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Chanukah starts Nov. 28! Are you ready?

This year, Chanukah begins early on the secular calendar – the evening of Nov. 28 – and continues through Dec. 5. The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has curated a webpage, jewishportland.org/chanukah-resources, jam-packed with resources to help you celebrate this year's Chanukah.

Explore local Chanukah events on the Community Calendar. PJ Library shares everything you need to know to celebrate the Festival of Lights. Visit Blue Dove's Chanukah connection to mental health to help you stay grounded and healthy

during the holiday season. Find Chanukah 101 information about candle-lighting, the Maccabees, latkes and more at My Jewish Learning. Interfaith couples and families can build confidence celebrating the holiday at 18 Doors: Unlocking Jewish. You can also find DIY Chanukah tips and rituals at Custom & Craft.

You can find Chanukah pop-up stores and Judaic gift shops with holiday fare on **pages 10-11**. In addition, many grocery stores carry Chanukah candles and chocolate gelt in their kosher food sections.



Climate change: A call to action

BY DEBORAH MOON

"You have a call to action," moderator Rob Shlachter told attendees at the Oct. 27 Solomon's Legacy program on climate change from a legal perspective. "You have to start somewhere."

Shlachter called *Climate Change and the Public Trust*, "one of the most important programs I have ever attended." It featured University of Oregon Professor Mary Wood and Nigel Savage, founder of Hazon, the Jewish Lab for Sustainability. Solomon's Legacy is the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's affinity group for local Jewish attorneys, judges and law students.

See **CLIMATE**, page 13

Pearl gains an Oasis

BY DEBORAH MOON

A Jewish Oasis is coming to Portland's Pearl District.

Following the August 2020 fire that destroyed the Chabad House and Everything Jewish store near Hillsdale, a fund-raising campaign has allowed Chabad to purchase (with a mortgage) a 2,500-square-foot building at 1218 NW Glisan St. Now Rabbi Chayim and Simi Mishulovin are working on phase 1 renovations to create a Jewish Oasis featuring the return of the popular store and resource center, a lounge area, a coffee/tea stand, free Wi-Fi, ADA bathrooms and a high bar along the windows facing Glisan.

"I'd rather go to the Oasis and have a cup of tea and do a bit of work than go to Starbucks," says Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, whose NW Portland/Beaverton district encompasses the new Oasis. "It is taking something people like to do and creating a Jewish space to do it where people can feel welcome. For the uninvolved, it is less threatening, and for the involved, it is a place that feels more like home."

David Howitt, who helped lead the planning committee, says they looked at what makes a Jewish home welcoming.

"The feeling of being loved and warm is usually found in the kitchen and living room," says Howitt. "We are creating a Jewish kitchen and living room in the middle of Portland."

Howitt grew up in Grand Rapids, Mich., a largely Dutch Christian town. About the time his parents divorced, he met the local Chabad rabbi.

See **OASIS**, page 8

INSIDE

Security promotion
– page 2

Historic bar mitzvah
– page 2

Shaarie Torah, new rabbi enthused for future – page 4

Honors: Youth ambassador, Lions award – page 5

Tivnu hires three new staffers – page 6

JFCS nourishes community – page 6

Psychiatrist talks pandemic anxiety
– page 7

What can be done for downtown? – page 8

Malka Diamonds finds home in Pearl – page 9

Engaged: Rothstein-Elkaim – page 9

Chanukah pop-ups & shops – pages 10-11

The comfort of a good book (group) – page 12

Knitting community at EJC – page 12

Chaplain's Corner: Time – page 14

Jobs Board: CNSCOS, Preschool – page 14

PJA diversity – page 15

Hillel cooking – page 15

Obituaries – page 16

Local security director steps up to regional post

In 2018, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland launched a Community Security Initiative in partnership with the Secure Community Network and hired Gene Moss to serve as the community's security director.

Now Gene has accepted a regional role with SCN, the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America, which will allow him to serve the broader Pacific Northwest. Gene will be able to use his skill set to impact the Jewish community across the region while remaining based in the Portland area.

"This new role for Gene is a testament to his hard work and efforts with Jewish institutions across the state," says JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with him as his job expands. And we look to hire a new local security director as quickly as possible."

As SCN begins the recruiting process for his replacement, Gene, along with the SCN team, will continue to provide the Federation and its community partners with the same level of attention it has since program inception.

According to a joint JFGP-SCN press release, "Gene's dedication and commitment to securing our community has not only benefitted our region, but it has also helped inform the approach to security for Jewish communities across the country."

The release notes that through Gene's guidance, JFGP and its Jewish community have been privy to SCN's suite of services, including security drills and training, threat assessments, regional organizational meetings and law enforcement liaising that has set the standard for SCN's program and approach, across the country. These same standards will now be used to continue to develop and improve the security posture that JFGP and its community have enjoyed for the past two years.



Gene Moss

"I have enjoyed establishing and growing relationships in our community around safety and security with an all-hazards approach to a community safety program," says Gene. "I am excited for the opportunity to provide leadership and mentorship to existing regional security advisors and community security directors. And to provide training, education and assessments with other communities that may not have a formal security program."

As Regional Security Director, Gene will be a national resource with a focus on the Pacific Northwest. Gene says his promotion is a win-win for Portland – "They keep Gene and get a new Gene."

Like all security advisors in the region, Portland's new RSA will have the advantage of working with Gene – to further build the regional program.

"Over the past 2½ years, our community has benefited from the partnership with SCN through information-sharing, safety and security resources, training, incident response, and most of all, through the provision of our dedicated Regional Security Advisor Gene Moss," says Marc. "Gene has been an invaluable resource to the Greater Portland Jewish community, providing strategic vision and leadership to our program and community and working tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of our whole community."



Gavriel Kedem reads from a Torah scribed by his mother, Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem, during his bar mitzvah in the social hall at Congregation Shaarie Torah. From left are Nachshon David Carmi, Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem, Hadar Kedem, Andrew Tertes Kedem, Gavriel Kedem and Eddy Shuldman. Photo by Nikki Levine.

A historic bar mitzvah

When Gavriel Kedem became a bar mitzvah Oct. 21, he read from a Torah scroll scribed by his mother, Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem, the first female commissioned to scribe a Sefer Torah.

"There was never a time in Jewish history where a child knows he has read from a scroll his mother has written," says Shoshana.

"The art and labor of scribing sacred ritual texts had been forbidden to women for over 3,000 years until I and other women began secretly training and, later, publicly writing," says Shoshana.

Now she says about 15-17 female and nongender-conforming scribes have written a Torah scroll or Megillah, but most scrolls live far from the scribes.

When the Kadima Reconstructionist Community in Seattle commissioned Shoshana, she was living in Israel. Known as the Women's Torah Project, a total of six women worked on the scroll with Shoshana as the lead scribe from 2006 to 2010.

From 2013 to 2015, she scribed a second Torah, also scribed collectively by five women as she required to accept the commission.

"In 2016, I moved with my partner and our two young children from Israel, where they were born, to Portland," said Shoshana. Gavriel is now a seventh-grader at Portland Jewish Academy.

As her son's bar mitzvah approached, she arranged with Kadima to borrow the Seattle scroll.

"When I think of him reading from it, it makes me cry," says Shoshana. "This is why I do what I do – so the next generation can look at us and say 'I can do that.'"

Her work as a scribe prompted her to launch two other projects. "Women of the Book" features 54 women artists who created visual commentary on the Torah. The exhibit was debuted at the Jerusalem Biennial in 2015 and now resides at the Yale University Arts Library. Her ongoing Or Hadash project is a collaborative effort to bring humanely sourced parchment to contemporary Hebrew scribes.

She says that for the past 50 to 70 years, most parchment has been sourced from fetal calves, a byproduct of the agricultural industrial complex. Before that, most parchments were goat or sheepskin. "I'm working with a parchment maker in New York and a woman in Kansas who raises sheep ethically," she says.

Read more about Shoshana's work at shoshanagugenheim.com.



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Rabbi Gary Ezra Oren receives the priestly blessing, *Birkat ha Cohanim*, from Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson (vice president of American Jewish University). They are joined on the bimah by Rabbi Ariel Stone, Rabbi Michael Cahana and Pastor Jon Nichols of Open House Ministries. The installation followed havdallah, wrapping up a weekend of Shabbat services and learning opportunities.



As the 10th rabbi of Congregation Shaarie Torah, Rabbi Gary Oren will balance tradition with innovation. While blending his library with the books of past rabbis, he uncovered this composition book from Rabbi Yonah Geller, z"l, who served CST from 1960 to 2007.

Shaarie Torah and new rabbi enthused for future

BY DEBORAH MOON

Four months after he assumed the pulpit at Congregation Shaarie Torah, Rabbi Gary Ezra Oren was formally installed as the rabbi of the Conservative congregation on Oct. 30.

It's been a positive experience on both sides, and the rabbi and congregation are enthused by what the future holds.

"We view Rabbi Oren's installation as more than the culmination of a very successful search and hiring process," says Executive Director Jemi Kostiner Mansfield. "It also marks the embarkation onto the next chapter of Shaarie Torah's story, a story steeped in the goodness of community, tradition and great kindness among all people. We couldn't be more thrilled to have Rabbi Oren as our shul's spiritual leader."

Rabbi Oren concurs. "What I learned during the interview process has been affirmed. This is a community of welcoming and kind folks, who are open to Jewish learning and meaningful prayer experience."

"People thank me for coming here," he says, adding he is likewise grateful for the staff and people. Rather than an attitude of "What can you do for me?," he says people want to know "What are we going to do together?"

Rabbi Oren says he wants to help the congregation "meet the real needs of what Jews need in the 21st century." He says the congregation, which was founded as an Orthodox shul in 1905, has evolved over the century since then. Now affiliated with the Conservative movement, he says the

congregation is framed by tradition but is willing to be creative.

Shaarie Torah Vice President Sara Staggs is especially impressed by the rabbi's approach to bar and bat mitzvah celebrations. Boys become a bar mitzvah at age 13 and one day and girls become bat mitzvah at 12 years and one day.

"Rabbi Oren understands there are many ways to celebrate that," says Staggs. "He is bringing that thought into Portland. He is really going to revolutionize the way bar and bat mitzvah is looked at and done in Portland."

When he worked at a large Los Angeles synagogue, Rabbi Oren says "every family had to fit into a narrow box." He believes that approach is why some young people walk away from Judaism after the ceremony is over.

"I'd rather create a really meaningful experience for kids and their families," he says. "I like to sit with the family and ask, 'How do your story and the Jewish story weave together?'"

"We have to be flexible," says Rabbi Oren. "We live in society where everything can be curated. ... Some celebrations will look traditional or they may be in a park — there are lots of options."

While the congregation's youth learn the skills to become b'nai mitzvah in Shaarie Torah's religious school, which is led by Dr. Sharon Pollin, Rabbi Oren wants to offer a program for all interested 6th and 7th graders in the local Jewish community.

By the end of the school year, he hopes to launch a monthly program on what it

means to become a b'nai mitzvah — "Not the skills, but what does it mean to step into young adulthood?"

The disruption caused by the pandemic and the change demanded by COVID have perhaps accelerated changes.

"I don't know if there is any going back," he says. Video at services may be a permanent change. "I can't imagine a time when we say to a grandparent who can't travel, 'sorry, you can't see your grandson's bar mitzvah.'"

However, COVID has slowed one change he wants to make. Rabbi Oren wants to set up a "Sacred Grounds" coffee cart outside of the sanctuary. It would serve fair trade coffee and tea in washable cups that people could bring into the sanctuary.

"People are worried about the carpet," he says. "I worry about people's hearts. You can replace carpet. We'll have to get a cleaning service."

Rabbi Oren has also been impressed with the openness and welcome of Portland's Jewish community.

"All the Jewish goodwill for Shaarie Torah from lay and professional leaders wishing the place to do well is refreshing," he says. "It is a legacy institution, but it is more than that. There is a sense of openness and goodness here."

He points to Rachel's Well Community Mikvah as another example of the community's openness. "Portland is a fountain of goodwill. We have a community mikvah where the whole spectrum visits one place. It makes sense, but so many communities are not doing it."



Portland Backpack board member Myrna Muñoz presents the nonprofit's Youth Ambassador Award to Portland Jewish Academy eighth-grader Jake Chisholm.

Portland Backpack honors PJA's Jake Chisholm

Jake Chisholm, 13, formally receives Portland Backpack's annual Youth Ambassador Award at the Backpacking Through Portland virtual fund-raising event Nov. 10. The actual presentation was filmed at Jake's home and will be included in the event.

The award recognizes Jake's *Makeshift Mocktails* book service project. His book features more than two dozen seasonal recipes for tasty, fun, nonalcoholic mocktails. Jake donates all proceeds to Portland Backpack.

"I live in Portland, Oregon, where lots of kids struggle with food insecurity," says Jake. "The Portland Backpack Project is an organization where they give bags full of food to kids that are suffering from food insecurity. I think that they are doing a really good job of helping low-income families with their food insecurity."

Jake has attended PJA since first grade. He is the son of Carrie Wynkoop and Kari Chisholm. You can read more about his community service project at jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/students-mocktails-feed-hungry-kids.

The annual Portland Backpack Youth Ambassador award is presented to a child or youth who uses their time and talent to make sure other children are shown that their community cares about them and will care for them. Food sacks have a care card tucked inside with a message of encouragement written by a community member. Children and youth have many opportunities with Portland Backpack to volunteer and participate.

Portland Backpack is a nonprofit organization with the mission to serve children at risk of hunger by providing food for weekends when food insecurity is highest. Engaging the community in their efforts creates an even greater impact – one that reaches beyond reducing hunger.

During the 2021-2022 school year, Portland Backpack is partnering with 10 Portland Public Elementary Schools to put a weekend food sack into the backpack of a child each Friday. A child who relies on their free school meals during the week can rely on Portland Backpack on the weekends.

Proceeds from book sales are donated to the Portland Backpack Project. The first run of 100 books sold out quickly, and another 100 copies are selling well. The family is considering a third printing if necessary. Copies of *Makeshift Mocktails: Mocktails for Every Season* are \$12. To order, visit jakechisholm.com.



Lions of Judah honor Elaine Savinar with international award

BY DEBORAH MOON

Elaine Savinar, 93, has been selected as the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 2022 recipient of the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award. The award honors extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism.

JFGP Campaign Director Wendy Kahn calls Elaine "a beautiful woman – a leader, inspiration and true woman of valor."

Honorees were scheduled to receive their awards at the International Lion of Judah Conference in January 2022, but the conference has been postponed to December 2022 in Phoenix, Ariz. Local Lions plan to honor Elaine at a luncheon in May.

"I feel so honored to be selected," says Elaine. "After all these years, it came as a surprise. It pleases me a great deal."

Born in Vancouver, B.C., in 1928, Elaine has been involved in Portland's Jewish community since she graduated from the University of Washington, married Robert P. Weil and moved to Oregon in 1949. Together, they raised three daughters, Sharon Weil, Marlene Weil-Perez and Dana Hunt. In 1990, Elaine married Norman D. Savinar.

"When I came here as a young bride, I was immediately active in the Sisterhood of Beth Israel," she says.

Inspired by a blind niece, she was a leader in the Sisterhood's work with the Foundation of the Blind and Braille program. She has remained active at CBI, cochairing the CBI Capital Campaign Committee in 1993.

She was also active with the National Council of Jewish Women and Jewish Family & Child Service, serving on the JFCS board eight years including a term as board chair. But she calls Federation "our most important" organization as an umbrella for the community.

Elaine served on the JFGP Board from 1972 to 1975. In 1974, she joined the National Women's Division Board, where she participated in a mission trip to Poland, Romania and Israel. Her commitment to Federation has spanned decades, including cochairing an annual Connections fund-raiser with her daughters Sharon and Dana. Elaine became a Lion of Judah in 1999.

"I am honored and humbled following in a lot of footsteps (of past honorees)," she says.

Elaine was selected by a committee of past honorees. Past honorees include Carol Danish, Carolyn Weinstein, Priscilla Kostiner, Linda Bean Georges, Elizabeth Menashe, Sharon Weil, Rita Philip and Gayle Romain.

The Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award also honors the extraordinary contribution of Norma Kipnis-Wilson and Toby Friedland (z"l), the founders of the Lion of Judah. The Lions pin was created in 1972 to recognize women who made a minimum gift of \$5,000 to their city's annual Federation campaign.



Elaine Savinar, Portland's 2022 Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland honoree, received a surprise delivery of flowers to celebrate her award.

Gobble and Gifts: JFCS and you can nurture community

BY JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

Jewish Family & Child Service is running back-to-back programs to provide for the community this holiday season – its Thanksgiving Food Box and Family-to-Family (previously Adopt-a-Family) gift-card programs.

This marks JFCS's 20th year of providing turkeys to those in need. But its annual Thanksgiving Food Box program also is about community – around a holiday table and working toward a common goal.

Eleven community partners and three grocery stores have joined forces with JFCS to provide more than 150 food boxes. This translates into feeding about 600 individuals who are clients of JFCS' four programs: Counseling, Emergency Aid, Disability Support Services and Holocaust Survivor Services.

Congregation Kesser Israel is one of JFCS' new community partners.

"Kesser Israel wanted to join together with JFCS on this project, because it's our responsibility to stand together as a people to help people," says Aviel Brodtkin, the synagogue's community engagement director. "We can achieve more good by uniting with other Jewish organizations."

Each box includes a turkey, stuffing, vegetable broth, cranberry sauce, potatoes and pumpkin pie. (JFCS accommodates special requests and dietary restrictions, such as kosher and gluten free.) Families also will receive a \$25 gift card to Fred Meyer so they can select personal favorites to round out their festive meals.

"Portland Jewish Academy has been participating in the Thanksgiving Food Box Program and Family-to-Family for many years," says Elana Cohn-Rozansky, PJA's service-learning coordinator and longtime liaison between her community and JFCS.

On Nov. 21, JFCS staff will gather at the MJCC to pack the Thanksgiving boxes, and more than 40 vaccinated volunteers representing the agency will deliver them to clients' doorsteps all around greater Portland.

One client recently told JFCS Emergency Aid Manager Caitlin DeBoer, "The box is a blessing for us every year."

Concurrent to ensuring hundreds get their gobble on for Thanksgiving, JFCS is gathering gift cards from Fred Meyer for its Family-to-Family program that begins Nov. 28, the first night of Chanukah.

Client families will receive gift cards via mail inside holiday cards created by school children at PJA and Maayan Torah Day School to bring more cheer to the season.

"Especially after the last year and half, it's



JFCS volunteers gather at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in 2019 (before the pandemic) for the annual Thanksgiving Food Box program. This year, volunteers can't help pack, but they are signing up to drive meals to clients' homes for contactless delivery.

important for us to show a united front as a community, and working together only makes us all stronger," says Michelle Caplan, Congregation Neveh Shalom's director of congregant connections.

JFCS' 2021 partner organizations providing food, money and gift cards are Beit Haverim, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Kesser Israel, Congregation Shir Tikvah, Congregation Neveh Shalom, Congregation Shaarie Torah, Eastside Jewish Commons, Maayan Torah Day School, Mittleman Jewish Community Center, Portland Jewish Academy and The Gan. Fred Meyer, New Seasons and Safeway are generously providing either discounted or free perishables and non-perishables, as well as many gift cards.

Congregation Beth Israel's Religious School students amassed \$800 in *tzedakah* the year before the pandemic but did not have the chance to distribute it – until now.

"It is a tradition in Judaism to give *tzedakah* during each religious holiday, especially those that center around a large festive meal," says CBI Education Director Ben Sandler. "CBI students are extending this tradition to the Thanksgiving meal this year for members of the community in need."

For all Thanksgiving Food Boxes and Family-to-Family details – including how to donate, volunteer and more – visit jfcc-portland.org/holiday-giving-2021/.



Leanna Parsons, operations and outreach coordinator for Tivnu: Building Justice.

Gap year program adds three staffers

Tivnu: Building Justice has three new faces helping 20 gap year participants connect with Jewish life and social justice through individualized internships, discover the Pacific Northwest and create a home together in Portland.

Leanna Parsons is now the Portland-based operations and outreach coordinator. Nina First and Abby Israel joined the team as *madrachimot* (resident advisors) for the two households.

"Leanna's organizational savvy, can-do attitude and winning personality have already added immensely to the Tivnu team," says Tivnu founder Steve Eisenbach-Budner. "Her work and presence are already greatly appreciated by all who come into contact with her – participants, colleagues and parents."

A Bay Area native, Leanna was previously the program and engagement associate at Hillel of Silicon Valley in San Jose, Calif. At Hillel, Leanna led social and Jewish educational programs for college-aged undergraduates at two universities and three community colleges. Before joining the Jewish professional world, Leanna worked in education, traveling to Rishon LeZion, Israel, to teach English in a local elementary school. She has a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. In her spare time, Leanna enjoys hiking, powerlifting and reading with her cat curled in her lap.

"I am so excited to have joined the team at Tivnu this fall. I work to support the resident advisors and current gap year participants with logistical help, social media management and site operations. Additionally, I work closely with our Executive Director Steve and our Program Director Adinah to recruit the next cohort of Tivnu."

Abby and Nina both bring terrific experience, ideas and enthusiasm to their work with the Tivnunikim as *madrachimot*. (*Madrachim* is male plural and *madrachimot* is female plural, but Tivnu uses [terminology used by the Habonim Dror Youth Movement](#) to include both as well as non-binary people. "It is not yet part of mainstream

Continued on next page

Psychiatrist shares thoughts on pandemic anxiety

BY AMY R. KAUFMAN

In the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, psychiatrist Charles Kuttner received a call from a woman who was not his patient.

"I've never been quite this anxious," she said. "Isolation has magnified my loneliness. Time has no boundaries; the future is all uncertain. In the middle of the night, I wake up afraid. My old friend is distant now. There's so much divisiveness in politics. The whole world is in crisis. I'm not hopeful ... What is happening to me?"

In one study of the pandemic's emotional toll, this anxiety is termed "virus-induced uncertainty." Kuttner calls it "existential depression."

This new layer of anxiety is expressed in a narrative that spirals downward from personal insecurities to an apocalyptic ending. "Almost everyone seems to have a sense of looming disaster," he says.

Kuttner has treated anxiety and depression – closely related conditions – for 45 years. "The milder forms of anxiety and depression are now overlaid with a high level of apprehension brought about by the pandemic," he says.

The doctor teaches his patients how to adapt to the novel circumstances created by the virus.

First, he says, "Interrupt the negative thinking. By repeating the narrative, we're reinforcing the hopelessness, loneliness and desperation of it all."

"Thinking globally may get you down," he says. "Thinking locally may give you some empowerment."

He tells his patients they can promote the growth of new nerve endings – the connections between nerves – in the brain.

"One of the ways we can facilitate this is through antidepressant medicines, but exercise is more effective," he says. "Vigorous walking, lifting, aerobic exercise (or



Dr. Charles Kuttner.

any other kind) leads to the manufacture of nerve endings, which is our way of rewiring how our brains work in their new world."

Kuttner encourages people to discover the resilience written in their genes. He is the son of a Holocaust survivor and the grandchild of a family that endured pogroms.

"Jews are selectively bred for this," he says. "We are genetically programmed to be resilient; we're also programmed to be anxious. If your maternal grandmother lived through a pogrom, you carry with you some of the fear and anxiety she had. Imagine a people like us, surviving the Shoah (Holocaust) and going on and having happy families."

The doctor himself was thrown into today's "apocalyptic movie" when he underwent heart surgery in the midst of the pandemic. Vaccines weren't yet available, and there was a shortage of doctors.

"In my early 50s, I had been treated for lymphoma, and chemotherapy and radiation had damaged my heart," he says. "But the treatment saved my life and gave me 22 good years. I was apprehensive about

the surgery. On a last hilly walk, I worried about all the possible consequences. I arranged with a colleague to help me get neuropsychological testing if I developed memory loss or suicidal depression. I didn't have to see him."

The only aftermath he mentions is giving up biking: "That was my identity." At one time, he biked 1,000 miles per year, and he put 12,000 miles on a couple of two-wheeled recumbent bikes. He misses what he calls the meditative aspects of biking. On summer days, he and his wife, Donna, go kayaking.

A member of Congregation Kesser Israel, Kuttner was raised in Reform Judaism and became more observant many years ago. That was before he, and subsequently both of his children, developed lymphoma.

"Personally, I think it's very difficult to deal with crises in life, particularly ongoing ones, if one doesn't have faith," he says. "Some form of meditation, spirituality, mindfulness is essential. There are times when things are so rough that we need to get off the world for a while. If that's three minutes staring at the wall or a few moments during Amidah (morning prayer), it's good to remove oneself from the problems. Rabbi Abraham Twerski's *The Spiritual Self* is the best handbook for people exploring spirituality. It asks the right questions, and it is the most nondogmatic book you could imagine."

Kuttner grieved the loss of a biking buddy and his buddy's wife to COVID in 2020.

"He was my good friend in Cycle Oregon, and near the John Day River we had one hill that seemed impossible," he recalls. "The only way to do this hill was, 'I got this, I can do this.' Since that hill, Clarno Grade, every hill seems eminently surmountable."

Amy R. Kaufman is a Portland writer and book editor. She wrote for the print edition of the Jewish Review for 11 years.

NEW AT TIVNU (cont. from previous page)

Hebrew, but it's more aligned with the Tivnu philosophy," explains Program Director Adinah Miller.)

Abby comes from Yarmouth, Maine, where her family still lives. She comes to Tivnu with a strong passion for social justice, especially about food and the environment. Abby graduated from Dickinson College with a bachelor's in international studies in 2020 and found her way into working at the intersection of Judaism and social justice by joining the Avodah Jewish Service Corps in New York, where she worked for Footsteps as the Community Engagement Program Associate.

When she's not working, you can find Abby enjoying a good novel, horseback riding or refining her tarot skills.

Nina's childhood in Pennsylvania sparked the insatiable love of canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hiking and camping that has served as the heartbeat of her passion for a life dedicated to adventure and exploration. She graduated from Binghamton University in 2021 with a degree in Judaic studies, history and Israel studies.

When she isn't reading, you can often find Nina working on her parents' sawmill, developing her fresh roll of film, backpacking and definitely laughing.



Abby Israel, left, and Nina First.

For information on next year's Tivnu gap year, email Leanna at leanna@tivnu.org or visit the website tivnu.org.



When Simi Mishulovin, left, gave her sister-in-law a tour of the new space in the Pearl that will become Oasis, Mushka Wilhelm, of NE Chabad, said, "This is food for the soul, to be with others."

OASIS (continued from page 1)

"He and his family became very close and helped me through a difficult time. It was foundational for me," he says. "Over the last five years, I got to know Simi and Rabbi Chayim well, and it revived that whole Chabad connection from childhood. ... I found depth and room for me to question and not agree."

Sen. Steiner Hayward also describes Chabad as a welcoming, judgment-free organization. She says the Jewish community here has grown so much in the 30 years she has lived here.

"We need organizations that say, 'come as you are,'" she says. She describes the planned Oasis as comfortable, casual, visible, accessible and approachable – all things that enhance that message.

"Chabad is both/and for a lot of people," says the Senator, who considers Neveh Shalom her home shul. "The interesting thing about Portland's Jewish community is it is a lot more both/and when it comes to how you are involved in the Jewish community compared to other cities where I have lived or have friends."

In addition to the COVID pandemic, Howitt says he sees a second pandemic that worries him.

"People are interested in 'othering' people – that is a pandemic of separation and disconnection," he says. "I feel Chabad and Rabbi Chayim and Simi are an antidote to that. ... the Oasis will allow people to feel seen and heard in a time largely devoid of connections and community."

Chabad is doing a fresh fund-raising push to fund the phase 1 renovations. For details, visit www.EverythingJewishPortland.com.



In Phase 2, this former restaurant space will be renovated to become part of Chabad's Oasis in the Pearl district.

PDXBusiness: What can be done for downtown Portland

Join the Mittleman Jewish Community Center's #PDXBIZ Zoom series at noon, Nov. 30, to discuss "What Can Be Done for Downtown Portland?"

Panelists will be Greg Goodman, co-president of Downtown Development Group; Portland City Commissioner Mingus Mapps; Multnomah County Commissioner Dr. Sharon Meieran; and Administrative Law Judge Vadim Mozyrsky. The panel will be moderated by Danelle Romain, an attorney in private practice specializing in government relations at Romain Freese, LLC. She serves as a president-elect on the boards of both the MJCC and Portland Jewish Academy.

Greg Goodman is an avid supporter of the city of Portland, diligently working to make the city a more vibrant place for business and a comfortable place for people to live and work. Greg is a strong supporter of local charitable organizations and has been a board member of Self Enhancement Inc., Pioneer Courthouse Square, The Portland Business Alliance, and the Clean and Safe Business Improvement District.



Commissioner Mingus Mapps took office in January of 2021. He is the commissioner in charge of the Water Bureau, Bureau of Environmental Service and the Bureau of Emergency Communications. He is also the liaison to Travel Portland, the Visitors Development Fund, and the Fair and Moral Claims Board.

Dr. Sharon Meieran was sworn into her second term as a Multnomah County Commissioner in January of 2021 as the representative of Multnomah County's First District. Sharon practices emergency medicine in the Portland area; she has used her experience on the front lines caring for those in crisis to inform her policy and advocacy work in mental health care, substance abuse prevention, police use of force, coordination of services for the most vulnerable, and reproductive health care, equity and justice. She is an emergency room physician working in the hospital and in homeless shelters during the pandemic.



Vadim Mozyrsky works as an administrative law judge in the field of disability law and has spent his life advocating on behalf of underserved communities with a focus on immigrant and refugee populations and issues of disability rights. He is a Jewish refugee from Kiev, Ukraine, who fled anti-Semitism and arrived in the United States in 1979. Vadim is active in the Portland community, serving on boards and committees ranging

from the Portland Film Festival to the Goose Hollow Neighborhood Association. He has served on several city commissions and committees, institutional advisory boards and in community-based organizations. Currently, he is a member of the Portland Committee on Community Engaged Policing and the Citizen Review Committee under the Auditor's Independent Police Review division.

The event is free, with a suggested donation of \$18.

Register at oregonjcc.org/pdxbiz.

For more information or to become a sponsor contact Saul Korin at 503-452-3427 or skorin@oregonjcc.org.

Malka Diamonds finds new home in the Pearl

BY DEBORAH MOON

When COVID shut the doors of Malka Diamonds in March 2020, Ronnie Malka swiftly created an online shopping experience on their website malkadiamonds.com.

The lessons Ronnie and her husband, David Malka, have learned since then helped shape their new diamond and jewelry store, which opened in the Pearl district at 308 NW 11th Ave. in late July 2021.

“Out of COVID, we found some positives,” says Ronnie. “We spread our wings. We realized we don’t really rely on foot traffic. We realized people like to have a set time to talk to us. Now, before people come in, we’ve talked to them on the phone and gotten to know them. It’s beneficial for the client and us.”

The couple’s new Pearl District 2,100-square-foot retail studio is open 10 am–4 pm Tuesday through Saturday. While walk-ins are welcome, appointments are strongly encouraged.

“We designed the store to showcase the craftsmanship done here,” says Ronnie. With 80% of their business custom, they put the work area for the two full-time jewelers behind three clear panels so people can see pieces being cast, set or sized.

Customers who bring in heirloom pieces



David and Ronnie Malka in their new showroom in The Pearl.

appreciate the security of the second-floor location, that people must be buzzed in and the fact that all work is done onsite.

“We do a lot of restoration on heirloom jewelry,” says Ronnie. “Sometimes, we restore it to the original. Or we update it – we use components and craft a newer piece the client will wear.”

“Jewelry is one of the only artifacts that tells a story and marks a moment for

people,” she says.

David Malka is the third generation of his family in the diamond business. His father, Yossi, owns Tel Aviv Diamonds and is a wholesale diamond dealer. While the couple’s store was closed, Yossi let them use his small office to meet clients and run their online sales. Now, Yossi uses the Malka Diamonds location to meet his clients and run his business.

David is glad to have put the past year behind them.

“Having this fresh start feels really good,” he says.

Ronnie says it also has felt good to have the support of both the Jewish and jewelry communities as they reshaped their business.

“People just showed up,” says Ronnie, who led the effort to build Portland’s community mikvah, Rachel’s Well, and serves on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

They had calls of support from rabbis, Federation lay and professional leaders, and community members. People helped them find a new location and figure out a myriad array of details.

“It was an aha moment,” says Ronnie. “When you are involved in the community, the community shows up.”



Malka Diamonds new Pearl store features an airy showroom with large windows into the workroom so customers can see the jewelers working on their pieces.

Life-cycle events

The Jewish Review publishes life-cycle announcements when they are received. Please submit news of births, b’nai mitzvah, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and landmark birthdays (80, 90, 100+). Photos are encouraged. Please send life-cycle news and photos to editor@jewishportland.org

ENGAGEMENT

Jonah Rothstein-Leah Elkaim

Caron and Ari Rothstein of Portland are delighted to announce the engagement of their eldest son, Jonah Eliezer Rothstein, to Leah Judith Elkaim, daughter of Isabelle and Michel Elkaim, recent olim to Modi’in, Israel, formerly of N. Hollywood, Calif., and France. Grandmothers Nancy Rothstein of Portland and Nelly Kahloun of France are also kvelling. Jonah and Leah met in Israel and recently graduated with degrees in Government and Sustainability from Reichman University-International School in Herzliyah, Israel. They are living in Portland and plan a 2023 wedding.



Pop-up shops offer Chanukah shopping



Eastside Jewish Commons Art Show will include works by 11 artists. Above: Challah plate and candleholders by Eileen Millsap. At right: Pomegranate card by Ellen Green.



Nov. 14: Chanukah Pop-Up and Art Sale

ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists and Congregation Shir Tikvah are teaming up to co-sponsor a Chanukah shopping event Nov. 14. This event will take place at the new Eastside Jewish Commons on NE 24th and Sandy Boulevard, coinciding with an EJC Open House that will showcase the space.

Congregation Shir Tikvah, the only synagogue located on the east side, is putting on their sixth annual Chanukah Pop-Up sale in the morning. It will feature candles, gelt and other holiday supplies. Proceeds from their portion of the event will go to fund their education programs.

"It's important for us to bring a little light to any east-side families who want to drop by, especially during this particular time," says Shir Tikvah Executive Director Katie Schneider. "The pop-up sale will coincide with the regular hours of Hebrew school."

ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists is a group of Jewish artists in Portland whose media include collage, paint, silk, glass, wood, fiber, precious metals, ceramics, beadwork, photography and more. They are partnering with Shir Tikvah artists to offer works in a wide range of media, including some Judaic artwork.

ORA's art sale will last all day with proceeds benefiting Congregation Shir Tikvah in the morning and the Eastside Jewish Commons in the afternoon.

"This unique opportunity allows us to give back to two Jewish nonprofits," says ORA representative Ellen Green. "We look forward to sharing our art on this side of town."

Collaboration is one of the watchwords of the Eastside Jewish Commons, which moved into the Sandy location in July 2021 with the mission of building a thriving and inclusive hub on the east side.

"We're excited to host this collaboration and invite the community into the Commons," Executive Director Cara Abrams says. "The ORA Art Show is a wonderful opportunity to connect in person with community, find some unique gifts for Chanukah and check out our 13,000-square-foot community space."

Featured artists are Eileen Millsap, glass, Shir Tikvah; Dan Floria, painting, Shir Tikvah; Emma Lugo, painting, Shir Tikvah; Ellen Green, painting, drawing and cards, Shir Tikvah/ORA; Simcha Shields, mixed media prints, drawing and beadwork, Shir Tikvah/ORA; Joanna Westerfeld, glass, Shir Tikvah/ORA; Phyllis Van De Lyndt, ink and watercolor, Shir Tikvah/ORA; David Kolasky, mixed media sculpture, ORA; Zahavi Lee, painting and pastels, ORA; and Ilan and Sarah Laks, jewelry, Shir Tikvah.

10 Jewish Review Nov. 10, 2021

Nov. 15-19: ORA Chanukah Art Fair at the J

ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists are back at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center for a Chanukah Fair in the lobby featuring many artists and several mediums of art.

Come by the J Nov. 15-19 and pick up a nice gift for a family member, friend, fellow worker, teacher or yourself. With glass, ceramic and wood artists participating, you may just find a unique menorah to light up your holiday.

Artists participating in the fair are Arlene Hirsch, An-nalie Weisman, Glenn Decherd, Jeanne Robin, Jack Liskear, Joyce Shields, Lori Randel, Leslie Peltz, Linda Bourne, Stacy Kamin, Susan Reep, Thomas Gainer, Yana Goldberg, Barbara Weisman and Eddy Shuldman.

"We are so happy to be able to share our art with you after a long isolation period due to COVID," says Arlene.

Masks are required for everyone 5 and older at the MJCC. 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland.



Barbara Weisman's jewelry and fused glass by Eddy Shuldman.



Nov. 16-30: Pop-Up at future Chabad Oasis

The Everything Jewish store will host a Chanukah Pop-Up at the site of its future home in the Pearl, 1218 NW Glisan St., Portland.

Shoppers will be able to purchase candles, chocolate gelt, menorahs, gifts and gift bags displayed creatively on scaffolds, ladders and other construction-style implements. Shoppers will also be able to check out the new Oasis space, which will feature the Judaic store, Chabad House and communal gathering space (see story page 1).

The pop-up will be open 3-7 pm, Monday-Thursday, and 11 am-2 pm, Friday and Sunday while supplies last.

Get your Chanukah items at a pop-up shop while supplies last and check out the renovations in progress.

Nov. 21: Makers Market hosted by Moishe House

Moishe House Portland is hosting a makers market for Chanukah shopping 1:30-5:30 pm, Nov. 21. The market will be at 13th Moon Gravity Well, 4513 SE 41st Portland, a neighborhood bar and bottle shop featuring high-quality beer and wine. Masks and social distancing will be enforced.

"We are ecstatic to announce that we will be hosting a makers market this chilly season," reads the Facebook post for the event. "Endless goodies provided by local Jewish and BIPOC makers just in time to grab those gifts before Chanukah rolls around. Join us in celebrating these artists, ogling all of their precious creations while coming together this holiday season."

facebook.com/events/s/jewish-makers-market/1582219812128704/

Nov. 20, 21: Leikam Brewing's Book & Craft Fairs

On Nov. 20, Leikam Brewing Company teams up with Books With Pictures, Comics for Everyone. Grab a local pint and find the perfect comic for a memorable Chanukah present from 6 to 9 pm.

The next day, Leikam Brewing will host its first Chanukah Craft Fair from 1-5 pm, Nov. 21.

Both events will be at the kosher brewery's taproom at 5812 E. Burnside.

These will be indoor/outdoor events, and all COVID regulations will be enforced. Proof of vaccination and masking required. Ten percent of each sale on Nov. 21 will go toward the brewery's annual contribution to Habitat for Humanity.

For more information: facebook.com/LeikamBrewing/events/.

Judaic shops have Chanukah staples, gifts

Ron Tonkin Family Museum Shop/OJMCHE

The Ron Tonkin Family Museum Shop is ready with a wide selection of menorahs, beautiful handmade gifts and a full array of Judaica.

Located at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, 724 NW Davis St., Portland, the shop is open during museum hours 11 am-4 pm, Wednesday-Saturday. Masks are required for all visitors to the museum.

For more information, visit ojmche.org or call 503-226-3600.

Gloria Bacharach Judaica Shop/Neveh Shalom

The Gloria Bacharach Judaica Shop at Congregation Neveh Shalom (2900 SW Peaceful Lane) offers online shopping and appointments for in-person shopping, as well as a pop-up fair Nov. 21.

Access the online shopping site through the Congregation Neveh Shalom [website](http://www.nevehshalom.org), or at gloria-bacharach-judaica-shop.square.site. Online shopping can be shipped, or you can arrange for pickup at the CNS gates.

The Gloria Bacharach Judaica Shop Pop-up Fair will be outside under tents at the lower entrance to Neveh Shalom 11 am-2 pm, Nov. 21.

CNS allows people to enter the Judaica Shop by appointment. Contact Jennifer Kalenscher at jenkal@comcast.net or 503-893-0822 for more information on the fair or for an appointment anytime CNS is open.

WRJ/Beth Israel Sisterhood Gift Shop

The WRJ/Beth Israel Sisterhood Gift Shop (1972 NW Flanders St.) has reopened for in-person shopping just in time for Chanukah. Choose from a selection of beautiful, artistic chanukiot, Chanukah candles, books, décor, gift wrap, cards, games, toys and treats. All proceeds support the CBI Religious School.

The shop will be open during Religious School hours, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Nov. 14 and 21. Shoppers will need to sign up in advance at signupgenius.com/go/20F094CABAA23ABFE3-wrjbeith for a 15-minute time slot. Because shoppers will be on campus at the same time as Religious School students, who are not yet eligible for vaccination for COVID-19, all shoppers MUST verify their full vaccination status in advance at bethisrael-pdx.org/verify/.

The CBI Main Office will have a LIMITED Chanukah Pop-Up Shop. Office hours are generally Tuesday-Friday from 10 am-5 pm,



A display case at Congregation Shaarie Torah showcases some of the Chanukah offerings at the gift store.

but as many staff work from home, please call in advance at 503-222-1069. For the Pop-Up Shop, please plan to pay by cash or check. Please also note that you are required to wear a mask while on the CBI campus, regardless of your vaccination status.

Diane Nemer Sisterhood Gift Shop/Shaarie Torah

The Diane Nemer Shaarie Torah Gift Shop (920 NW 25th Ave.) is open during Sunday School 10 am-1 pm, Nov. 14, for all your Chanukah needs and gifts. Gift shop proceeds go directly to the Religious School.

Call the Shaarie Torah office at 503-226-6131 to schedule a time to come in during office hours (10 am-2 pm, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) throughout the season. With menorahs, dreidels, gelt and more, the gift shop is stocked and ready for Chanukah.

For special orders and more information, contact Dori Tenner at doritenner@comcast.net.

Café at the J: Latkes for Chanukah

Café at the J will have potato latkes for sale at the café starting the day of the first night of Chanukah. Buy latkes Nov. 28-Dec. 5.

The Café is open Monday-Thursday 10 am-6 pm, Friday 10 am-4 pm, and Sunday 10 am-3 pm. The Café is closed on Saturday. Order online at garbonzos.square.site/. You can also call or text your order to 503-475-4875. Be sure to specify if you want curbside pickup.

Grandparents network offers new resources just in time for Chanukah

With Chanukah approaching, the [Jewish Grandparents Network](http://JewishGrandparentsNetwork.org) is expanding and revamping its offerings. The centerpiece of JGN's expansion is "The Family Room," jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/the-family-room/, a unique virtual space where Judaism and Jewish life come alive through all kinds of activities and adventures.

JGN supports families who want to engage in, and even rely on, multi-generational Jewish experiences. JGN's redesigned website offers grandparents curated, timely and varied resources to deepen their knowledge. It also grounds the everyday activities they love to do with their grandchildren in Jewish values and learning.

"Our growth and new offerings reflect the desire of the many grandparents who want



to bring Jewish meaning into their grandkids' lives," says JGN Executive Director David Raphael.

Building on the organization's first four years of learning, The Family Room is a colorful, interactive platform with "destinations" covering the arts; celebrations & holidays; cooking & food; family stories; gardening & the earth; health & well-being; play; and a reading room. Each destination

has multiple experiences. In the arts space, for example, a dance/movement expert offers three 5-minute videos for grandparents to move creatively with their grandchildren – in person or long distance. Family stories offer templates and ideas to learn about and share family histories through video and audio recordings, photos and creative portraits.

Founded in 2017, the Jewish Grandparents Network addresses the under-recognized role of grandparents and the complex dynamics of today's "new Jewish family." JGN also offers content and programs for grandparents whose grandchildren have physical or developmental differences, who are part of multi-faith or multi-racial families, or who have LGBTQ+ family members.



Knitting community together on the east side

The new knitting circle at Eastside Jewish Commons is off to a great start. While most people bring their own projects, organizer Marge Congress provides yarn and instructions to any beginners who come and bring size 9 or 10 knitting needles.

The mission of the Eastside Jewish Commons is to create and sustain a lively and inclusive gathering space on Portland's eastside. Starting in early October, an intimate group of community members has gathered weekly in the large, open atrium to get to know one another over knitting. Knitters include a range of participants, from newcomers to Portland to those who have lived here for more than 30 years.

During one conversation, the group reflected on the meaning of Jewish community for them and what they look for in community. One woman asked, "What does living a Jewish life mean to you?" People shared about family, community, holidays and of course, food. Meanwhile, hands were busy knitting and purling away.

Another week, the group talked about the history of Portland's Jewish community. Some of the longtime Portlanders shared memories and stories, while newcomers asked questions about the development of the Jewish community.

Recently, the group met a young German man who was visiting the Commons with his newborn daughter. He came to greet the group when he noticed they were knitting. After this brief connection, the knitters reflected on Jewish communal life in Europe today. This led to folks sharing some of their family background and migration stories. It's amazing how naturally the group orients to connecting over Jewish topics and questions.

This month, the knitting circle meets Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 am. The Commons asks participants to be vaccinated and stay home if they're not feeling well. The Eastside Jewish Commons is located at 2420 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, OR. 97232. Find out what's happening #AttheCommons by visiting ejcpdx.org/contact.

Book groups offer contact, comfort during pandemic

BY DEBORAH MOON

Jewish book groups have done more than just survived – they have thrived during the pandemic since shifting to Zoom last year.

Despite Zoom fatigue, which seemed to drain energy and enthusiasm in many other settings, existing book groups at several congregations report increased participation. And a new national group founded specifically to address pandemic era needs drew 200 local registrants, with 50 to 100 Portlanders participating in the monthly offerings of "Our Shared Shelf: National Women's Philanthropy Book and Author Series."

"It was truly a wonderful way to participate in a program that was not a speaker, not a class, not a tour – and there was continuity month in, month out as book groups offer," says Wendy Kahn, Campaign Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, who coordinates the program locally. "I think it was comfort food like a good book."

The comfort of books and conversation are common themes among book group devotees.

"I belong to three book groups," says retired judge Paula Kurshner, who joined Beth Israel's book group in the early '90s at the urging of then book group leader Ellen Rosenblum (now Oregon's attorney general). "I get to read books I never would have found on my own."

"I enjoy reading but like to discuss what I've read with other people, and this gives me the chance to do that," says Pamela Frankel, who facilitates Beit Haverim's book group.

Beit Haverim member Barbara Gold adds, "Though we love to meet in person as we did for several years, ... Zoom has enabled us to stay in touch and to have lively discussions on all the books we have read. This builds a sense of community and warmth, even when we cannot be together in person."

"I am very proud we did this," says Robbie Lambert, who organizes Shir Tikvah's book group, which moved to twice-a-week Zoom meetings to keep older members active and safe. "I think it took on a more significant role in people's lives. It certainly was a morale booster. We became very close. It's what Jewish community is all about."

In Eugene, Temple Beth Israel's

Jewish Book Month

Jewish Book Month is celebrated the 30 days leading up to Chanukah, which this year begins the evening of Nov. 28.

This year, rather than bring authors to town, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center is partnering with the Seattle JCC to present a virtual event. "Mexican-Jewish Cooking with PBS's Pati Jinich" will be at 1 pm, Nov. 14, on Zoom.

Pati Jinich, star of PBS's "Pati's Mexican Table," discusses her new cookbook, *Treasures of the Mexican Table*, with food writer Adeena Sussman (*Sababa*). The Mexican-Jewish chef talks about her heritage and shares some of her unique twists on classic recipes from both cultures. [Tickets: \\$5-10 talk only | \\$30-35 talk + cookbook \(discount for J members, students, seniors\).](#)

Register and find other events at oregonjcc.org/arts-culture/upcoming-events.

Jewish literature book group began as a project at the University of Oregon Library in 2006. "During COVID, the group has given us a sense of purpose and progression as well as a way of keeping up with friends with shared interests," says former literature professor Marti Ravits, who runs the group and selects the books.

While many miss the in-person interactions and informal chats of pre-COVID gatherings, the benefits of Zoom have many groups considering hybrid gatherings.

Mittleman Jewish Community Center's book group resumed in-person meetings in July but maintains a virtual option. The free group meets on Zoom and in person in an MJCC ballroom at 1 pm the second Tuesday of the month.

Havurah Shalom has seen a significant expansion in the group on Zoom and envisions keeping it as part of the mix.

"People really like the convenience in not having to commute back and forth, and they appreciate the time saved from not having to travel, as well," says Marjorie Walters, who co-leads the group with David Newman. "We have some members who have various disabilities

Continued on next page

CLIMATE (cont. from page 1)

"Nature has its own laws that are supreme to our laws," said Wood, noting the world is heading toward a tipping point where climate change becomes uncontrollable. "To prevent has to be our focus."

She noted that our current path "leads to an uninhabitable Earth within our children's or grandchildren's lifetimes. ... The projected rise of 11° F by the end of the century (or sooner) is not broadly survivable."

"We have to try to create a system that won't destroy our life support," she said.

She called on lawyers to understand the emergency and understand the "role of courts in holding our government accountable for climate recovery."

In an interview after the program, she expanded the call to action to include the entire Jewish community: "Members of the Jewish community encompass engineers, architects, doctors, teachers, bankers, builders ... and there is not one thing in society that doesn't need to be remade and fast."

To lawyers, she said, "Use your legal expertise in whatever way possible to join the worldwide emergency decarbonization effort ... every lawyer has a valuable tool kit for societal change, and the time to use it is now."

For instance, she said attorneys can file amicus briefs in atmospheric trust litigation such as *Juliana v. the United States*. That 2015 case was filed in Oregon by 21 young people (including siblings Miko and Isaac Vergun, members of P'nai Or) in U.S. district court asserting that the government's affirmative actions cause climate change and violate their constitutional rights to life and liberty and fail to protect public trust resources. Though a divided decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals seemed to end the suit in January 2020, the plaintiffs have since filed an amended motion. For more information on the case and a timeline, visit ourchildrenstrust.org/juliana-v-us.

The Juliana case was part of a global legal campaign called atmospheric trust litigation, which considers the atmosphere to be held in trust for the public.

Professor Wood thanked Savage for introducing the concept of the public domain belonging to all with a grounding Jewish text.

Savage shared a section from the Mishna about a man throwing stones from his property into the public domain (see box).

After inviting interpretations of the 1,500-year-old text from participants, Savage called out three primary insights: one, you cannot use property to damage the public good; two, you do not own land forever, we are leaseholders; and three, the public domain is the land of many.

"The land that is not his is his," Savage said the text teaches. "What happens in the public domain affects him."

"This ancient text is not only germane, it challenges us to be better Jews, better lawyers, better human beings," said Savage. "We



Professor Mary Wood, Hazon founder Nigel Savage and attorney Rob Schlachter (bottom) presented a program on climate change, Jewish wisdom and the role of the judicial system.

Who owns public land? A lesson from Mishna

The Sages taught:

A person should not throw stones from his property into the public domain. It once happened there was a person who was throwing stones from his property into the public domain, and a certain pious man (Chasid) found him. The Chasid said to him: Empty-head, for what reason are you throwing stones from property that is not yours into your property?

The man laughed at him.

Some days later, he was forced to sell his field. And he was walking in the same public domain he stumbled on those same stones. He said: That pious man said it well to me when he said: For what reason are you throwing stones from property that is not yours into your own property, since that property no longer belongs to me, and only the public domain remains mine to use. (Mishna Bava Kamma 50b)

as a Jewish community must be on the right side of big issues. This is the key issue of our time."

He offered one concrete step. Savage suggested Jewish day schools have their students figure out the "waste stream of our Jewish institutions" and come up with ideas to "help us reduce the ecological footprint of our Jewish institutions."

Miko and Isaac Vergun, along with their parents, Rob and Pam, have launched a project called [Climate Change Recovery](http://ClimateChangeRecovery.org). The intention is to train students from elementary school through graduate school, as well as other young adults and parents, in how to work together to get action on the climate crisis.

For an in-depth look at the courts and the climate, read Professor Wood's article "On the Eve of Destruction: Courts Confronting the Climate Emergency," at law.uoregon.edu/sites/law1.uoregon.edu/files/eve_of_destruction.pdf.

BOOK GROUPS (continued from previous page)

or illnesses that make it especially difficult to come in person, and they have been very appreciative of Zoom. Also, some members join in on Zoom during vacations when they are traveling. The response has been so positive that we will likely continue a hybrid version of both in-person and Zoom meetings in the future."

The hybrid model would enable groups to reclaim some of the personal interactions that have been lost on Zoom.

"We don't have the social chatting we usually engaged in before the pandemic," says Marjorie.

Marge Congress, who facilitates Beth Israel's group, notes Zoom allowed the group to have two authors join discussions. "Our attendance grew, and the discussions were excellent."

Still, Paula says the ability to see people up close is important, and Zoom does not offer the same opportunity as gatherings.

"I look forward to meeting in person again," says Paula. "But with mostly older members and outdoors (options) no time soon, it's not happening now."

When Paula joined the group decades ago, most of the members were mothers drop-

ping their kids at Sunday School. "No one in the group has children in religious school now – unless it's grandchildren," says Paula.

In part because of that changed dynamic, Marge says Beth Israel's book group has found Zoom very satisfactory.

"We are not squeezed into a small room, it is less noisy than at the same time as religious school, so we have grown more," says Marge. "We will be having a discussion about going back to live meetings soon, and it will be interesting to see what the group feels about having to get up early to drive to temple."

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Submit news, photos
and obituaries to
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14 Jewish Review Nov. 10, 2021

Chaplain's Corner

Reconceptualizing Time

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

If given the opportunity, what would you ask God?

While I could brainstorm a long list of questions, ranging from the flippant to the serious, for now, I will focus on the passage of time. I do not understand time. If I could, I would ask God, "Why is it that the older I get, the faster time passes by? Why not make it the opposite? Or at the very least, why not make it so that the passage of time feels constant, despite our age?"

I wish time would slow down. And I always wish I had more time. Last weekend, we set our clocks back with the end of Daylight Savings Time. I absolutely love gaining an hour, if only for one day.

At the end of Daylight Savings, invariably people ask, "What did you do with your extra hour?" This question implies that the quality of time is dependent on what we do with it.

I would rather ask that question differently. "What did you experience with your extra hour?" Did we simply get an extra hour of sleep? Did we indulge ourselves to stay up a little longer to watch that movie or read that book, knowing that we had an extra hour in reserve? Did we stay up a little later with someone special in our lives?

This time of year reminds me of the preciousness of time. I wish I related to every hour as a gift, as an opportunity to experience time to the fullest.

In that spirit, what would represent a "great day" for you? What would you experience? To answer these questions, let's stay in the realm of what is realistic and possible. I am not talking about a perfect day or a theoretical day. (So most of us will not be able to take a private jet to the Caribbean or overseas to the exotic location of our choice.)

A great day for me would include the following, in no particular order: a hike in Forest Park; casual reading at an eastside coffee house; catching up with a close childhood friend who lives out of state; touching base with my sister, with whom I have always had a close relationship; cooking a meal with my children (as we keep the bickering to a minimum); exploring my music collection; and using pay-per-view to watch a movie I missed when it was in a theater.

Of note, time spent in meaningful relationship tends to slow down time for me: in relationship with others, nature, books, music, art and my senses. Being in relationship represents my lifelong goal to be in the moment. In such cases, not only does time slow down,



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

but time is reframed. I become lost in time. I am not concerned about seconds and minutes ticking away.

Granted, time often must be transactional. We have tasks to fulfill, errands to run, responsibilities to keep. But that clearly is not the only way to experience time. Time is not always to be used. Time need not be bound in the realm of what we accomplish or what we do.

I bring my words to a conclusion by asking more questions about time. How can you reconceptualize your relationship with time? How do you make time slow down? And returning to that great day, how would you experience time?

Jobs board

FOUNDATION SCHOOL/NEVEH SHALOM Administrative Director

Salary: \$48,000-\$55,000 with medical and dental benefits, retirement and PTO.

Neveh Shalom Foundation School is seeking an experienced, creative full-time Administrative Director of Early Childhood for our loving and nurturing early childhood program. The Administrative Director will oversee our Conservative Jewish preschool program serving 90+ children from ages 12 months through 5 years and will partner with the Foundation School Director.

Full job description: nevehshalom.org/foundation-school-is-hiring/. Questions? Email Cory Willson at cwillson@nevehshalom.org.

CNSCOS

Event Coordinator

Part-time: 10-20 hours/week; Pay: \$50/hour

Congregation Neveh Shalom COVID-19 Outreach and Services seeks an Event Coordinator to help plan vaccine events around the greater Portland area. Work with CNSCOS community partners, including OHA, local public health authorities and other organizations funded to provide COVID-19 support to local communities to coordinate 1-2 vaccine events per week. Full job description: nevehshalom.org/covid19/.

Apply by Nov. 12. Send cover letter and resume to covid19@nevehshalom.org with "Event Coordinator application" in the subject line.

Agency Column: PJA

Focusing on diversity, inclusion

BY STEVE ALBERT

Independent schools around the nation have been focusing on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives for years – and with good reason. Historically, independent schools have been somewhat homogeneous, and that has not allowed our schools to serve our students well, or, in some cases, at all.

As Jewish educators, we know it is critical for children to learn to respect and embrace the diversity of both the Jewish community and broader society. We know that the best way to ensure that every child finds success is to provide differentiated instruction and address individual needs. We also know that inclusive communities foster respect and empathy for others and empower confident identity development in children.

Portland Jewish Academy has been engaged in DEI work for many years, and our efforts in this area continue to expand. Originally, we focused on our curriculum. Anti-bias education, which can begin with early childhood, is a values-based approach that embraces difference and counters bias. This foundation celebrates the diversity that is reflected in our school community – differences in race, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic status, gender identity, ability, age, sexual orientation, religion, etc. Ultimately, this framework leads to the creation of a classroom and school characterized by justice and empathy.

This philosophy ties closely to PJA's *mid-dot* (core values). In particular, there is a clear connection with the values of *kavod* (respect) – the importance of treating others with dignity; *kehillah* (community) – the desire to establish a sense of belonging and connectedness among members of the school community; and *zehut* (identity) – the exploration of who we are and what we stand for and believe.

Following our focus on anti-bias curriculum, PJA began to explore equity, or meeting the needs of each student. Our school has always sought to meet the needs of a wide range of learners, but there have also been students whose needs we could not meet. Expanding the range of students we can serve required developing a better understanding of neurodiversity. Training teachers, hiring learning specialists, redesigning classrooms, educating families and adapting school policies are some of the strategies we use both to enhance the neurodiversity present at our school and to ensure the success of each student we admit.

Most recently, we've begun to explore DEI through the lens of organizational culture. With the help of consultant Heather Clark, an anthropology professor from the University of Washington, we are looking at our school culture and the ways it supports or hinders our DEI efforts. I find discussions about inclusion to be the most interesting. Inclusion is about the way diverse members of a community interact. Inclusion requires awareness, empathy and intentionality.

The creation of a truly inclusive institutional culture starts at the top, and the members of PJA's Board of Directors have been actively engaged in our recent work. People are often surprised when I say that meaningful DEI work begins with the board, and it is not immediately apparent that inclusion is a fiduciary duty. However, the role of the board is to ensure the sustainability of the institution, and diversity, equity and inclusion are keys to that future success.

Consider a few examples of board actions that enhance a culture of inclusivity. An inclusive school community reflects diversity at every level, beginning with the board. The board can ensure that it "looks" like the diverse community it aspires to include. An inclusive school has policies and procedures that support diversity and equity. The board can support hiring and admission policies – and provide financial aid resources – that ensure diversity and inclusion. And an inclusive school ensures that all members of the community feel a sense of belonging, which can be enhanced by the individual and collective actions of board members at school events, fund-raisers and gatherings.

Ultimately, the goal of DEI work in schools is to empower the voice of every member of the community. In doing so, we prepare our young people to make our society more equitable and just.



Steve Albert is the Executive Director of Portland Jewish Academy and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. He has 35 years of experience as a teacher, school administrator and Head of School.

He currently serves on the Board of Governors of the Northwest Association of Independent Schools.



Israeli cooking at Lewis & Clark

PDX Hillel's Israel Fellow Eden Ferede has created an exciting six-week course for Lewis and Clark first-year or new-to-campus students to cook with guest chefs from Portland's Israeli community.

Eden says she created the program "to connect students through food to different Jewish Israeli life stories and also to expose them to the delicious and amazing cuisines we have in our Jewish heritage. Jewishness is coming in all kinds of shapes and ways, and so do Israelis."

Eden reached out individually to each of the more than 50 students who attended PDX Hillel's New Student Orientation Shabbat at the beginning of the semester. Those who signed on for the class get to cook, talk and eat together with a guest chef each week.

"Through the program, I'm ensuring that 10 lovely students are interacting, thinking, hearing, learning and experiencing Israel education for at least two and a half hours every week," says Eden. "I want to make Israel more accessible in order to create a strong base, where we can bring hard topics to the table and actually learn together."

PDX Hillel Executive Director Hannah Sherman says food was a good choice to attract students.

"We know students love to cook together, so this medium of using food to learn about diversity in Israel is a great way to open the door to what are oftentimes difficult conversations to have," says Hannah. "Especially after the recent violence in Israel over the summer, we knew it would be important to come back to campus this fall and immediately show students that they could engage with Israel in a meaningful way and find a connection to the food and the people."

Hannah hopes that after this immersive experience, these students will become future Hillel leaders, helping to shape the Jewish community on campus.

"Already these students are showing up to programs early to help set up, taking fellow students out to coffee, and planning programs and initiatives of their own," she says.

Obituaries

WILLIAM LEISNER

William Leisner, z"l, passed away Nov. 4, 2021, in Los Angeles, Calif., at the age of 91. William is loved and remembered by his wife, Lynda; son, Congregation Neveh Shalom member Jay (Rochelle) Leisner; daughters, Debra (Steave) Trelut and Kim Kramer; grandchildren, Joshua Leisner, Hanna and Jeremy Kramer; and brother, Joseph (Jerry) Leisner.

The funeral is being held in Los Angeles.

LEONARD SPRINGER

Leonard Springer, z"l, passed away Nov. 2, 2021, at the age of 84. Len is loved and remembered by his wife, Arnette; son, David (Joanne) Springer; brother, Norman Springer; and grandchild, Anna.

A funeral was held Nov. 8 at Neveh Zedek Cemetery. Congregation Neveh Shalom sends condolences to the extended Springer family.

STUART ALAN DAVIS

Stuart Alan (Stu) Davis, z"l, passed away Nov. 2, 2021, at the age of 86. Stu is loved and remembered by his wife, Reena; children, Elizabeth (Ron Jacobs) Davis, Alexander (Esther Goldberg-Davis) Davis and Anna (Scott Weinrobe) Davis; and grandchildren, Sophie, Hannah, Sammy, Yonah, Koby, Micah, Ami, Joshua and Ravi.

Stu was a longtime Neveh Shalom leader and friend.

A private funeral was held. Congregation Neveh Shalom sends condolences to the extended Davis family.

IRA GOTTLIEB

Ira Gottlieb, z"l, passed away Nov. 2, 2021, at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Julie K. Gottlieb; his son, Justin L. Gottlieb; and daughters, Katherine Gottlieb Jackman (Scott) and Anne E. Gottlieb; his grandsons, Ian and Leo Jackman; and his sister, Hermine Kasten (Gerry) of Denver.

He was a longtime member of Congregation Neveh Shalom.

He was born Sept. 3, 1938, in the Bronx, New York City, the son of Joseph S. Gottlieb, a pharmacist and postal worker, and Jay Rice Gottlieb. He graduated from the City College of New York in 1960 with a degree in economics. He was a co-captain of the 1960 Lacrosse Team and an Honorable Mention in the 1960 All American Lacrosse team. He was a distinguished military student and graduate in the CCNY Reserve Officers Training Corps. He served in the United States Army as an Infantry officer. Thereafter, he worked as an outside salesman with New England as his territory.

16 Jewish Review Nov. 10, 2021

With his savings and the GI Bill, he entered the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1965 and graduated in 1968.

Upon graduation, he accepted an offer by the Honorable Arno Denecke to clerk at the Oregon Supreme Court. After his clerkship, he worked as an attorney for the Multnomah County Legal Aid Service. Later he taught family law as an adjunct professor at Lewis & Clark Law School for 10 years. He was the principal founder of the law firm Keller, Gottlieb and Gorin. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and for many years he was listed among the Best Lawyers in America. He is also in the City College of New York Athletics Hall of Fame.

Donations in his memory may be made to Congregation Neveh Shalom, OHSU Foundation, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association or City College of New York.

Interment was at the Ahavai Shalom Cemetery Mausoleum.

Congregation Neveh Shalom sends our deepest condolences to the extended Gottlieb family.

SONDRA GREENBERG

Sondra Greenberg, z"l, passed away Oct. 29, 2021, at the age of 86. Sondra is loved and remembered by her daughter, Sue Denny; sons, Steve (Katie) and Michael (Rose) Greenberg; and four grandchildren.

Burial was at Neveh Zedek Cemetery.

Congregation Neveh Shalom sends condolences to the extended Greenberg family.

ELIZABETH JANE PLOTKIN

Elizabeth "Liz" Jane Plotkin, z"l, passed away Oct. 9, 2021, of natural causes after a long-fought and difficult battle with a serious illness. She was surrounded by her loving daughter and music. She is survived by daughter, Natali Plotkin of Portland; Catherine Ramsey of Virginia; Max Plotkin of Chicago; and Rachel Plotkin of California.

Liz was a member of Kol Shalom Congregation and is remembered by friends and colleagues as being warm, kind, caring, wise and fun to be around. She was quick to laugh and see the positive side of things as well as the good in everyone.

Liz was born May 11, 1953, in Milwaukee, Wis. She lived in Portland for over 35 years, primarily in southwest Portland in the Garden Home and Multnomah Village area.

Liz graduated with a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She worked as a career counselor at Career Crossroads, where she was the sole proprietor. She was also a longtime member of a group of career counselors in private practice in the Portland area.

She gave back to her community through

her work as a career counselor and her many volunteer activities.

Among her charitable endeavors, she volunteered with her daughter for many organizations, including the Portland Revels, Portland Homeless Family Solutions and the Oregon Food Bank. While working as a career counselor and life coach in her private practice, Liz briefly opened a tea shop in Multnomah Village.

In her spare time, Liz liked to travel to the Oregon Coast and to sunny places. She loved to attend civic events with her daughter and friends. She also enjoyed going to local favorites like the Japanese Gardens.

A memorial service will be held at 1 pm, Nov. 12, 2021, at Holman's Funeral and Cremation in Portland.

MURIEL LEZAK

Muriel Lezak, z"l, passed away on Oct. 6 in Portland at age 94. She was a pioneer in the field of neuropsychology. She is survived by daughters, Anne and Miriam, and nine grandchildren. Her son, David, died in 2014. Her husband, Sid, died in 2006.

Muriel Elaine Deutsch was born on Aug. 26, 1927, in Chicago to Sylvia (Friedman) and Lester Deutsch. Her husband, Sidney Lezak, who was Oregon's U.S. attorney for 20 years, died in 2006.

She graduated from the University of Chicago with a bachelor's degree in general studies in 1947 and a master's in human development in 1949. That same year, she married Sidney Lezak, a lawyer. They soon moved to Portland, where he would serve as the United States attorney in Oregon from 1961 to 1982.

She received a doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Portland in 1960. Dr. Lezak worked at clinics and taught psychology at Portland State College (now University) and the University of Portland from 1949 until she began her 19-year tenure at the V.A. hospital in 1966. In 1985, she left to teach at the Oregon Health & Science University, where she was a professor of neurology, neurosurgery and psychiatry until 2005. She long had a private practice, and she continued to see patients until a few years ago.

She helped pioneer the field of neuropsychology, becoming an expert in evaluating and rehabilitating brain injury. In 1976, she published *Neuropsychological Assessment*, which quickly became – and remains – the field's standard text. The next edition, to be published in 2023, will be titled *Lezak's Neuropsychological Assessment*.

Read about her pioneering work in brain injuries in the Nov. 1 New York Times article [nytimes.com/2021/11/01/science/muriel-lezak-dead.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/science/muriel-lezak-dead.html)

Submit to: editor@jewishportland.org.