

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

Dec. 7, 2022 / Kislev 13, 5783 Volume 57, Issue 24



Chanukah Shopping

The Ron Tonkin Family Museum Shop is open for holiday shopping. See pages 8 & 9 for more places to find holiday essentials and gifts.

DNA Reunion Project for survivors

BY DEBORAH MOON

The DNA Reunion Project at the Center for Jewish History was introduced Nov. 29 with a virtual kickoff event. The pilot project is designed to help Holocaust survivors and their children find living relatives they did not know they have.

Holocaust survivors or their children can apply for free commercial DNA kits from the DNA Reunion Project. The DNA Reunion Project will also serve as a central genealogical resource where survivors with complex case histories (e.g., hidden children, adoptees, foundlings) can avail themselves of expert genetic genealogical consultation, which is also at no cost. Jennifer Mendelsohn and Adina Newman, experts in the field of Ashkenazi Jewish genetic genealogy, will

lead the consultation aspect of the project.

Local descendants of Holocaust survivors and genealogists are excited about the project's potential.

For Caron Blau Rothstein, the project is both professional and very personal. As Chief Allocations & Engagement Officer at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, she wants to ensure the community is aware of the opportunity. On the personal side, she knows her father and his seven older siblings all survived the Holocaust. But perhaps because it was so traumatic, they never shared any information about other family.

"I have never even seen a picture of my paternal grandfather let alone know anything about his family," says Caron.

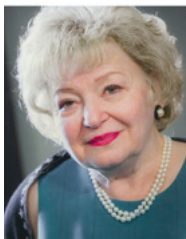
See REUNITING RELATIVES, page 10

Challenge grant to aid Shoah victims

BY DEBORAH MOON

Now is the time to help ensure local Holocaust survivors are able to age with dignity and in place. With that goal in mind, Portland philanthropist Renée Holzman has provided a \$500,000 challenge grant for the Holocaust Survivor Community Fund.

Jewish Family & Child Services has until June 30, 2023, to raise the matching funds. JFCS serves 60 Holocaust survivors, 60% of whom live below the poverty line. The Claims Conference, under which the German government provides compensation for victims of Nazi persecution, covers 65% of the cost JFCS spends



Renée Holzman

for Holocaust services. JFCS fundraises to cover the difference.

With survivor clients' average age of 85, the cost to meet their growing needs increases each year. This year, JFCS must raise approximately \$7,500 per survivor.

"Coming out of Covid, there was clearly a suppressed need," says JFCS Executive Director Ruth Scott. "Once we started doing assessments, it was evident there was quite a need."

Deputy Director Susan Greenberg says those needs include in-home care such as cleaning and personal care with hygiene and eating. Shopping and transportation assistance, social programs and trauma counseling are also provided.

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Agency Spotlight

Each issue, the Jewish Review is featuring a profile of one of the 18 local beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's 2022 Annual Campaign.



Chabad at Reed Co-Director Chani Bialo, second from right, gathers students to bake and deliver challah each week for Loaves of Love.

CHABAD AT REED

AREA OF SERVICE: Outreach at Reed College

503-752-2258 | JewishReed.com

2022 ALLOCATION: \$10,800

MISSION: Chabad Jewish Student Center at Reed College was founded to build a Jewish community by promoting Jewish pride, study and celebration for all Jews regardless of background or affiliation.

Located across the street from the north entrance of Reed College, Chabad at Reed offers a range of programming including Torah classes, Shabbat and holiday programming, Loaves of Love, and casual conversation over tea and cookies. Jewish Education Executive Directors Rabbi Dov and Chani Bialo welcome students for free holiday and Shabbat meals (RSVPs requested [online](http://JewishReed.com) at JewishReed.com.)

"Chabad at Reed is thankful for the Jewish Federation's support and for the many lives that were enhanced as a result of our partnership together," says Rabbi Bialo.

"As this year celebrates Hakel, a year of Jewish gatherings, our goal is to work with the students to try to reach out to their wider group of friends and ensure that every Jewish student feels like they are part of the larger Jewish family," he says.

The couple appreciates the many phone calls they get from alumni as they reach milestones in their personal lives. For instance, they recently received a call from Sarah "letting us know that she just graduated medical school and that we were the first people she called after her immediate family."

The couple feel they have the privilege and responsibility to be there for every Jewish student and to try to connect to them wherever they are in their lives.

"It's not about the fanfare of having 100 students at a program," says Rabbi Bialo. "It's about each and every student feeling like that party is there for them."

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Women's Giving Circle meets grant recipient

BY DEBORAH MOON

Last month, members of the Women's Giving Circle of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland met one of the nine grant recipients that received funds from the group this year.

Miriam Carr of the Portland Kollel introduced the group to Mommy Talks, a new monthly initiative for Jewish mothers of young children. The Kollel received a grant of \$2,500 to develop and launch the program. In January, a representative of the Alberta Shul will share how it is using its \$1,800 to launch a series of nature-based activities.

"We invite recipients to present a 'taste of' at our meetings to build upon the relationships between us as donors and them as grantees," says Wendy Kahn, JFGP Chief Development Officer, who both staffs and participates in the giving circle. "The interaction builds a greater appreciation for the impact of our dollars/funding."

Since the group conducts site visits in pairs, not everyone in the circle has an intimate understanding of each grant. The visits by recipients provide a greater understanding for all members.

"The women of the WGC are passionately devoted to our work together," says Sharon Pollin, who co-chairs the giving circle with Sandra Loeb. "Each of our grantees brings a unique gift that deepens and broadens our Jewish community, creating pathways to Jewish connection that are new and unexpected. We delight in getting a 'taste of' each endeavor through our team visits to them, or via grantees' presentations, as we have the privilege of experiencing the meaningful impact of our combined commitments."

The Portland Kollel's Mommy Talks is a new monthly initiative designed to bring timely and relevant information to Portland Jewish mothers of young children, while simultaneously helping young mothers build community. Each month features a different talk, followed by a Q&A session with an experienced professional or direct service provider.

With topics that explore the Jewish approach to parenting, early childhood education and what Jewish preschool and elementary school options there are in Portland, Mommy Talks aims to develop an in-person community of Portland Jewish Moms and to serve as an ambassador to what the Jewish community has to offer for a Jewish mother of young children. The project was conceived by Kollel's Sarah Evans, but will be led by Carr, who arrived in Portland in August shortly before the birth of her fifth child.

"Having a supportive group of women in the Jewish community was something I wished for with my first, who is now 8," says Carr. "Sarah's brainchild offers space for caring and sharing information on where they can go to find resources. You don't know what you don't know – that is why community is so special to be a part of – so we can inform ourselves for the future."

To give the circle a taste of a class, Carr had them each fold a sheet of paper in thirds. On the left, they wrote four or five skills or talent they like about themselves. On the right, they each wrote a problem they were dealing with. Then one woman shared her skills and problem, and the group brainstormed ways those skills could help solve the problem.

The Women's Giving Circle has granted a total \$112,665 in 37 grants in its first five years. The 2023 Women's Giving Circle grant-making cycle begins Jan. 9. The request for proposals will be posted at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/womens-philanthropy.



Miriam Carr

Happy Chanukah!



**Wishing Your Family
Peace And Light
This Holiday Season.**



Jewish Federation®
OF GREATER PORTLAND



www.jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/chanukahresources22

Overnight Camp Roundup

Five nearby camps offer Jewish experiences

Portland is lucky to have five Jewish overnight camps nearby. B'nai B'rith Camp began in 1921. Camp Solomon Schechter was founded by Portland Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, z"l, in 1954. Each year, Congregation Ahavath Achim encourages families to explore the Sephardic Adventure Camp, the only Sephardic overnight camp in the country. In 2019, NCSY added Camp Kesher to the local overnight camp roster. Another Jewish camp in Washing-

ton is Camp Kalsman, which opened in 2007 as the newest camp in the Union for Reform Judaism family of camps.

Beyond the locally affiliated camps, the Foundation for Jewish Camp lists general and specialty camps ranging from arts and aquatics to sports and wilderness skills. Search by interest, affiliation, region, grade, dietary restrictions and special needs at jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper/find-a-camp/.

The site also includes information on One Happy Camper grants that are funded locally by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland for first-time campers (onehappycamper.org).

In addition to the One Happy Camper grants, families can offset the cost of summer camp with an interest-free loan from Jewish Free Loan sponsored by JFGP. Families can borrow up to \$5,000. For more information, visit jewishportland.org/Jewish-free-loan.



B'NAI B'RITH CAMP

bbcamp.org/summer-camp

503-452-3443 | info@bbcamp.org

Overnight Camp Associate Director: Maddie Newman
Campground: On the Oregon Coast by Devil's Lake

Newly constructed ADA-accessible heated cabins (with bathrooms), lake activities, zipline, ballfield, ropes course, new gym and amphitheater.

Program

Since 1921, BB Camp has been a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community, creating immersive experiences for children of all ages, identities and backgrounds. Our intentional programming, based on our core Jewish values, provides each camper with formative experiences to build on as they develop their own personal Jewish identity. We create a balanced schedule of cabin and large group activities, daily elective offerings, and alternative and traditional Shabbat and Jewish programs to ensure that every child makes the most of their camp experience. Specialty camps: BB Surfs for Middle School; Teen Leadership Programs; Outdoor Jewish Adventure in Israel and Pacific Northwest for incoming 11th-graders; and Staff-in-Training program for incoming 12th-graders.

Dates/Ages/Cost

Sessions of one, two, three or four weeks begin June 27 and end Aug. 15, 2023, for rising 2nd- to 12th-graders.

Camp Fees vary. Financial aid and incentive grants available.

Scholarships and financial assistance: BB Camp offers needs-based financial aid and up to \$1,000 in incentive grants for first-time campers. Visit bbcamp.org/grants/ for a full list of financial assistance options.

Early bird

Free BB Camp Nalgene water bottle if you register by Dec. 31.



CAMP SOLOMON SCHECHTER

campschechter.org

206-447-1967 | info@campschechter.org

Executive Director: Zach Duitch

Campground: Olympia, Wash.

Amenities: 170-acre facility, private lake with dock and aqua park, boat house, art shed, amphitheater, dining hall, infirmary, sports shed, bog and river, full sports fields and ball courts, climbing tower, challenge course, zip line, hiking trails and yurt village.

Program

Camp Solomon Schechter has a 68-year tradition of fun, friendship and Jewish experiential education in the Pacific Northwest. We create a unique, welcoming and spiritual Jewish environment for youth of all denominations entering 1st-12th grades. A summer at CSS enables children to try new activities, improve social skills, gain self-confidence, make Jewish friends, become independent and discover talents and abilities they never knew they had. These benefits last a lifetime. At CSS, we emphasize the values of integrity, *derech eretz* (respect) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). We do this through activities and *teva* (nature) to create our ideal Jewish community. At Camp Solomon Schechter, Judaism and joy are truly one!

Dates/Ages/Cost

Grades 4-10: June 25-July 16 or July 19-Aug. 9, \$3,945; June 25-July 9 or July 19-Aug. 2, \$3,100. Grades 1-5 (rookie): July 9-16 or Aug. 2-9, \$1,550. Grade 11 Oded: June 21-July 20, \$4,800. Grade 12 Geshar Israel Trip: June 18-July 27, \$7,500.

Continued on next page



CAMP KESHER

campkeshher.ncsy.org

503-757-3037 | oregonoffice@ncsy.org

Director: Meira Spivak

Campground: Camas and Ocean Park, Wash.

The first week of camp will take place in Camp Lacamas in Camas, Wash., and the second week and a half will take place in the Ocean Park Camp and Retreat Center in Ocean Park, Wash. Amenities include a week and a half at the ocean, rock climbing, bubble soccer and incredible trips (white water rafting, overnight camping).

Program

With a focus of making Judaism fun and alive, Camp Keshher affords 3rd- to 9th-graders the opportunity to have an awesome time with friends while boosting Jewish pride. Activities include Jewish cooking and baking, sports, drama, kayaking and crafting. Campers make lifelong friends who they can travel to Israel with during a summer in high school.

Dates/Ages/Cost

3-7th grade, \$2,499; 8-9th grade, \$2,749.

Staff in Training, post 10th-graders earn a \$250 stipend. Post 11th- and 12th-graders earn \$250 plus tips.

Scholarships, including the One Happy Camper Grant, as well as local aid, are available.

Early Bird

The early bird discount date has passed, but you can attend a virtual info session for a discount (see box).

SEPHARDIC ADVENTURE CAMP

sephardicadventurecamp.org

office@sephardicadventurecamp.org

Marketing Director: Beth Jacoby

Campground: Cle Elum, Wash.

Amenities include a heated pool, trout pond, lending library, team building course, and sports courts and fields.

Program

A host of traditional camp activities in addition to lots of fun, Sephardic experiential programming. Campers enjoy basketball, color war, mountain biking, arts and crafts, Sephardic baking, trout fishing, archery and more.

Dates/Ages/Cost

June 22-July 11: \$3,250 for the three-week session for 4th- through 11th-graders.

One-week sessions available for entering 3rd- and 4th-graders.

Early bird

\$200 off until Dec. 18.



Connect with camps in December

Several opportunities to connect with staff and/or campers are coming up in December.

Sephardic Adventure Camp Open House

The SAC Open House will be Sunday, Dec. 11, 4:30-5:30 pm, at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 6686 SW Capitol Hwy.

This will be a perfect opportunity to learn more about Sephardic Adventure Camp, the only Sephardic overnight summer camp in the country. Come learn about SAC adventures and activities, meet SAC families and staff, and enjoy dairy desserts. For additional details, contact Jodi Fried at jodi@sephardicadventurecamp.org or the SAC office at office@sephardicadventurecamp.org.

Camp Keshher Virtual Information Sessions

By arrangement. Contact Meira (meira@ncsy.org) to set up a virtual info session. Those who sign up for camp within a week of their info session receive a \$100 discount.

Experience BB Camp

BB Camp has multiple opportunities to connect this month. Ice Cream Social – Portland East: Dec. 8, 5:30-7:30 pm,

Dairy Hill Ice Cream; bbcamp.org/icecream-east/

DIY Steel Dreidel Making Class and Chanukah Celebration: Dec. 17, 10-11:30 am & 12:30-2 pm; bbcamp.org/dreidel/

Kids Night In (Parents get the night off): Dec. 17, 6-9 pm; bbcamp.org/kids-night-in/

Teva Monthly Family Hikes: Dec. 18, 9 am, at Silver Falls State Park; bbcamp.org/teva-hikes/

Winter Break Day Camp: Dec. 19-23, 9 am-4 pm, SW Portland (Multnomah Presbyterian); bbcamp.org/winter-camp/

URJ CAMP KALSMAN

campkalsman.org

campkalsman@urj.org

425-284-4484

Director: Rabbi Ilana Mills

Campground: Arlington, Wash.

Camp Kalsman's 300 beautiful acres offer a great balance of education and recreation with great sports and arts facilities and a pool.

Program

Camp Kalsman is committed to our six core values: friendship, *kehilah kedoshah* (sacred community), Reform Jewish identity, *chesed* (kindness), connection to Israel and our relationship to *teva* (nature). Activities include: Arts – painting and ceramics; Performing arts – improv, theater, musical, writing; Music – guitar; Sports/waterfront – biking, archery, frisbee, soccer, basketball, lake, pool; and Experience – hiking, cooking, outdoor survival skills, gardening,



animal care, high ropes course, climbing tower and swing.

Date/ages/cost

1-week to 21-day sessions June 25-Aug. 16 for current 1st- through 10th graders with fees ranging from \$1,695 to \$4,895 (depending on camp session and URJ member or nonmember).

Counselor in Training (11th graders) June 23-July 30 is \$5,595 for URJ members or \$5,995 for nonmembers.

Chanukah: Sunset Dec. 18-26

Resources including events; Rituals and reading for kids and interfaith families; Chanukah 101; DIY crafts; and Mental Health Menorah

jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/chanukahresources22



Chaplain's Corner

Celebrate who we are

BY RABBI BARRY COHEN

How many times through the years, when we are filling out medical forms, various types of applications or census forms, have we had to check boxes that describe our identity? I begrudgingly go through this process, as if a checkmark can encapsulate who I am as a person.



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

The nature of identity has become more and more complicated and nuanced. How can we put into a word or a phrase who we are racially? Culturally? Ethnically? Religiously? Spiritually?

Sometimes we describe ourselves as part of a nation, sometimes as part of a region, sometimes as part of a state. Sometimes our identity is tribal

(many of you know of my maize-and-blue devotion to the University of Michigan); sometimes we choose to be universal (when we empathize with someone's struggles halfway across the world).

Increasingly, our families are becoming more and more blended. We identify with people of various races, religions and ethnicities.

So, who exactly are we?

The upcoming holiday of Chanukah calls upon us to answer that question and to clarify our identity. Thousands of years ago, we literally had to go to war to preserve our identity. The battle lines were blurry. Not only did the conflict have a quality of "us vs. them," it also was a civil war, as Jews fought against fellow Jews.

This year, beyond the chanukiah candles, latkes, sufganiyot, gelt and dreidels, we can dig deeper and consider our identities. As we gather with family and friends, we can share stories of where we came from ... the stories that define us.

One of my favorite family stories highlights Samuel Lewis, my great-grandfather on my mom's side. As a teenager, he was living in Odessa. His parents pressured him to become a rabbi, something he did not want to do. When they insisted, he responded, "If you make me become a rabbi, I'm going to America." They insisted. He left.

See CHAPLAIN: CELEBRATE, page 9

Rabbi's Corner

Welcome the darkness

BY RABBI ARIEL STONE

Many years ago, an Israeli kindergarten teacher (who went on to found the Inbal Dance Theater) created an innocent Chanukah song for her students.

Banu hoshekh l'garesh, b'yadeynu or va'esh.

Kol ekhad hu or katan, v'kulanu or eytan.

Surah hoshekh, hal'ah sh'khor, surah mipnei ha'or!

"We come to banish darkness, in our hands light and fire.

Each one of us is a little light, but all together we are a mighty light.

Get away, darkness! Begone, black! Flee before the light!"

Sara Levi-Tanai, the Yemenite Israeli dancer, composer and choreographer, drew upon tropes as old as time: fire, that daughter of the sun, defies the encroaching darkness. It seems that almost every culture and people has a custom to kindle flames against the night.

Yet the phrase "begone black!" should cause us all to recoil. And if it seems true for us now that such wording is wrong because of the racism it might be misunderstood to support, might we not take the chance to step further through the open door of this newfound sensitivity to ask another question: Why should we "banish darkness" anyway?

An ancient *midrash* conveys an interesting observation about light and dark.

R. Johanan said: In your eyes there is a white part, through which you are not able to see, and a dark part in the middle of the eye, by means of which one does see: one sees out of the dark part of the eye, and not out of the white part (*Midrash Tanhuma, Tetzaveh* 6).

"It is out of the dark that we see." If you are in an audience in darkness, you can see what is happening in the spotlight on the stage. But if you have ever been in that spotlight, you know there is nothing one can see from within it.

In more than one sense, whiteness can blind us. In art, it is the absence of all color, whereas black contains all colors. So why should we banish the darkness through which we might see so much?

In this spirit, I offer you this new version of the Chanukah song (by Iris Yotvet and Orit Or online at Nashimahut). May it inspire you in its celebration of darkness and light, in us and in the world.

Banu Choshekh l'kabeyl, b'tokheynu or vatzeyl.

Kol akhat hi or gadol mit'rakhev lakol yakhol.

N'habe et hashakhor; na'atof oto ba'or.

Ki mitokh hakhi hashk'kor mit'galeh gar'in ha'or.

We come to welcome the dark, within us light and shadow.

Each one of us a great light expanding to as far as we can.

We embrace the black, wrap it in light (as a tallit).

For it is only in darkness that the seeds of light are revealed!

The darkness of the night gives the candlelight its beauty. May we come to know how best to celebrate the necessity and the holiness of both in our lives.



Rabbi Ariel Stone supports the emergence of 21st century Judaism into a more just world with Shir Tikvah in the Commons, TischPDX and the Mental Health Alliance of Portland.

Chanukah Events

Find details on these and more Chanukah events at
jewishportland.org/community-calendar/chanukah-happenings

Dec. 10: Young Adult Latke Ball 2022

Neveh Shalom hosts a Young Adult Latke Ball for ages 21-35ish at 7-9 pm, Dec. 10. Neveh Shalom will open its doors to the young adults of Portland's Jewish community this Chanukah season. Featuring drinks, latkes, music, witty banter and fun. \$18. RSVP: members.nevehshalom.org/event/YoungAdultLatkeBall2022.

Dec. 11: Menorah workshop at Home Depot

Chabad of Lake Oswego invites children (and adults) make their own menorah with the help of the skilled team at the Tigard Home Depot while enjoying some Chanukah treats. 11 am, Dec. 11, at the Tigard Home Depot. RSVP at jewishlo.com/homedepot.

Dec. 11: Pre-Chanukah preschool sing-along

Join the Gan-Garrett Jewish Preschool for a Chanukah Family Musical Sing-Along with Kim Schneiderman. 4-5:30 pm at the preschool, 9604 NE 126th Ave. #2340 Vancouver, Wash. For details, email info@thegan.org.

Dec. 13: Young adult embroidery workshop

Moishe House Portland invites young adults to learn how to reuse scraps and previously discarded treasures to create something new and beautiful. Kaitlin, our Moishe member, will teach basic stitches to get you started on some beautiful things for loved ones this Chanukah season. 6-8 pm, Dec. 13. RSVP: Text 503-908-3394.

Dec. 14: Ladies Night Out Menorahs & Martinis

Pre-Chanukah Ladies Night Out: Menorahs & Martinis will be Dec 14, 7:30-9 pm, at Chabad of Hillsboro, 965 SE Brookwood Ave., Hillsboro. Design your own granite menorah, discover the connection between women and Chanukah, and enjoy martinis and Chanukah treats. This festive evening is a project of Chabad of Hillsboro and the Women's Giving Circle of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland as part of the year of *Hakheh*, Jewish unity, gathering. \$18. RSVP: chabadh.com/events/menorahs-martinis

Dec. 16: Pre-Chanukah celebration and Shabbat

Start your family's Chanukah celebration early with a joyful, musical Shabbat service featuring Congregation Beth Israel's Oneg Singers and Oneg Band, stories, candles, treats and more. 6-8 pm, Dec. 16 at CBI, 1972 NW Flanders. bethisrael-pdx.org/chanukah

Dec. 17: Steel dreidel making, Chanukah party

A BB Camp holiday favorite is back again this year. DIY The Steel Dreidel Making Class and Chanukah Celebration will be Dec. 17 with two sessions, 10-11:30 am and 12:30-2 pm, at The Standard Steel Companies (1745 NE Columbia Blvd.). Join BB Camp and DIY Steel to put to make a steel dreidel, learn how to clean and paint metal, and enjoy Chanukah activities and food. Parental supervision required. \$36 per kit. Register: bbcamp.org/dreidel/

Dec. 17: Jews Next Dor Chanukah Kickoff

Young adults can gather at 6 pm, Dec. 17, at Congregation Beth Israel's Goodman Hall for an Iron Chef-style latke tasting, a chance to connect and possible after party at Pope House Bourbon Lounge, a short walk from CBI. Jews Next Dor, CBI's group for Jews in their 20s and 30s, returns from a pandemic hiatus for this relaxed Chanukah gathering. RSVP: Shainaz@bethisrael-pdx.org.

Dec. 17: Pre-Chanukah Party at Shaarie Torah

This family friendly night of light and fun is at 6 pm, Dec. 17, at Congregation Shaarie Torah, 920 NW 25th Ave. Music, prizes,

raffles, candle lighting, appetizers, drinks, sufganiyot and latkes. No registration needed. Info: cst@shaarietorah.org

Dec. 18: Tot's First Chanukah

Congregation Beth Israel's Mini Mentsches can enjoy Chanukah lights and festivities, sing songs, hear stories and delicious donuts to go. 4 pm, Dec. 18, in Goodman Hall: bethisrael-pdx.org/chanukah.

Dec. 18-20: Chabad menorah lightings, parties

Oregon Chabad Centers present free menorah lightings and Chanukah celebrations around the metro area. The venues and entertainment vary, but all feature Chanukah food, music and fun.

Downtown: 4:30 pm, Dec. 18, at Pioneer Courthouse Square. Dedicated to refugees from Ukraine and featuring Klezmer music by Ukrainian group. chabadoregon.com.

Pearl District: 4:30 pm, Dec. 18, at Tanner Springs Park, pdxccyp.org/chanukah.

Hillsboro: 4:15 pm, Dec. 18, at Orenco Station Plaza in Hillsboro, chabadh.com.

Gresham: 4:30 pm, Dec. 18, at the Gresham Arts Plaza. Bring a can of food for local food pantries: jewishgresham.com.

Vancouver: 4:30 pm, Dec. 18, at Esther Short Park: Jewish-ClarkCounty.com.

Lake Oswego: 5 pm, Dec. 18, at Millennium Plaza Park: jewishlo.com/fireonice.

Wood Village: 5:30 pm, Dec. 19, at Wood Village City Hall: jewishgresham.com.

Sandy: 5:30 pm, Dec. 20, at Centennial Plaza: jewishgresham.com.

Dec. 19: Neveh Shalom Chanukah Party

All ages are invited to join Neveh Shalom at 5 pm, Dec. 19, for a latke dinner, music, crafts, photo booth and group menorah lighting (bring your menorah). RSVP by Dec. 14 (early bird pricing till Dec. 9): members.nevehshalom.org/event/CNSChanukah2022

Dec. 19: Kesser Israel Chanukah Party



Kesser Israel invites the community to its Chanukah Party at 5:45 pm, Dec. 19. The price is \$10 per person and \$36 max per family. The party features the Amazing Bubbleman (Louis Pearl), a cocktail social for adults, kids programming, dinner buffet, latkes and donuts. kesserisrael.org/event/chanukah.

Dec. 21: Chanukah Story Hour with Eric Kimmel

Join author Eric Kimmel for a wonderful hour of stories at 11 am, Dec 21, at the Eastside Jewish Commons. Presented by PJ Library, the EJC and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Masks required. Books will be available for purchase. Free. Eric Kimmel is the author of more than 150 books for children, including the classics *Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock* and the 1990 Caldecott Award Honor Book *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*: ejcpdx.org/events-1.

Dec. 21: MJCC Latkes and Lighting

Community Chanukah candle lighting, music, fun and celebration 5-6 pm, Dec. 21, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Latkes available for purchase. oregonjcc.org

Chanukah shopping



Ron Tonkin Family Museum Shop

The Ron Tonkin Family Museum Shop is stocked with beautifully curated gifts, books, candles and Chanukah items. The shop is located in the lobby of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, 724 NW Davis St., Portland. It is open 11am-4pm, Wednesday- Saturday.

For more information, email giftshop@ojmche.org.

Everything Jewish reopens in new home

Everything Jewish reopened on Nov. 28 in its new home at the Jewish Oasis in the Pearl District. Its former location was destroyed in a fire August 2020.

"We are thankful to the donors and all those who helped with the renovations, permitting and set-up to be open in time for Chanukah this year," says Rabbi Chayim Mishulovin, who leads **Jewish Oasis: A Chabad House** with his wife, Simi.

This year, shoppers are invited to the new permanent location at 1218 NW Glisan St. Hours are 11 am-3 pm, Sunday; 10 am-6 pm, Monday-Thursday; and 10 am-1 pm, Friday. For more information, email rabbim@chabadoregon.com.



Neveh Shalom Judaica Shop well stocked

Congregation Neveh Shalom's Gloria Bacharach Judaica Shop is prepared with a selection of candles, dreidels, chanukiahs and gifts. Our limited hours are: Sunday 9 am-noon; Monday and Wednesday 11 am-1 pm; and Friday 10 am-noon.

In addition, the online store is still up and running, so you can shop at nevehshalom.org/the-gloria-bacharach-judaica-shop/.

For more information, call shop manager Jennifer Kalenscher at 503-893-0822.

Beth Israel Sisterhood Gift Shop discount days



Get a 10% discount on everything in the Beth Israel Sisterhood gift shop in the Sherman Education Center on the CBI Campus, 1972 NW Flanders St., Portland. Discount days are Thursday, Dec. 8, 4-5 pm, and Sunday, Dec. 11, 9:30 am-12:30 pm.

The Sisterhood gift shop has everything for Chanukah: menorahs, candles, toys, gelt, cards, dreidels and of course, everything Judaica. The gift shop will continue as a "pop-up" shop in the CBI administration office during office hours. For more Chanukah shopping information, contact Tracy Alifanz at Tracy@BethIsrael-pdx.org.

Shaarie Torah Gift Shop open

Congregation Shaarie Torah's Diane Nemer Sisterhood Gift Shop is open 10 am-2 pm, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is located in the synagogue at 920 NW 25th Ave., Portland. The gift shop has Chanukah items in stock.

Founded 60 years ago, this was the first shop in the city to stock Judaica items where people could shop directly for items such as kippot and ketubahs. For info, email info@shaarietorah.org.



ORA Fair at MJCC through Dec. 9

ORA artists present a Chanukah Fair with the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, through Dec. 9. Find that special holiday treasure you are looking for 9 am-7:30 pm, Wednesday and Thursday, or 9 am-3 pm, Friday.

Portland Jewish Academy Auction Dec. 11

For Portland Jewish Academy, 61 is a special number this year. It is the 61st anniversary of the school, which was established in 1961. So PJA's Annual Auction will be the "PJA Beach Party '61."

Come do some holiday shopping and support the day school on Dec. 11. The auction will be held in person with a virtual option.

The event features a silent auction as well as a live auction. This year, everyone in person or at home can bid on everything in real time. The event includes a cocktail hour, dinner, costume contest, raffle, and a silent and live auction.

The auction will be on Dec. 11, 2022. Doors open at 5 pm. Live auction starts at 6:30 pm. Tickets: pijaproud.org/auction.

Jewish Makers Market Dec. 17

You can do last-minute holiday shopping and support local artists at the second annual Jewish Makers Market. Moishe House Portland will host the market from noon to 4 pm, Dec. 17. There will be live music, ceramics, fiber goods, ceramics, tarot and more at this outdoor event.

Continued on next page

Shopping (continued)

The market will take place outside Books With Pictures (1401 SE Division St., Portland), which will be open for shopping during the event. Masks are not enforced outside, but are highly encouraged. Masks are required inside the building, where there is an ADA-accessible bathroom.

For more information, contact Moishe House Portland at moishe-housepdx@gmail.com.

Chanukah Eats

- The Eastside Jewish Commons hosts a Chanukah Food Pop Up 11 am-2 pm, Dec. 18, at the EJC, 2420 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Local vendors selling their to-go wares include Jacob and Sons, Stone Griffon Winery, Leikam Brewing, Sindyanna Peace Oil, Henry Higgins Bagels and ManJa Creations Artisan Food Company. Admission is free.

- The Nov. 23 Jewish Review featured a story about the latkes, kugel, sufganiyot and holiday meals available to buy or order at Portland restaurants and stores to make your Chanukah celebration extra delicious. Read the story at jewishportland.org/jewishreview/jr-stories/chanukah-food.

Kenny & Zukes moving to east side

After 15 years downtown, Kenny & Zuke's is moving their Jewish deli to Portland's east side.

The deli's last day downtown will be Sunday, Dec. 18, re-opening on New Year's Day in its new location at 3808 N. Williams Ave., No. 125.

The website (kennyandzukes.com) notes: "A combination of our lease drawing to a close, a need to downsize, and economics has necessitated a move to the east side. The new location will be smaller and more intimate, with a bagel-centric innovative new menu, espresso drinks, a spacious heated patio out front, self-service options including our famous par-baked bagels and locally smoked fish options."

The new shop will be open Tuesdays through Sundays from 7:30 am to 3 pm.

Jobs board

The Jewish Review publishes job openings from Jewish agencies and congregations. Submit to: editor@jewishportland.org.

SEPHARDIC ADVENTURE CAMP

Camper and Staff Care Director

June 19- July 11

Salary: \$3,500-4,000 plus travel expenses

Sephardic Adventure Camp seeks a mental health professional to lead the planning and implementation of staff training and ongoing staff learning related to mental, emotional, social and spiritual health before camp begins. During the camp session, be onsite to support counselors in addressing issues/challenges that come up in bunks and campers as appropriate, especially with homesick campers. See full description on the [Career Hub](#) (below) or email Kenny@sephardicadventurecamp.org.

JEWISH CAREER HUB

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's job board for the ongoing listing of job opportunities in the Jewish community currently features several openings. See full descriptions or submit openings at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs.

CHAPLAIN: CELEBRATE (continued from page 6)

Whether or not this story is true or exaggerated makes no difference. I reflect on the great-grandfather I never knew and admire his tenacity and courage. (I wonder what he would have thought about my decision to become a rabbi?) This story teaches me to stand up for my convictions and be willing to journey into the unknown to pursue a dream.

I also reflect upon a family story I know was true. Max Cohen, my paternal grandfather, when only 16 years old, left Kalvaria, Poland, in 1912 to travel to the United States. Based on what was going on in Europe, his family knew it was time to leave home, and they chose Max to begin the process.

So many immigrant families have the same story: A young family member is chosen. This person travels a long distance, gets a job and makes money to bring more and more family to the United States.

My family owes Max Cohen an unpayable debt. Early in World War II, when the Germans invaded Poland, they wiped Kalvaria off the map. Much of my family would not be alive today were it not for my courageous Grandfather Max. I have a sacred responsibility to keep telling his story. We all have our stories to tell, especially as our families become more diverse.

For those of us in religiously blended families, a wonderful resource to guide us through storytelling and holiday celebrating is "18 Doors: Unlocking Jewish." Visit 18doors.org/portland/ for list of local events. Resources for parents and grandparents can be found at 18doors.org/parents-families/.

Another option is the "Tell and K'vell" box. We can find 120 question cards that open up conversations about Jewish identity, culture, holidays, traditions and music. We can use these cards not only to learn more about ourselves and others, but to make unexpected connections and learn what we have in common. To receive the cards before the start of Chanukah, orders have to be placed by Dec. 12 at tellandkvell.net/.

The Jewish Federation has excellent resources on its website: jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/chanukahresources22. The Chanukah Happenings page provides Chanukah resources and lists what is going on locally to make this holiday come alive for everyone in our growingly diverse families.

Each and every family has the wonderful and exciting opportunity to express and to mold identity. Our children can celebrate with extended family the holidays of Christmas or Kwanza, but at the same time, they can identify as Jews. They can learn that a latke is more than a potato pancake, gelt is more than a chocolate coin and a chanukiah is more than a candelabra. These Chanukah ritual items represent aspects of our history, our identity, our sacrifices, our dreams and our successes.

Let's use this Chanukah and holiday season to clarify and strengthen our identities. Let's use this time of year to learn not only where we are from, but to dream of where we want to be.

Chag Sameiach! Have a joyous holiday!

For those of us in religiously blended families, a wonderful resource to guide us through storytelling and holiday celebrating is "18 Doors: Unlocking Jewish."

The JEWISH REVIEW

Oregon and SW Washington's Online Jewish Newspaper

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

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Circulation

To receive the Jewish Review in your
email inbox, fill out the form at
jewishportland.org/subscribe

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

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland online

Website: jewishportland.org

Instagram: [instagram.com/jewishfederationpdx/](https://www.instagram.com/jewishfederationpdx/)

Facebook: [facebook.com/JewishPDX](https://www.facebook.com/JewishPDX)

Jewish Review: jewishportland.org/jewishreview

NEXT ISSUES

Issue date	Deadline
DEC. 21	DEC. 15
JAN. 4	DEC. 28 (Wed.)
JAN. 18	JAN. 12
FEB. 1	JAN. 26

Submit photos, news
and obituaries to

editor@jewishportland.org

CHALLENGE GRANT (from page 1)

"We also help clients with paperwork to get other services such as Medicaid," says Greenberg. "Since 80% of our clients are Russian-speaking, our case managers also speak Russian."

While many survivors from western Europe came to the United States in the 1940s and '50s, many of today's JFCS survivor clients were children during the Holocaust and arrived in the states after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Many Holocaust survivors who were in Soviet-controlled areas after the war also suffered under the policies of Stalin, further adding to their trauma.

The Holocaust has "torn at my heart," says Holzman. "I have been very moved and anguished by things I have read and the stories I have heard from people I have known who experienced the Holocaust."

When Holocaust survivor, Nobel laureate and author Elie Wiesel came to Portland to speak many years ago, Holzman was the president of the Oregon Council for the Humanities and was able to have dinner with him and hear his stories firsthand.

To help others understand the horrors of that time, she made sure she provided historical context to books she had high school students read when she taught Jewish literature at Congregation Beth Israel.

When her son, Larry Holzman, became president of JFCS, she learned about all of the intricacies of survivor care and the funding needs. She emphasizes that her son never suggested she donate, but once she understood the need, she felt compelled to do so.

"When does anyone decide that it's time to take a big step and try to do something on someone else's behalf?" she asked. When she learned of the fundraising challenge facing JFCS, "I thought I must do something. If not now, when?"

"I was thinking about whether one can ever right the wrongs of history," says Holzman. "Clearly, in the 1930s, when we could have saved many of the Jews of Europe, the world chose to close its gates, thereby condemning them to the fate that is called the Holocaust. We cannot today undo that cruel decision. ... What we can do today is open our hearts to the needs of the survivors. When the history of our era is written, let it be said that we chose the right path."

To donate, visit jfcs-portland.org/services/holocaust-survivor-services/holzman_challenge_grant/ or mail a check to JFCS (put HHS donation in memo line), 1221 SW Yamhill, Suite 301, Portland, OR 97205.

REUNITING RELATIVES (from page 1)

She does know relatives who emigrated to Israel before the war on her paternal grandmother's side.

"With both my parents gone since last year and my being an only child, family is more important to me than ever," says Caron. "It would be meaningful to have this gift for my young adult children, my cousins and myself to know if there are more of us still out there and make the connections."

The quest for relatives is also personal for Naomi Derner, a member of Portland's Next Generations Group, which consists of descendants of Holocaust survivors, refugees and heroes.

"As a descendant of Holocaust survivors who has tried to piece together the missing parts of my family tree, the hope that I could find a long lost relative – or the descendant of one – is very exciting," says Naomi, who did a DNA test at 23andme several years ago with the hope of finding lost relatives.

"Although all four of my grandparents were Holocaust survivors, only my maternal grandfather, Joe, was unable to find even a single living relative after the war – not even a cousin, nobody," says Naomi.

"I still have not identified any relatives of Joe or any descendants of his relatives. But more and more people are tested every day, and I hope one day to find a descendant of someone from Joe's family."

"My grandfather passed away years ago, but my mother and uncles knew the pain my grandfather suffered after losing every member of his family and never finding a survivor," Naomi says of her continuing quest. "We would be thrilled to find a long lost relative."

The project isn't personally relevant to Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon Secretary Linda Kelley, but as a genealogist, she says "the project is very important, worthwhile and inspiring."

"Two top professional genetic genealogists are going to do what they do best – find unknown (relatives)," says Linda, who listened to the kickoff. "They encourage survivors and hidden children to get tested at Ancestry. The project will provide kits for those who cannot pay. Ancestry results can be uploaded to other websites to increase the matches and information."

Learn more about the project, apply for a free kit or donate to the project at cjh.org/research/dna.

Book box fund to promote diversity, tolerance

BY DEBRA SHEIN

Leigh, Bob and Rick Schwarz, three siblings from New Jersey who all decided to make their homes in Oregon, recently launched a fund at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education to provide educational resources to Oregon students.

The Walter Pick Holocaust and Genocide Book Box Fund is named in honor of the siblings' cousin, Walter Pick, who in 1940 helped their father, aunt and grandparents escape to safety in the United States from Nazi-annexed Austria. The book boxes, conceived by OJMCHE Director of Education Amanda Coven, will be distributed to K-12 classrooms across Oregon.

"Since OJMCHE has expanded connections to schools and educators across Oregon, we've received emails asking if we have a lending library of books about the Holocaust and/or Jewish history, life and culture," says Coven. "Understanding this need, we brainstormed the idea of book boxes."

Rather than lending books for a short time, the museum wants to provide a box of curated books to teachers to keep in their classrooms. The museum has created book boxes for grade bands: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Each box will include five to eight books, vocabulary lists, and suggested discussion questions or activities.

The Schwarzes became connected to OJMCHE in the 1990s when their mother Estelle served as a docent during the Anne Frank exhibition. After reading about OJMCHE's statewide education work, they knew that contributing to this would be a meaningful way to remember their parents and cousin Walter – one that would also be of value to all their children.

Their hope is "the book boxes will help teachers throughout Oregon to educate students about the Holocaust in particular and, more generally, to reduce intolerance of people perceived as different."

The Schwarz siblings encourage others to contribute to the fund



Walter Pick inscribed his service photo to his Aunt Irma, grandmother of Leigh, Bob and Rick Schwarz.

and support their aim "to vanquish bigotry and hate through better understanding."

Walter Pick (1912-1993) served in U.S. Army Intelligence during World War II. He was born in Vienna, where his father and uncles owned and operated two sporting goods stores. After the Nazis annexed Austria in 1938, Walter, then 26, sought help from his father's cousin, known in the family as "Aunt Nellie," who lived in Orange, N.J. Her father, Walter's great-uncle Philip Schwarz, immigrated in the mid-19th century and became a successful dry goods merchant. Upon his death, he left Nellie the large family home and the means to provide an Affidavit of Support and serve as sponsor for Walter and his brother, Rudi.

After their arrival in New Jersey, Walter appealed to Nellie to also provide affidavits for his parents; his uncle and aunt, Leopold and Irma Schwarz; and their children, Arthur (later the father of Leigh, Bob and Rick) and Herta.

"Walter must have poured on all his charm and persuasiveness, because we very soon heard from him that Aunt Nellie had agreed to give affidavits to us all," says Arthur.

The Leopold Schwarz family was able to successfully immigrate in 1940, but tragically, Walter's parents, Karl and Bertha Schwarz, were stopped by the Nazis.

In America, Walter worked for a firm that manufactured sleeping bags and other outdoor equipment, which brought him to Los Angeles, and then he started his own successful sleeping bag company. Leigh recalls that when she was married in 1975, "Walter sent a pair of lofty down sleeping bags as a wedding gift. They are still regularly used and appreciated."

After Leigh moved to Oregon in 1978, she remembers receiving "a phone call from Walter welcoming her to the West Coast and particularly to Oregon. He was genuinely excited and especially interested to know if she had visited Mt. Hood and to share how beautiful the Cascades are and what a special place Oregon is."

Leigh's brothers and parents, Arthur and Estelle, also succumbed to the lure of the Northwest and relocated to Oregon.

The Schwarzes hope the story of Walter Pick and his kindhearted Aunt Nellie will inspire others to help "bring these books, these windows on the wider world, to children throughout Oregon."

To donate, visit ojmche.org/support/donate/general-donate/.

New logo for Cedar Sinai Park highlights inclusivity

Cedar Sinai Park is rebranding, with a new logo that represents the inclusivity the organization seeks.

"Looking at our new logo, no matter your religion, culture or ethnicity, you can feel a sense of belonging," says Board Chair Steve Rallison. "Appealing to the larger community, without forgetting our Jewish roots, is a direction Cedar Sinai Park has been headed for a while. The new logo is indicative of the organization's inclusive, forward-moving direction."

Currently, about 75 percent of elders who access Cedar Sinai Park's services are Jewish; the other 25 percent are a mix of other cultures, ethnicities, and religious and spiritual affiliations.

Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Fuson says the new logo was a year in the making.

"There were many discussions with residents and staff and the community and trustees about what makes Cedar Sinai Park unique, and how we carry our foundational Jewish values of love, honor and respect into the next century," she says. "We believe the design selected hits all of those notes."



Cedar Sinai Park

love. honor. respect.

The new logo is a compilation of all the logos from Robison Jewish Home's 102 years in the community. The Star of David in the middle represents Judaism and the "heart" of Cedar Sinai's history and being. From the heart, additional elements have also been added to represent interconnection with others, including a mandala (the circle that is the universe), a cross (curving toward the heart), a flame (for the energy and positivity in the community) and leaves (as a symbol of new growth and opportunity).

"Our new logo weaves inclusivity into the tapestry of life at Cedar Sinai Park; this logo is an expression of Kulanu, all of us together – of residents, families, staff, volunteers and trustees – learning and growing in support of our mission at Cedar Sinai Park," says Fuson.

"We want all of our elders – Jewish and non-Jewish – to have a seat at our table: to feel embraced as an individual and as a member of our community," adds Fuson. "At the same time, we will always honor our foundational Jewish values, ones that we feel are increasingly essential for a world of peace and community."

JIM WINKLER

James “Jim” Harold Winkler, z”l, businessman, philanthropist and civic leader, passed away in Portland Nov. 22, 2022, at age 72 due to complications from an infection. Jim is survived by his wife, Susan Winkler; children, Jordan Winkler (Cristin Campbell), Julia Winkler (Jonas Jacobson) and Jacob Winkler (Edith); grandchildren, Maxwell Jacobson, Miriam Winkler, Margot Winkler and Talia Winkler; siblings, Victor Winkler (Korina), Bernice Skoro (Carl), Beverly Greenfield (Chuck) and Fern Schlesinger; and many nieces and nephews. Jim was preceded in death by his sister, Velma Almo.

Jim was born July 20, 1950, in Mellersdorf, Germany, to Polish and Austrian Holocaust survivors living in a United Nations displaced persons’ camp. In 1951, he and his family emigrated from Germany to the United States to settle in Portland. Jim graduated from Grant High School in 1968, where he was a speech and debate champion, ranked third nationally. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University in 1972.

After graduation, Jim intended to become a philosophy professor but returned to Portland when his father fell ill. He attended the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College as a night student while starting his business career by day. There, he met his future wife, Susan Swire. The couple married in 1980 and enjoyed a love-filled marriage marked by a shared passion for the arts and the joys of raising their three children.

As a community leader, Jim dedicated himself to board service focused on the arts, Jewish community and health care. He served as a trustee of the Portland Art Museum for over 25 years and also served Cedar Sinai Park (as capital campaign chair and president), the OHSU Foundation and several other arts and Jewish organizations. In 2013, he received the 14th Annual Rabbi Joshua Stampfer Community Enrichment Award. He was a member of Congregation Beth Israel.

Jim was president of Winkler Development Corporation, a real estate development and investment company responsible for dozens of projects in the Pacific Northwest. Through Winkler, Jim was involved in the acquisition, rehabilitation and operation of residential and commercial real estate, including aiding Cedar Sinai Park to acquire four low-income housing projects for seniors in downtown Portland.

Oregon Arts Watch says he was known and admired for his key role in the DeSoto Project, which in 2007 transformed the former Daisy Kingdom fabric building and warehouse on Portland’s North Park Blocks into the thriving center of an art gallery and museum district. The redevelopment became a crucial factor in the revival of the North Park Blocks, buttressed by its proximity to nearby galleries such as Elizabeth Leach and Blackfish, and the move in 2015 of the Pacific Northwest College of Art to a campus just a couple of blocks away. What emerged was an art district that is now home to the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. OJMCH Director Judy Margles praised Jim’s moral vision to “catalyze a neighborhood” around the arts.

Jim was recognized for his vision, expertise and embrace of innovative development techniques. He received several awards during his career, including an Urban Land Institute Global Award for Excellence, the highest recognition in the real estate field, for his transformation of a former hospital in North Portland into Adidas Village, the Adidas America headquarters.

Donations in his memory can be made to Cedar Sinai Park, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, or a charity of your choosing.

The family invites you to join them for a memorial service in celebration of Jim’s life at 3 pm, Dec. 15, at Congregation Beth Israel, 1972 NW Flanders St.. A reception will follow.

OLIVIA DANNA WILNER SCHAEFFER

Olivia Danna Wilner Schaeffer, z”l, died unexpectedly Nov. 6 of complications related to an aortic valve replacement in Portland. She was 78 years old. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Benson Schaeffer, and her three brothers, David Wilner, Justin Wilner and Adam Wilner, all of California. She was preceded in death by her effervescent daughter, actress Rebecca Schaeffer.

Danna Wilner was born in Atlanta in 1943 near the army base where her father, Daniel, was stationed and her mother, Lucile, made a home. She grew up in Los Angeles, Baltimore and New York City. She married – early and well – to Benson Schaeffer in 1963 and gave birth to Rebecca in 1967. Danna received an M.A. and M.F.A. from the University of Oregon in Eugene. In 1980, the family moved to Portland, where Danna taught English and creative writing at Portland-area colleges and universities. She regularly published short stories, poems, articles and reviews.

When Rebecca left home at 16 for New York to become an actress – she was cast in the television shows “One Life to Live” and “My Sister Sam” and also in several movies, notably “Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills” and “Radio Days” – Danna’s interest turned to the theater, and she began writing plays. “City Women,” an evening of one-act plays set in world capitals, premiered in 1988.

Danna could not have been prouder of her daughter, a young woman of uncommon grace and wisdom. BDR (Benson-Danna-Rebecca, as she always signed the many birthday and holiday cards she sent) were a close-knit trio. Rebecca may have flown the nest early, but the family always spent the holiday season together, several times on fabulous trips to some far-flung land. In 1986, they went to Warsaw, Bialystok, Vienna and Budapest. One of the highlights of Danna’s life was visiting Rebecca on the set of a movie she was filming in Rome and Venice. Danna would write about this trip, with its light, joy, love and humor, in her acclaimed one-woman play years later. It was the last time she would see her daughter.

Everything changed on July 18, 1989, when Rebecca was shot on her doorstep in Los Angeles by an obsessed fan.

Rebecca’s murder divided Danna’s life into “before” and “after.” Danna managed to survive her daughter’s murder, and by some accounts even thrive. Danna was the rarest of human beings, one who could face and absorb anguish head on while at the same time remaining open to the world and its wonders. She welcomed new experiences and hard work. Danna spent two years lobbying for gun control. In 1989, she co-founded Oregonians Against Gun Violence with Nan Whittaker, and in 1991, she went to Washington, D.C., to work in support of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (known as the Brady Bill), which was signed into law in late 1991 by President Clinton.

If Danna had an idea, she followed it. If she wanted to pursue a passion, she pursued it. In 1996, Danna and her brother, Adam Wilner, founded BookRadio, an audio website focused on presenting book reviews and author interviews – a podcast, in essence, well ahead of its time. In 2003, she decided to go back to school and earn another M.A., this one in counseling psychology from Lewis and Clark College, after which she spent a happy decade in private practice in downtown Portland.

In 2013, she closed her counseling practice to focus on her writing and performance. For a lark, she created a fortune teller character, Madame Olivia, a literate thinker with a talent for delivering encouraging, nonreligious advice and character readings.

Danna’s greatest professional achievement was the creation of her one-woman show “You in Midair,” which she described as Rebecca’s story through her own perspective. It debuted at the Portland Fertile Ground Festival in 2017 and enjoyed a successful run at the

Continued on next page

Volunteers perform “The Ultimate Kindness”

BY DEBORAH MOON

Portland’s Jewish community is fortunate to have two volunteer “holy societies” that prepare the deceased for burial according to Jewish tradition – *Chevra Kavod HaMet* and *The Hevra Kadisha* of Portland. Tahara (purification) is considered the ultimate kindness, a mitzvah for which one cannot be thanked.

Both holy societies, which each have men’s and women’s sections, need more volunteers due to the age of current volunteers.

Chevra Kavod HaMet needs men and women since the average age of volunteers is 65. “It’s time to pass it on to the next generation,” says Chair Sharon Fendrich. The *Chevra* performs *tahara* for Jews in Portland and beyond who request it, including Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist and nonaffiliated.

“People think it is a secret society,” she says. “It’s not. We do the work that needs to be done quietly, respectfully, modestly.”

“We need help,” says Fendrich. “Even if you are curious, we are happy to talk.” For information about the final mitzvah of the lifecycle, visit chevrakavodhamet.org or email ChevraKavodHaMet@gmail.com.

Hevra Kadisha of Portland Chair Michael

Rosenberg says the *Hevra*, “provides service to any departed in strict adherence to the instruction of our *posek* (*halachic* decider) Rabbi Elchanon Zohn of the National Association of *Chevra Kadisha* (nasck.org).”

The *Hevra* welcomes any who want to participate, but draws most of its volunteers from the Orthodox or observant community, which is “weighted to young families,” says Donna Kuttner, who coordinates the women volunteers. “These women have children and have to arrange childcare.”

Rosenberg says that he never has trouble getting a team of men together within minutes of posting a *tahara* request on WhatsApp. Even if the timing is inconvenient, he says, “It’s not like we have a choice in the matter. It has to be done, and not doing it is not an option.” He welcomes any men interested to contact him at 503-519-2454 or michael@cashcolan.com.

Kuttner is actively seeking more women to add to the *Hevra* roster. To learn more, contact her at dhkuttner@gmail.com.

Not everyone is comfortable doing *tahara*, “taking care of the holy vessel that held a soul,” says Sandy Axels, who has been a

A Jewish Ending: Dying, death, mourning & beyond

Chevra Kavod HaMet will discuss how you can be prepared to make practical and personal decisions about the time before death, the moment of passing, the ritual preparations for burial, the interment options, the stages of mourning and beliefs in the afterlife. The Zoom program will be offered twice:

Dec. 11, 10 am: tinyurl.com/4hexxfjd

Dec. 13, 7 pm: tinyurl.com/yck3cdfd

Chevra volunteer since 2008. But everyone is welcome to join the “Shroud Crowd,” which meets monthly to sew (no experience needed) the burial garments the *Chevra* needs. The group also welcomes family members who want to help make “clothing a loved one will wear for their final rest.” Email chevrakavodhamet@gmail.com.

(NOTE: *Tahara* is free, but help with other burial expenses for those who cannot afford it is available from *Hesed Shel Emet* by emailing HesedShelEmetPDX@gmail.com.)

Obituaries (continued)

Hollywood Fringe Festival in 2018. In his review, critic Kristopher Haines wrote, “Schaeffer’s brisk one-woman show is almost surely to be the most devastating piece of theatre this year. That said, somehow there’s room for completely unexpected humor, mostly dealing with the unrealistic expectations of outsiders about how grief should be processed. The show’s greatest asset is its honesty, its unashamed willingness to tell the truth. Ms. Schaeffer has no time for weak platitudes. She’s the kind of person who finds solace in a book of quotes about death, because they are real, and not designed to bring comfort to someone who can’t be comforted, and knows it.”

Danna was a brilliant, active woman, but that was only one side of her. She was deeply interested in others, and she was always present, cognitively, emotionally and empathetically. Danna was, what some would say, a *menschen kenner*, a people knower. Danna saw deeply into people, the good and the bad, and emphasized the good.

As time passed, and the children of her friends grew up, they became Danna’s friends. Delia, the grown daughter of a friend of Benson’s, recalls that Danna was always interested in her life, even when she was very small. Barbara, one of Rebecca’s dearest friends, became a dear friend of Danna’s after Rebecca died. Barbara recalls that Danna taught her how to live, inspiring her to remain curious about the world, to try to connect with people on a deeper level, and always, no matter what, to be brave.

Danna befriended and championed a young Czech woman who was starting a cleaning service in Portland. Martina recalled how once Danna called her a “badass” for deciding to open her own business: “I didn’t know what that meant. I knew what bad meant, and I knew what ass meant. I thought I had done something wrong! Then she explained it to me, and I will just never forget how we laughed.”

Her adult niece, Davina, recalls how Auntie Danna often told the story of meeting her when she was 10 days old, exclaiming over how magnificent she was, already holding up her head and looking around at the world. She wrote in an email, speaking for everyone who knew Danna, “It felt so good to be loved by her.”

SUZANNE HORENSTEIN

Suzanne Horenstein, z”l, passed away Dec. 6, 2022. She was the mother of Steve Horenstein, Scott Horenstein and Todd Horenstein; and the grandmother of Congregation Kol Ami Executive Director Sam Clarno.

MATTHEW EARL RUDOLPH

Matthew “Matt” Earl Rudolph, z”l, passed away on Aug. 31, 2022. He was preceded in death by the love of his life, Janise Rudolph (Hasson); his father, Robert Rudolph; mother, Terrye Rudolph (Stein); and his grandparents, Hyman and Blanche Stein. He is survived by his brothers, Jeff Rudolph and Steve Rudolph (Sheryl); his four children, Seth Rudolph, Danielle Carley (Rudolph), Brett Rudolph (Stephanie) and Corey Rudolph (Michelle); and many grandchildren. Matt was very fortunate over the years to have a best friend who was considered family, Jerry Palumbo.

Matthew was born in Portland April 21, 1953. He grew up in Southwest Portland and attended Wilson High School. He was a three-sport athlete who seemed to enjoy baseball the most. He played catcher and was nicknamed “Matt the cat” by his teammates. Matt even tried out for the minor leagues. As an adult, he shifted his passion to golf and played in tournaments, with buddies and toted his kids to courses, too. Brett recalls being “wowed” as his dad swung and subsequently sailed golf balls over the back net at the end of the driving range!

Matt built a successful career and provided for his family working in the electronic sales industry. He enjoyed taking his two eldest children on work trips, which provided them with fond memories of the Northwest.

Matt’s first wife was Andrea Caron, the mother of Seth and Danielle. They remained friends until the day of his passing. Matt and his second wife, Jani, added two boys to the family, Brett and Corey.

Matt and Jani are now laid to rest, together, at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery in Portland.

Artist explores universal connections with Hebrew



Artist Sara Harwin has spent 18 years creating “Illuminated Letters: Threads of Connection.” After a temporary exhibit of the 2,000-square-foot work in September, she now has a mini-installation in her studio, where she is hosting monthly salons.

Salons Explore Illuminated Letters

Jan. 15, 1-3 pm: Lighting the darkness

Feb. 12, 1-3 pm: Names/Naming

March 12, 1-3 pm: Connecting/Becoming One

RSVP for location: info@harwinstudios.com

Judaic artist Sara Harwin has spent the past 18 years creating “Illuminated Letters: Threads of Connection.”

In 2014, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education presented a preliminary exhibit that served as “a visual entry point to Judaism.” In the years since, Sara has expanded the project to explore the universal connections that can be accessed through the ancient language. She hopes future exhibitions of her work will share the universal threads.

“Creating Illuminated Letters required time for study, involvement and enlightenment of my own understanding of how we are all connected, and how that connection is both individual and universal,” writes Sara. “We are now starting a series of Illuminated Salons at Harwin Studios (see box). We are inviting small groups of sponsors, supporters, and local and regional speakers to help foster the individual and universal understanding of this work.”

At an exhibit of the full project in September, several visitors commented on the meaning of the art.

“It’s rooted in Judaism in the Torah and Jewish mysticism, but on the other hand, because

it is art and because there are aspects of it that are really universal, like the form of the tree. All of these different shapes that Sara has created and fabricated are universal shapes that anyone can relate to,” said Natan M. Meir, Academic Director of The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at Portland State University. “And also, there are translations that she provides that are custom-made translations of all these Bible verses, and so it (Illuminated Letters) invites people to come in and explore it at whatever level they are on. At whatever access point they can reach it on, that gives it its universality.”

“I think it is an astonishing work,” said award-winning children’s book author Eric Kimmel “The Hebrew language grows out of three- and four-letter roots. The whole language comes out of these little, tiny combinations. And what Sara has done has gone back to the roots. ... It’s the heart of Western civilization if you are looking at sacred texts coming out of the Bible. So, it’s astonishing to see this as roots, leaves, seeds, stems expressed artistically. I think it is a marvelous work.”

Sephardic Film Fest begins with “Battle for Jerusalem”

The 16th Annual Sephardic Film festival kicks off Dec. 14 with the docudrama “In Our Hands – The Battle for Jerusalem.” Admission is free.

The film festival continues the second Wednesday of the month through May (with the exception of February and April, see below). Films screen at 7 pm at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 6686 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland. Discussion and Sephardic desserts follow each film.

Following is this year’s schedule:

Dec. 14: In our Hands – The Battle for Jerusalem: “In Our Hands” tells the story of the Battle of Jerusalem in the Six-Day War through the eyes of the IDF’s 55th Paratrooper Brigade, highlighting their role in the liberation of Jerusalem. The docudrama combines dramatic reenactments with interviews of veterans of the Six-Day War and archival footage and photos.

Jan. 11: Empty Boxcars: “Empty Box-

cars” tells the amazing story of the survival of more than 50,000 Jews in World War II from territories under Bulgarian control in Greece and Macedonia. Bulgarians from many walks of life – church leaders and labor leaders, lawyers and doctors – rose up in protest. Would we risk our lives to save someone in deep trouble?

Feb. 7 (Tuesday): Cuba’s Forgotten Jewels: After turning away the Jews aboard the ill-fated St. Louis in 1939, Cuba changed course the next year and took in 6,000 Jewish refugees, including hundreds of Jewish diamond cutters and their families. Co-director Judy Kreith draws on tales of her mother’s escape from Nazi-occupied Belgium and her years in 1940s Havana.

March 8: Jewish Soldiers in Blue & Gray: This film explores the little-known history of the Civil War Jews who fought on both sides of the battlefield – 7,000 for the Union and 3,000 for the Confederacy.

Some prominent Jews, including Jewish slave owners, cited the Torah to justify slavery, while others were leaders in the abolitionist movement or established stops on the Underground Railroad in their synagogues.

April 19 (third Wednesday): Double feature: Rhodes Forever & From Philadelphia to the Front: “Rhodes Forever” is a contemporary portrait that ties the Jews of Rhodes with their descendants.

“From Philadelphia to the Front” focuses on six Philadelphia veterans in their 80s, and their experiences during the war and a bittersweet reunion in their old age.

May 10: GI Jews

“GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II” tells the story of the 550,000 Jewish American men and women who fought in World War II.

Please RSVP before each film. Email info@ahavathachim.com.