8, and lower school (kindergarten-fifth grade) at 6 pm, Nov. 15.

Meet PJA's spectacular teachers, hear from students and staff about why they love PJA, and learn more about PJA's curriculum.

PJA provides an academically rich environment that supports each student's personal growth and development, from 6 weeks old through eighth grade. The hands-on interdisciplinary curriculum emphasizes collaborative learning, critical thinking and community engagement. At PJA, students are empowered to think for themselves and work for the world. pjaproud.org/openhouse

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Three "mending bees" are planned in November at the interactive fabric exhibit, "Tikkun Olam: Mending the Social Fabric."

Nov. 11, 26 & 27: Mend the social fabric

Three mending bees have been planned in November as part of the interactive installation "Tikkun Olam: Mending the Social Fabric" at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, 724 NW Davis St.

The parachute at the core of artist Bonnie Meltzer's new exhibit is, like our social fabric, rent with tears. You can Meet the Artist and Mend the Tears without an appointment on Veterans Day and the Friday and Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 11, 26 and 27).

Visitors can see the exhibition without being able to sew 1-4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday through Jan. 30. For an appointment for up to five people for a mending bee and tour during museum hours, email Bonnie at bonniemeltzer@gmail.com.

To learn more, read Jewish Review's story at jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/mending-social-fabric or visit ojmche.org/events/tikkun-olam-mending-the-social-fabric/.

Nov. 16 & Dec. 16: Tivnu info sessions

Learn more about the Tivnu: Building Justice gap year program during two virtual information sessions: [5 pm, Nov. 16](#), and [5 pm, Dec. 16](#). Staff and alumni will be on the Zoom call to talk about the gap year program.

Tivnu: Building Justice founder Steve Eisenbach-Budner launched the first domestic Jewish gap year program in 2014. Tivnu gap year participants connect with Jewish life and social justice through individualized internships, discover the Pacific Northwest and create a home together in Portland. Internships might include advocating for immigrants' rights, creating mentorships for LGBTQ kids, building tiny houses or cooking for houseless Portlanders. Apply by Jan. 1 to receive a \$4,000 early-bird discount and priority for internship placements. To read about this year's participants, go to jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/tivnu-creates-gap-year-fans.

For more information on Tivnu or the information sessions, email Tivnu Outreach Coordinator Leanna Parsons at leanna@tivnu.org.

Happenings (Continued)

Nov. 21: Volunteers needed for food delivery

Each year, Jewish Family and Child Service provides Thanksgiving meals for families in need. Partner organizations sponsor items for the food boxes, which include potatoes, a kosher turkey, pumpkin pie and more. This year, organizations collecting for the boxes include Cedar Sinai Park; Congregations Neveh Shalom, Beth Israel and Shir Tikvah; and Portland Jewish Academy/Mittleman Jewish Community Center. JFCS will pack the turkey boxes, and then volunteers will pick up boxes at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and deliver them to community members in late afternoon, Nov. 21. To volunteer, contact Sammy Monk at volunteer@jfcc-portland.org.

Dec. 2: Chanukah with the Blazers

Celebrate the fifth night of Chanukah with the Trail Blazers on Dec. 2. Enjoy the giant menorah lighting and take a photo with Dreidel Man as the Trail Blazers take on the San Antonio Spurs at the Moda Center. Chabad-Lubavitch of Oregon will once again team up with the Trail Blazers for the celebration. Rabbi Chaim Wilhelm, who organized the first celebration in 2007 while still a rabbinic student, is again coordinating the event.



Dreidel Man & Blaze

"I hear repeatedly from people how empowering it is to be able to celebrate Chanukah in the middle of a basketball game," says Rabbi Chaim. "Especially for young people, it is so nice to celebrate Jewishly as part of a cheering crowd."

The Trail Blazers and Rose Quarter require all guests ages 12 and up to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours. All guests must wear a mask at all times while on the Rose Quarter campus.

Discounted tickets prices start at just \$11 and can be purchased at Rosequarter.com/groupnights Promo Code: CHABADOR. Tickets must be purchased by Nov. 5 for this year's Chanukah Jewish Heritage Night.

Save the Date: 60th annual PJA Auction, Dec. 12

Being billed as the "Party of the Year," the 60th Anniversary Portland Jewish "Academy Awards" Auction will be Sunday, Dec. 12. The pre-show for the hybrid (in-person and virtual) auction will start at 5:30 pm. For details, visit pjaproud.org/auction.

Save the Date: Weekend in Quest, March 4-6

The sixteenth annual Weekend in Quest, a Shabbaton (study weekend), returns to Astoria for a weekend of study and community on the Oregon coast Friday evening through Sunday noon, March 4-6, 2022.

Scholar-in-residence Professor Sasha Senderovich of the University of Washington will lead four sessions on "How the Soviet Jew Was Made: Literature, Culture, Humor."

WIQ is sponsored by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Proof of vaccination required and safety protocols in place. More information and registration information will be coming soon. Visit ojmche.org for event updates.

See more online and in-person events at

jewishportland.org/community-calendar

SIGD CELEBRATION (continued from page 1)

young people who want to learn more about their Judaism but do not feel comfortable in more formal organizations. Eleya founded the group with fellow east side Portlanders Rabbi Ariel Stone and Kalyn Culler Cohen. The group's third cohort, which includes Meti, will graduate in December.

"TischPDX is thrilled to be able to work toward our mission of bolstering the leadership of young and marginalized Jews in Portland through facilitating connections and collaborations like this one with our fellow Metasabiya Habteyes and the Jews of Color Initiative," says Eleya.

Meti says that Sigd is about coming together as a community for a "communal reflection" and "bonding over the dream to one day be in Jerusalem. For Ethiopian Israelis, it's more of a celebration of having the dream of our ancestors realized."

Meti didn't participate in a Sigd event until she was serving in the Israel Defense Forces.

"I was a military journalist and was sent out on an assignment to cover one of the first IDF Sigd celebrations in Jerusalem," she says. "During my army service, there were only two other Ethiopians in my whole unit, so I was shocked to see so many other

Ethiopian soldiers and even high-ranking officers serve in the IDF. I felt like I was on an island for so long, but here we were all together, celebrating together and more than that, we were being celebrated for the first time in my life. I was holding back tears of joy and pride throughout the whole event. I was soaking up everyone's stories, and I've celebrated Sigd every year since then."

Meti says leaders of the older generations, who are more familiar with Sigd, are passing on the tradition in innovative ways that speak to a larger audience and younger Ethiopian generations.

She points to the popularity of Sigdiada, an Ethiopian art festival that launched in 2012 in Tel Aviv.

"I think that our generation (of Ethiopian-Israelis) and the ones coming after us should add new customs to our existing traditions around this holiday like tikkun olam and direct social impact," says Meti.

For her Nov. 3 program, Meti plans to share a slide show about Sigd, how it's celebrated and some of her personal connections to the holiday. The evening will continue with dancing, an art project for kids and food (with to-go containers avail-

SIGD CELEBRATION

Portland Program

WHEN: Doors open 6-8 pm, Nov. 3
WHERE: Eastside Jewish Commons, 2420 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland
RSVP: shorturl.at/pyS68. In-person attendance limit of 40. COVID vaccine card required for everyone 12 and up.
WATCH PARTY: tentative; check facebook.com/tischpdx/

National Sigd Webinar

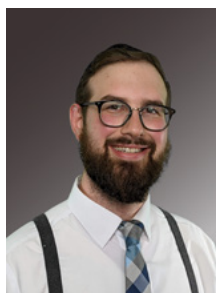
Presented by Jewish Agency for Israel
Virtual celebration and learning of the Sigd at 9 am, Nov. 3
REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/3E6n1c0>

able for those who don't feel comfortable eating together).

In Portland, Meti has continued the journalism career she began in the IDF. She is the director of public affairs at KBOO Community Radio. She also co-hosts "The Gap," a talk show on KBOO, where she and Althea Billings amplify local action, activists and organizations. In December, she will launch a podcast about organizing through a Jewish lens, combating anti-Semitism with interviews from political and grassroots leaders. It will also be a space to have nuanced and respectful conversations about Israel/Palestine.



Rabbi Skolnik



Rabbi Akiva and Ela O'Connor



Rabbi Ezra and Raina Balsam



Sarah Evans

Portland Kollel adds 8 to team

The Portland Kollel welcomes eight new staff members – Rabbi Sholom Skolnik, Rabbi Akiva and Ela O'Connor, Rabbi Ezra and Raina Balsam, Rabbi Tzvi and Racheli Caplan, and Sarah Evans.

They join Rabbi Chanan and Meira Spivak, Kollel CEO and Oregon NCSY Director, respectively, and Rabbi Boruch Dov Diskind, Kollel Director of Administration and Programming.

“They share the passion and love for Torah learning and Jewish life that have been the hallmarks of the Kollel since its beginnings,” wrote Rabbis Spivak and Diskind in announcing the news. “They bring an array of talents and experiences, and all are committed to making this the Kollel’s best year yet.”

In addition to teaching classes for the Kollel, Mrs. O'Connor is a teacher at Maayan Torah Jewish Day School, and Mrs. Balsam and Mrs. Caplan are working solely for NCSY.

“Rabbi Spivak worked both with NCSY and Maayan to be able to bring in the families,” says Rabbi Diskind.

Rabbi Sholom Skolnik needs little introduction to the Portland community, where he holds several leadership positions. Both he and his wife, Chaviva, are educators at Maayan Torah Day School, and Rabbi Sholom also serves as the spiritual leader at Congregation Ahavath Achim. He now joins the Kollel team of rabbis. He will be focusing on adult education and will also be overseeing the daily learning program for other members of the Kollel. He is pursuing a master’s in teacher leadership at Brandeis

University and is an avid outdoorsman.

Rabbi Akiva O'Connor joined the team over the summer as the new Director of Communication, overseeing marketing and PR for the Kollel. A recent graduate of Arizona State University, where he received a master’s degree in communications, Rabbi Akiva is well-known for his lecture series on various topics as well as his listening ear. Ela O'Connor is a teacher at Maayan Torah Day School. The O'Connors tend to avoid the outdoors, but they would love to meet you over a cup of coffee or tea anytime to discuss life, the universe and everything.

Rabbi Ezra Balsam comes from Denver, where he was involved in outreach efforts to young Jewish professionals. Rabbi Ezra founded ShabbatSpot.org, a program to inspire young Jews in relationship-building and in deepening their connections with the greater Jewish community. Here in Portland, he will be overseeing kiruv/outreach operations. Raina is employed with NCSY. The Balsams are adventurous and energetic and would love to join you on your next hike, bike ride or a trip down the Willamette.

Rabbi Tzvi Caplan is the Kollel’s resident Israeli rabbi. Born and raised in Jerusalem, Rabbi Tzvi studied for a number of years under the venerable Rabbi Yaakov Friedman in Beitar Illit, a suburb of the Israeli capital. He is fluent in English and Hebrew and is a certified equine therapist. His wife, Racheli, is employed at Portland NCSY. Together, the Caplans will be spearheading programming for teens as well as building



Rabbi Tzvi and Racheli Caplan



connections with the large Israeli population in the greater Portland area.

Sarah Evans joins the Portland Kollel as Director of Organizational Development. Prior to joining Kollel, Sarah spent 20 years working in the field of educational leadership and assessment in roles that took her all over the United States and even to Tegucigalpa, where she worked as a consultant for the Honduran Ministry of Education. She is excited to be sharing her affinity for organization and process with the Jewish community. And when she’s not indexing her indices or labeling her files, you can find her playing guitar or reading a book.

The nightly learning seder and the Thursday evening [Semichas Chaver](#) with Rabbi Skolnik are in full swing. Weekly classes with Rabbi Akiva and Ela O'Connor will start soon, with programming by the Balsams and the Caplans being planned. On weekday mornings, the Kollel welcomes the community to explore the laws of Kashrut with Kollel members from 9 am to noon. In addition, the Kollel will create custom study plans with a Kollel member on request.

For more information, call 503-245-5420 or visit portlandkollel.org.

Vaccine mandates set for eligible students, PJA/MJCC staff

The Portland Jewish Academy Board of Directors approved a resolution mandating that all eligible PJA Day School students be vaccinated against COVID-19. Families may request a medical or religious exemption when necessary and applicable. Families of students who are currently 12 years of age or older must provide proof of vaccination to PJA no later than Nov. 15, 2021.

Information for children ages 5-11 will be determined once the FDA authorizes emergency use vaccination for that age group.

In August, OHA mandated that all school employees statewide be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18, allowing for religious and medical exemptions. PJA reports that 100% of PJA employees (including all day school, after-school, early childhood and shared staff, as well as all maintenance staff, security contractors and custodial contractors) have been fully vaccinated.

Vaccination against COVID-19 continues to be the most effective way to minimize the chance of serious illness, and the ad-

ministration appreciates the support of the PJA Board of Directors in ensuring that PJA maintains the safest possible environment for its students and staff.

The Mittleman Jewish Community Center, which shares a campus with PJA, also requires that all MJCC employees, volunteers and contractors be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Nov. 15. Employees may request a medical or religious exemption. MJCC members are not required to be vaccinated. Masks are required for everyone.

“Searching for Light”

The Jewish Journeys of Rabbi Josh Rose

Jathan Janove is an author, columnist, executive coach and organization consultant. During this difficult time, Jathan has been interviewing people about their lives, values and priorities.

BY JATHAN JANOVE

Rabbi Joshua Rose was born in Portland in 1970, son of Rabbi Emanuel Rose, who for 46 years was the senior rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel.

Growing up, Rabbi Rose had no desire to follow his father's rabbinical path. Instead, he studied history at Occidental College and pursued his passion for books and ideas.

After he graduated, he had no clear path or direction. He contemplated law school, “something every confused college graduate contemplates,” he says. Fortunately, however, he got hired by the Religious Action Center in DC, a social justice advocacy group focused on civil rights and religious freedom and supported by the Reform Movement.

During the four years he worked there, Rabbi Rose did outreach through speeches and presentations. Once, while digging up quotes from Maimonides to include in an upcoming speech, “It struck me that what I was doing was really shallow,” he says. “I knew nothing about Maimonides. I was simply fishing for good quotes.”

This moment started him on a path of religious learning that took him to Harvard Divinity School, where he met his future wife, Channah, and ultimately to rabbinical school. He attended Hebrew Union College in New York after a first year of study in Jerusalem.

After ordination, Rabbi Rose was hired as an assistant rabbi at Congregation Har Hashem in Boulder, Colo. He later became senior rabbi. His three children – Eliav, 13, Akiva, 11, and Rafael, 10 – were born there.

During this time, Rabbi Rose continued his study of tradi-

tional Judaism and was becoming increasingly observant of mitzvot. Eventually, he felt he could no longer authentically lead a Reform congregation.

In 2014, Rabbi Rose joined Congregation Shaarie Torah in Portland. Formerly an Orthodox synagogue, the congregation joined the Conservative Jewish Movement the year before his arrival. Rabbi Rose loved his time there. “It’s a beautiful synagogue community. And it was hugely supportive of the work I was doing,” he says.

However, Rabbi Rose’s Jewish journey took another turn. “Increasingly, I became uncomfortable with the role of exemplar of Jewish observance. I was surprised and caught off guard by my own inner shifts, as I had always sought this role.” In addition, he says, he wanted to connect to those many Jews doing creative work outside of synagogue life. “In the end, I was drawn to what I call the ‘Abraham’ strain in Jewish life, a spirit of radical seeking, of openness and curiosity.”

He then worked diligently along with the Shaarie Torah board and executive director to effect a smooth transition, which came with the arrival of Rabbi Gary Oren, for whom Rabbi Rose has high regard.

“Shaarie Torah is in great hands,” he says.

In his search for a new career path, Rabbi Rose was fortunate to meet a life coach.

“He helped me figure out what I really care and am passionate about: connection. I learned that I’m happiest when I’m making connections between people and ideas or teachings I find inspiring and beautiful.” He saw that if he could find work doing that, he’d be fulfilling his calling.

This led to his creation of [Co/Lab: Reimagine Jewish](#). “We want to create a community that explores Jewish ideas and topics in an open, inclusive way,” he says.

Rather than building something from the outside in, Rabbi Rose is focused on building from the inside out.

“Rabbis often do what I used to do: present a program that I’m interested in and then try to get people to attend ... But now, I’m meeting one on one with people in our community constantly, hearing directly what it is that they want to see in Jewish Portland. I’m being inspired every day by the enthusiasm and ideas. The next step is to inspire them to collaborate in bringing these ideas to life – program by program.”

He points out that Co/Lab joins an already fertile Jewish creative landscape.

“There are already fantastic organizations doing great work here,” he says. “TischPDX, Religion Outside of the Box, ShulchanPDX, Alberta Shul and Co/Lab are part of what I call the ‘next wave’ of Jewish life here. Each brings a new perspective on Jewish life. Along with the Eastside Jewish Commons – which is just an incredible resource for our community – (they) should make anyone who cares about Jewish life in Portland feel excited.”

In his current work, Rabbi Rose has learned there are a



Rabbi Josh Rose

many unaffiliated Jews in Portland who value being Jewish but seek something different.

“I believe Portland can become a great city for all Jews, which includes Jews who cherish religious experience and those who are seeking to connect in new ways,” he says. “My dream is to help make that happen.”

Rabbi Rose has been gratified by the support he’s received thus far and looks forward to being part of the renaissance of Jewish Portland.

“Channah and the boys and I love Portland and the Jewish community. We’re here to stay.”

If you’d like more information, you can reach Rabbi Rose at rabbijosh@colabpdx.org or through www.colabpdx.org.

Public Service Announcement

CNSCOS

Congregation Neveh Shalom Covid-19 Outreach and Services

Have you
or a loved
one been
affected by
Covid-19?
CNSCOS is
here to
help!

We can help with...

- Housing such as hotels or motels
- Food / Meals
- Health care and self-monitoring supplies that are not covered by insurance
- Transportation related to individuals in isolation or quarantine (ambulance, taxi, etc.)
- Communications such as cell phones
- Cleaning services
- Grocery shopping
- Childcare

covid19@nevehshalom.org
nevehshalom.org/covid19/

Chaplain's Corner

A Not So Simple Question

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

Who are you?

This is a short question with an exceptionally complex answer. We can answer this question tribally, and we can answer this question universally.

What do I mean by "tribal"? This refers to a particular identity with restricted "membership." Here is a tribal way I can answer the question "who are you?"

I am a Memphian (born in Memphis); a Reform Jew; a staunch Democrat; cisgender; a University of Michigan alumnus; a Pittsburgh Steeler fan; a rabbi; white; Gen X-er; middle class; a father; a fan of blues, jazz and a wide variety of rock and roll; a chaplain; the youngest of four; a widower; a hiker.

Please note that none of these answers describe what I am not. (I could have answered musically, I do NOT like country.) Many of us may reflexively define ourselves by who we are not, rather than who we are. I think it is healthier to answer in the positive.

What makes this tribal way of answering so challenging is that lines of demarcation are everywhere. The categories from which to choose can be overwhelming. Concerning self-identity, we often run away from some tribal categories and run toward others.

In my youth, I loved the expression, "American by birth, Southern by the grace of God." But in my 20s as I learned more about the South's history, culture and racial legacy, I vowed never to say that again. I have been redefining my Southern identity ever since. (Note, earlier that I only mentioned my specific birthplace; I did not intend to associate myself with the Southern region and its culture, history and references.)

When I learned about the chaplain position in Portland, I pursued it in part because on a

gut level, I thought I would feel more at home and that my kids would have a better high school experience here. We previously lived in Oklahoma City and the northwest Chicago suburbs. I never felt comfortable or settled there. I was intrigued by the opportunity to move to Portland and embrace the identity of living in the Pacific Northwest.

But what about answering the question "who are you?" from a universal perspective?

To begin with, I refuse to focus on such descriptors as race, since "race" is nothing but a construct. (On a genetic level, there is no such thing as "a white gene.") From a universal perspective, I define myself as curious, inquisitive, adventurous, open-minded and spiritual. I can add that I am a pursuer of justice and strive to repair small corners of our world. I see myself as a small part of an interconnected and interdependent web of life.

The universal stresses commonalities, beyond surface level differences that only separate us into camps. Almost every day, I grieve how social media has transformed our nation into micro-tribes. We are divided, subdivided and sub-subdivided into groups of like-minded individuals. One antidote that can bridge our so-called perceived differences is to rediscover what we have in common. These commonalities comprise our universal identities.

I continue to be intrigued by how we consciously and unconsciously act at times from our tribal identities and at times from our universal identities.

A lighthearted way I act upon my tribal identity is on game day when Michigan plays Ohio State. A more powerful way is when I am politically engaged, taking part in democracy and voting for candidates that reflect my values.

One way of acting universally is donating toiletries, socks and



Rabbi Barry Cohen is the Jewish community chaplain of the Greater Portland area. He can be reached at chaplain@jewishportland.org

ponchos to help the houseless. Another way is to do the demanding work to oppose systemic racism and to advocate for LGBTQ rights. An additional way is thinking beyond myself to support legislation to increase taxes to address climate change. It is universal to make personal sacrifices today that are in the best interest of generations to come.

What can become dangerous is when we think it is best for us to act from our tribal identity when we should be acting from our universal identity. We see this with the controversy over whether or not to take the COVID vaccine. Except in those circumstances when the vaccine could be life-threatening, we should become vaccinated not only to protect ourselves but to protect our family, friends, coworkers and strangers we cross paths with every day ... and total strangers thousands of miles away.

I began my words by asking the straightforward question "who are you?" As we continue to answer that question, we arrive at the logical follow-up question: "Who do you want to be?" I look forward to answering that question for the rest of my life.

Published biweekly by
Jewish Federation of
Greater Portland
9900 SW Greenburg Road,
Suite 220
Tigard, OR 97223
503-245-6219
JewishPortland.org

Editor

Deborah Moon
editor@jewishportland.org
503-892-7404 (message)

Circulation

To receive the Jewish
Review in your email inbox,
email your name and email
address to
editor@jewishportland.org

OPINIONS printed in the
Jewish Review do not
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of the Jewish Review
Committee, the Jewish
Federation of Greater
Portland, its governing
board or the staffs of either
the newspaper or the
Federation.

Upcoming issues

Issue date	Deadline
Nov. 10	Nov. 4
Nov. 24	Nov. 18
Dec. 8	Dec. 2
Dec. 22	Dec. 16

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

Rabbi's Corner

The Beauty of Pride is More Than Skin Deep

BY RABBI DAVID KOSAK

This past Wednesday (Oct. 20), Israel360 partnered with our local Hillel and the Jewish Federation to bring Ashager Araro to our community for an engaging and powerful presentation.

Ashager is a second-generation Ethiopian-Israeli. Her talk covered many topics. A number of things stood out to me. One was her community's deep-seated desire to return to Israel from Ethiopia, a country the Beta Yisrael (the name by which Ethiopian Jews self-identify) had lived in for 1,500 years. It was a reminder how skewed the political game of calling Zionism a European or colonialist enterprise is. For over a millennium, the Beta Yisrael, isolated from modern communication tools, imagined that they were the last Jews even as they continually dreamed and longed for a return to Israel. Exile and long years could not eliminate their ancient tie to the land of their ancestors.

In the last decades of the 20th century, a rumor reached them that other Jews were out there and had returned to Jerusalem. Based only on the thinnest of knowledge, thousands marched into the desert, uncertain if the rumor were true but desperately hungry to return to their, and our, ancestral home.

Ashager challenged us to ask ourselves if American Jews would have done the same. She was part of the second return in 1990-91. Her mother walked into the desert with little but the clothes on her back, where she

gave birth to Ashager. Like so many of us feel when first holding our newborns, her parents' optimism was recharged, and what seemed a perilous and foolhardy journey was infused with new hope.

There is another aspect to her story that is important for American Jews – and perhaps all Americans to hear. When her family lived in Ethiopia, where their black skins should have allowed them to “pass,” their people suffered virulent anti-Semitism. When they arrived in Israel, they instead endured racism – a racism, she was clear to point out, that has little to do with America's deep-seated structural racism.

In describing this dichotomy, she mentioned how often people try to force her into a false dichotomy. “Are you Black or are you Jewish?” She consistently rejects such violent rhetoric. “I am both,” she said. “Embrace all of your identities,” she urged the audience. Ashager is a living example of what it looks like to live with fearless pride.

In today's world, it takes rare courage to do so, particularly for progressive American Jews, for whom the message continually given is that you can't be Jewish, pro-Israel and committed to the social change you desire. We could spend a long time elaborating on the ancient and enduring structural anti-Semitism that allows such erasure of Jewish identities and bodies to occur, but sadly we don't need to. An example is closer at hand.

Much press has already been written about the Sunrise Movement, a youth-oriented political action committee dedicated to climate marches and awareness. A DC division of the organization cancelled its planned march for the environment when it learned that some Jewish groups were involved, although all of those groups believe in a two-state solution for Palestinians and Israelis alike and understand that a healthy planet benefits all peoples.

What is pertinent to Ashager's visit with us is not the group's politics on the Middle East, but the more pernicious fact that this is one of countless examples in which Jews are being forced to choose between their identities.

Sunrise DC claimed in a Twitter post that “Given our commitment to racial justice, self-governance and indigenous sovereignty, we oppose Zionism and any state that enforces its ideology.” Apparently, it is acceptable for them to enforce their ideology, to stand against racial justice for Jews, to deny Israel's right to self-governance or its indigenous sovereignty.

Let's leave aside the double-standard arguments, or even the fact that groups such as this support every other identity and only choose to erase Jewish identity. I am most concerned with the challenges this places on Jews to feel pride in the fullness of who we are.

This is not the first time, nor will it be the last, when Jews who want to work toward inclusion and a better world for all



Rabbi David Kosak is senior rabbi at Congregation Neveh Shalom. This column first appeared in his Oct. 22 weekly email “Oasis Songs.”

are excluded or marginalized. Nothing is new in this. This marginalization and “othering” have been the traditional forms that anti-Semitism has taken, and over the years, countless Jews have contorted or denied essential parts of their identities in the vain hope that doing so would buy them acceptance. Often, we are unaware that we are doing so or that our ideologies have been shaped by the enduring and continual trauma from which Jews suffer.

When Ashager Araro refuses to reduce her identity to Jewish or Black, she is taking a stand for truth, justice, self-love and pride. She reminds us that when we are aligned with, and have clarity about, who we are, no one can trick us into denying that. Jews! Be proud! Embrace yourself and the many facets of your identities!

Rabbi's Corner

The Jewish Review offers space for a Rabbi's Corner each issue. Our community's rabbis are invited to share their thoughts on the week's parsha or current events. The Oregon Board of Rabbis organized the project. Rabbis are invited to schedule a date to submit a 500- to 600-word piece.

For more information, email editor@jewishportland.org.

Jobs board

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Accountant

Full time. Salary commensurate with skills and experience ranging from \$45-65K. Possibility of partial remote work. Reports directly to the CFO.

CBI seeks an accountant to perform daily accounting tasks. This role has a strong emphasis on membership outreach. The ideal candidate will have an understanding of nonprofit accounting principles, outstanding communication skills and a talent for relationship building with members, ability to multitask, strong organizational and time management skills, attention to detail, ability to collaborate with other team members and ability to work independently with minimal supervision once trained. Bachelor's in accounting or finance is preferred.

Full job description: bethisrael-pdx.org/jobs/. Resume and cover letter must be submitted to Melissa@bethisrael-pdx.org with subject line: Accountant.

P'NAI OR OF PORTLAND

Jewish Renewal synagogue in Portland Rabbi's Assistant

P'nai Or seeks a rabbi's assistant to work directly with Rabbi Hannah Laner on a quarter-time basis. This person will provide administrative support to our part-time rabbi in several key areas, including scheduling, communications and volunteer coordination. Strong computer skills are a must. Familiarity with Hebrew and Jewish holidays is preferred.

Job description: pnaiorpx.org/rabbis-assistant-position-available-part-time. Interviews first two weeks of November.

Musical Accompanist

The musical accompanist will provide guitar/instrumental and vocal musical support for the rabbi at Friday and Saturday services (usually one Friday night and two Saturday mornings per month), Jewish holidays, life-cycle events and other events.

Requirements: Strong skill at acoustic guitar or keyboard. Knowledge of Jewish liturgy and sacred music. Knowledge of audio technology preferred.

Compensation per event; amount to be negotiated. To apply, send resume and cover letter to admin@pnaiorpx.org by Nov. 24.

CNSCOS

EVENT COORDINATOR

Congregation Neveh Shalom COVID-19 Outreach and Services seeks an Event Coordinator to help plan vaccine events around the greater Portland area (Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties).

Full job description: nevehshalom.org/covid19/

Obituaries

NAOMI AND LOUIS HORN, Z"l

Nearly 77 years ago in Jerusalem, in the midst of World War II, a young British soldier married the daughter of the Chief Sephardic Rabbi of the Old City. The chuppah was raised on the rooftop of the Porat Yosef Yeshiva with a clear view of the Western Wall. Rabbi Ben-Zion Chai Uziel, Chief Sephardic Rabbi of what was then Mandatory Palestine, joined Naomi's father in conducting the ceremony.

The couple, Louis and Naomi Horn, z"l, passed away within a few dozen hours of each other Oct. 20 and 22 in Salem, where they were beloved members of the Jewish community. Louis would have been 102 on Nov. 2, and Naomi celebrated her 100th birthday last May 25.

On two days, Thursday and Friday, their Salem friends and synagogue family traveled to Portland for funerals at the Kesser Israel Cemetery, first for Louis and a day later for Naomi, who was laid to rest beside her husband just hours before Shabbat.

"They were 100 percent Jewish in the deepest, deepest ways," said Rabbi Eli Herb of Temple Beth Shalom, which the couple joined when they moved to Salem in 1949. Lou served as the congregation's president for three terms, and Naomi was twice president of the sisterhood. "They were members, teachers — *machers* — in the best sense of the word."

Though they had no children of their own, they founded the temple's religious school, taught Sunday School for many years, and also gave private lessons for bar and bat mitzvahs.

Todd Silverstein, a longtime friend who spoke at the funerals, remembered both for their deep devotion to each other, to family and friends, to Israel and to the Jewish people. He closed his eulogies for both with "Sunrise, Sunset," one of the couple's favorite songs, and one he said that "Lou would sing at the drop of a hat."

Lou was born in London, England, but grew up in Birmingham, where his father, Abraham, an immigrant from Lodz, Poland, worked as a master tailor. Lou, the oldest of four boys, enlisted in the British Army in March 1941, serving in Egypt and Iraq before being sent to the Palestinian Mandate administered by Great Britain. There he met Naomi, the daughter of HaRav Ben-Zion Mordechai Hazan, a noted kabbalist and a founder of the Porat Yosef Yeshiva, who had been born in Iraq.

Lou liked to tell the story of going to a synagogue service with Naomi's father, who spoke no English, and being invited to lead the prayers. At the end of the service,



Rabbi Hazan was pointing in Lou's direction, speaking with other rabbis. Lou was nervous, but he later learned that his future father-in-law was telling others, with pride: "You see this man in military uniform? He knows how to pray in Hebrew, and he is soon to marry my daughter, Naomi."

In 1947, the young couple moved to Britain, and, after Lou's military service, came to the United States. They lived in several states — including a memorable, if brief, time working at a dude ranch near Tucson, Ariz., owned by one of Lou's aunts — before deciding to join friends in Salem.

Both Lou and Naomi worked for the State of Oregon — Naomi in the Department of Education, where she was an evaluator for teacher certification, and Lou in the Department of Commerce, from which he retired as assistant Corporation Commissioner.

Lou is survived by nieces and nephews and a number of cousins, including Karen Danner in the Portland area, and many close friends in the Salem Jewish community.

Naomi, who was one of nine children, is survived by a brother, Avihail, in Israel, a large extended family, and, of course, her and Lou's Salem Jewish community.

(To access an oral history interview with Naomi Horn held at the Oregon Jewish Museum & Center for Holocaust Education, contact archivist Alisha Babbstein at ababbstein@ojmche.org)

ED WIENER

Ed Wiener, z"l, Yitzchak Beryl ben Rivka, passed away on Oct. 24, 2021. He is survived by three children, Linda Wiener (Dr. Joel Datloff), Wendy Herz and Shari Levinson (Marshal Spector); nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A private funeral was planned. A shiva minyan will be held at Congregation Shaarie Torah at 5 pm, Oct. 28. Vaccination and masking required.

Obituaries (Continued)

JAMES (JIM) MEYER

Jim Meyer, z"l, passed away on Shabbat, Oct. 23, 2021, at 85. Jim is loved and remembered by his wife, Lora; children, Mark & Marcia Meyer (Portland), Tom & Shawn Fields-Meyer (Los Angeles) and Richard & Erika Meyer (Portland); his brother, Les (Marie Dalton-Meyer) Meyer (Burlington, Vt.); grandchildren, Shana and Alex, Ami, Ezra and Noam, and Avi, Dalya and Orly; and many nieces and nephews.



Jim was an exemplary leader of both the Jewish and wider communities in Portland and Oregon. He was active in the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland since 1966, serving as board chair 1970-72; campaign chair 1988-89; treasurer 2018-21; and in multiple roles over the years. He was a founding board member of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, and served as its second board president. He also served on the board Congregation Neveh Shalom. Over decades, Jim also served on multi-

ple state and city boards and on general community boards, including Oregon Community Foundation.

A Memorial Service was held Oct. 25 in the main sanctuary of Congregation Neveh Shalom, with a private interment.

At the service, his son Rich quoted a former aide to an Oregon governor, who said, "Jim always stood out as the best model of Oregon citizenship – a busy individual who gave generously of their time to advance the public interest." Rich added, "That was Dad."

He was even more committed to his family, Rich said: "He made it a priority to show up for all our events. If it was important in our lives, it was important for him to be there."

Son Tom recalled the last time the extended family was all together for what it calls a "MeyerFest," at Thanksgiving two years ago. Jim shared a list he had written in response to a sermon in which Rabbi Daniel Isaak had asked congregants to consider what they'd do if they won the lottery. The list was of ways "Dad felt he had won the lottery: being born into the freedom of America, his loving parents Larry and Ruth, his education at Harvard and Harvard Business School, the blind date that turned out to be Lora...."

After graduate school, Jim and Lora moved to Portland from Boston in 1960, expecting to stay in the west "for a year or two," he often said. In 1961, he got an unusual opportunity to acquire an old-line industrial distribution business, Goodyear Rubber & Supply Co. He managed that business until he sold it in 1983. After that, Jim was an investor in Portland small businesses and real estate.

(To access an oral history interview with Jim Meyer held at the Oregon Jewish Museum & Center for Holocaust Education, contact archivist Alisha Babbstein, ababbstein@ojmche.org)

ROSALIND (ROS) KANE

Rosalind (Ros) Kane, z"l, passed away on Erev Shabbat, Oct. 22, 2021, at the age of 81. Ros is loved and remembered by her husband, Phil Kane; son, Daniel (Leslie) Petcher; sister, Ruthanne Gould; stepson, Lee (Gina Rosito) Kane; and stepdaughter, Shoshana (Stephen) Silver.

The funeral was Oct. 26 at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery in Portland. Congregation Neveh Shalom and Congregation Shaarie Torah extend condolences to the extended Kane family.



Marilyn Hasson, z"l, with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in 2011.

MARILYN HASSON

Marilyn Hasson, z"l, passed away on Motzei Shabbat, Oct. 16, 2021, at the age of 91. Marilyn is loved and remembered by her son, Barry (Leslie) Hasson; 10 grandchildren, Brett (Stephanie) Rudolph, Corey (Michelle) Rudolph, Nicole (Joe) Imatani, Tracy (Elizabeth) Hasson, Michelle Hasson, Lauren Hasson, Jenna Hasson, Jason (Kaitlin) Johnson, Seth Rudolph and Danielle Rudolph; and 11 great-grandchildren, Jaden, Riley and Harper Imatani; Clyde and Calvin Rudolph; Isabel, Alex, Abel and Evelyn Rudolph; and Lucia and Brady Johnson. Marilyn was predeceased by her children, Michael Hasson, z"l, and Janise Rudolph, z"l.

She was born Dec. 2, 1929. She helped manage the Hasson Co. real estate offices her son Michael founded in 1991. She was a long-time member of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

There will be a private interment for family and friends.

ALLAN ISRAEL FRANKEL

Dr. Allan Israel Frankel passed away Oct. 7, 2021, in Los Angeles, Calif., after a two-year battle with prostate cancer. He is survived by his children, Josh (Amy) of Portland, Aaron (Carrie) and Shira (Andy); eight grandchildren; sister, Estelle (Steve); niece, Miriam; nephew, Elon (Katie); and his dear friend Larry (Trish). Born in 1951 in New York to Holocaust survivors, Allan spent most of his childhood in Northern California before attending UCLA for undergraduate and medical school.

He finished second in his class at the UCLA School of Medicine and worked for two decades as a private practice internal medicine doctor. In the early 2000s, he transitioned his career to focus on cannabis medicine. As the founder and CEO of Greenbridge Medical, he became one of the world's leading authorities on cannabis dosing. Allan traveled the world to see patients and consult with other cannabis experts. Allan had a tremendous passion for medicine and will be remembered as a highly skilled and empathetic physician. He was also an innovator who helped develop two medical software programs – Chartscape and eScript. Allan could always be counted on for a joke and making people laugh. His patients would often comment about how his sense of humor made them feel at ease despite uncomfortable health conditions. His sarcasm and sense of humor will be greatly missed by his family and friends.



Donations in his memory can be made to the Oregon Holocaust Memorial and Education Endowment Fund at OJCF or the Red Cross. As an alternative, please consider making a blood donation in his honor. The generosity of others through blood transfusions helped sustain him the last year of his life.

A celebration of life is scheduled for Nov. 7 at 4 pm on Zoom: us02web.zoom.us/j/86385801732

RACHEL'S WELL (continued from page 1)

Ronnie approached the OBR nearly a decade ago to urge them to plan for a new community mikvah to replace the aging mikvah built on Harrison Street in 1958. The JFGP had funded the operations for that mikvah and took the lead to build the new mikvah when the Portland Ritualarium was decommissioned in 2016.

“Jewish law awards precedence to the building of a mikvah over the building of any other institution, indicating the significance it has for communal life,” says Rabbi Chanan Spivak, CEO of the Portland Kollel. The Kollel has been designated by the OBR to be the mikvah’s halachic supervisor. “The Federation has done a tremendous service to the community by both the building of the mikvah as well as the professional oversight that provides a comfortable, efficient and safe environment for all those who use it. I see it as truly symbolic that an organization such as the Jewish Federation, which is situated at the center of the Portland Jewish community, has stood up to the responsibility to provide such an institution that is so central to Jewish life.”

Ronnie not only promoted the need for a community mikvah available for contemporary immersions, she has also used it. Before her daughter, Ellie, became a bat mitzvah at Congregation Neveh Shalom in 2019, Ronnie took her to Rachel’s Well to mark the transition.

“And I did the same to be prepared to be the mother of a bat mitzvah,” says Ronnie.

Since Rachel’s Well opened, the range of traditional and contemporary immersions has grown immensely over the old mikvah.

In a video for Federation, mikvah volunteer guide and user Toni Jaffe says that a mikvah open to all Jewish people for any reason really struck a chord with her.

“I think we need more ritual in our life to mark transitions, to mark ceremonies, to mark passages,” says Toni. “Rachel’s Well 14 Jewish Review Oct. 27, 2021



Photo by Josh Parlee

TRADITIONAL & CONTEMPORARY IMMERSIONS AT RACHEL'S WELL

Taharat HaMishpacha (Laws of Family Purity) monthly immersion

Conversion – babies, youth and adults

Pre-wedding – brides and grooms

Pre-b'nai mitzvah

Pre-holiday (Shabbat, High Holidays, Pesach, etc.)

Mourning/Yarzheit

Post *Tahara* for those who volunteer to prepare bodies for burial

Fertility

9th month of pregnancy

Healing from a trauma (illness, abuse, divorce, etc.)

Milestone celebrations (birthday, new job, etc.)

Transitions not otherwise specified

is an experience of immersion you can enter as one person and exit as another person who has gone through a particular time or situation or passage in your life.”

That sense of leaving as a different person was a factor in the design of Rachel’s Well. When about 20 people met with the architect to share their vision of a modern mikvah, Ronnie says one woman said she was moved by the way people left Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Israel, by a different path than they entered.

Ronnie says that concept was adopted for Rachel’s Well: “If you choose to, after you immerse, you could leave through a door in back and take a path that curves around and feel uplifted into this new space.”

Also on video, Jake Sullivan says he was very excited when

he learned Federation was building a mikvah he could use. Jake had learned the concept of mikvah at Portland Jewish Academy and immersed in Israel during a Birthright trip. But he says he has gone through many changes in his life during his 20s.

“I wanted a way to mark those transitions that was deeper and more intentional,” says Jake. “(Immersing) was an introspective and spiritual experience.”

That sense is exactly what the mikvah is meant to be.

“The mikvah ... entails so many profound concepts of spiritual renewal and deep meaningful connection,” says Rabbi Spivak.

Portland may well have the only mikvah in the country that was built and owned by a Federation, according to Lucy Marshall, director of the Ris-

“I wanted a way to mark those transitions that was deeper and more intentional.”

~Jake Sullivan

ing Tide Network, a group of open mikvaot that welcomes a spectrum of users for a breadth of purposes for immersion. Though many Federations provide financial support for mikvaot, Lucy says none of the 34 communities in six countries in the network have a Federation-owned mikvah.

“The leadership Federation has taken is inspiring,” says Carrie Bornstein, CEO of Mayyim Hayyim, one of five core mikvaot that launched the network. “Rachel’s Well is a model for other Federations.”

Rising Tide was founded so communities “wouldn’t have to re-invent the wheel,” says Carrie.

Founded in 2018, Rising Tide arose out of the trend for communities to “open the experience of mikvah to the entire Jewish community to help create a vibrant, welcoming, inclusive American Jewish future.” The first such mikvah, Mayyim Hayyim, opened in 2004 and consulted with many communities before Rising Tide formed.

But Carrie says that was time intensive, and Mayyim Hayyim realized they could learn from the newer communities. “We had colleagues who could provide different perspectives and ideas. They had done it more recently. Our system was created in 2004 – pre-big internet. ... There is a synergy when we learn from each other.”

Carrie and Lucy both praised Caron for her leadership of Rachel’s Well, with Lucy adding that Caron and Rachel’s Well have made many contributions to the Rising Tide Network.

To learn more about Rachel’s Well, visit jewishportland.org/mikvah or email mikvahpdx@gmail.com.