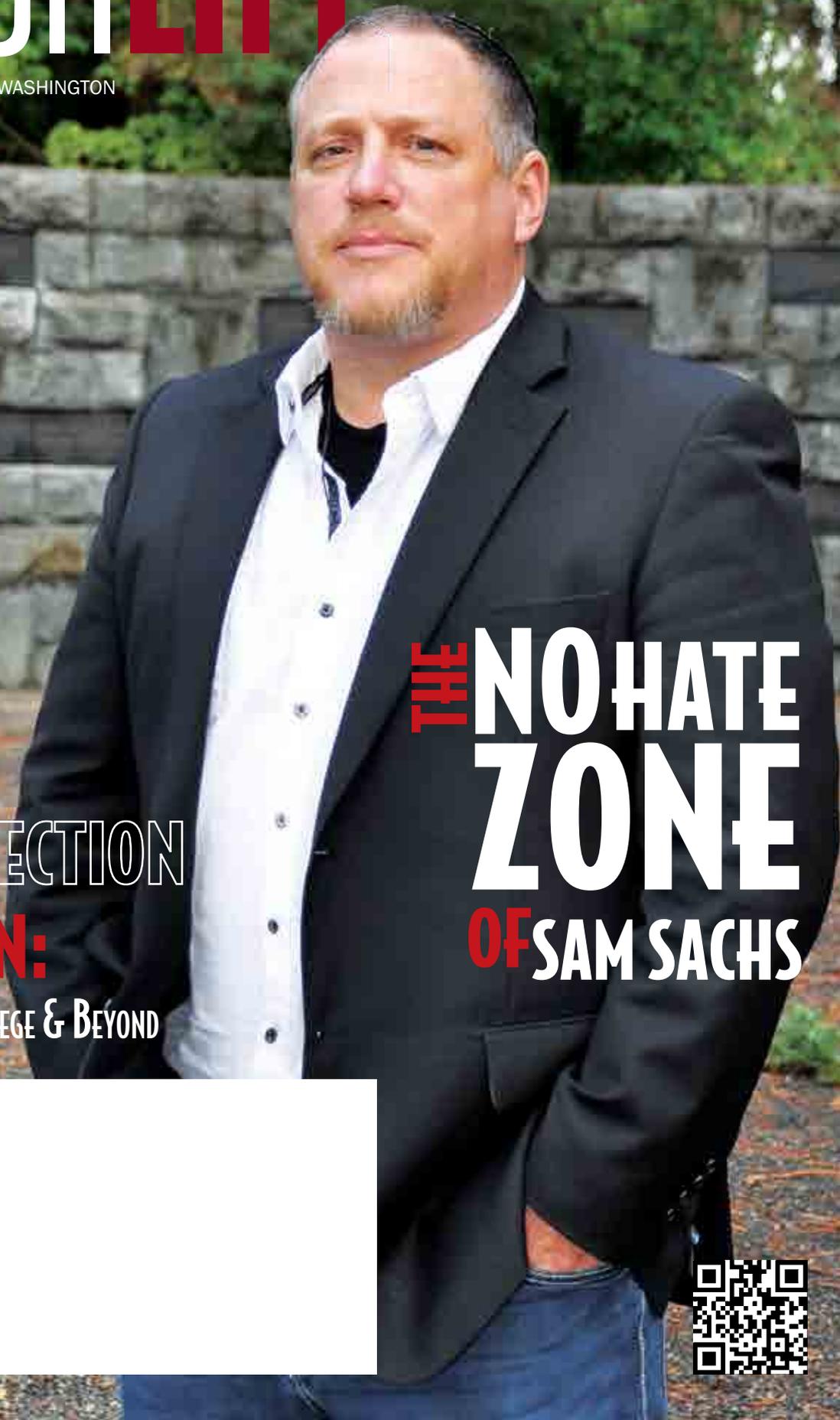


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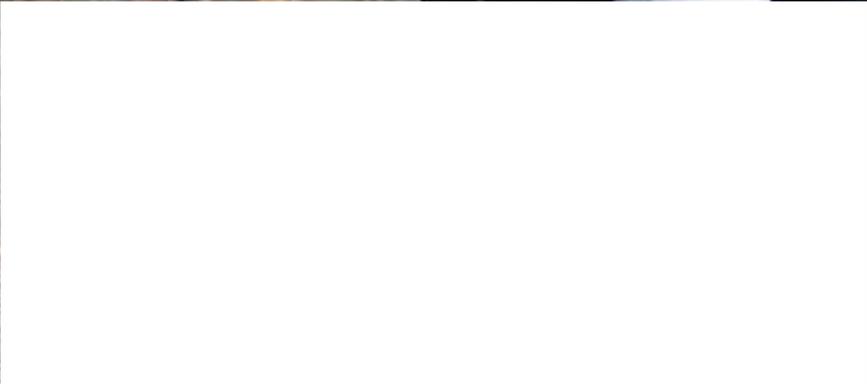
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Cover photo: Sam Sachs at the Oregon Holocaust Memorial in Washington Park. The Portland Park Ranger says he is motivated to actively pursue human rights for all by the memories of the Holocaust. Photo by Deborah Moon

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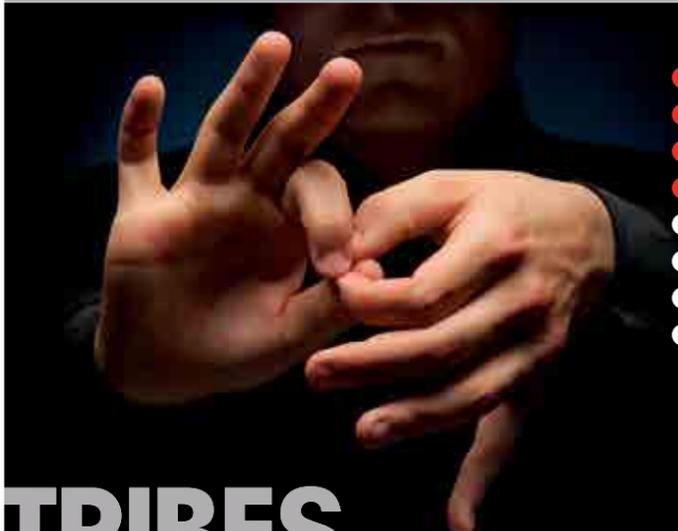
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**You can make
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ever for our elders.**

GOAL:
\$19,350,000

RAISED:
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A New Year and a renewed commitment to our magnificent new rehab center.

So far, our Dignity by Design project has quietly raised a remarkable \$15,777,896! Your generosity has allowed us to approach the New Year with a renewed commitment to reach our twin goals of remodeling our beloved Robison Jewish Health Center and building the new, state-of-the-art Harold Schnitzer Health and Rehabilitation Care Center. When fully renovated with private rooms (and individual bathrooms and showers), Robison will be able to offer much-needed short-term rehab services to members of our community who have had a recent surgery or hospital stay...in preparation for return to their own homes. What a way to celebrate the New Year!

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Together, we can make 2015 a year of great significance for our elders.

Our goal of raising \$19.3 million for this very important project is only \$3.5 million away! We can think of no better way to celebrate the New Year than by reaching our goal — and getting a head start on improving the healthcare and quality of life for our community's most fragile elders. With your help, we can make the coming New Year the start of a whole new experience for our elders — for generations to come.



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May her name be for a blessing



Tonya Ann Davis
Nov. 10, 1972 - Nov. 27, 2014

Every day in the United States, three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends. In Oregon, seven women were killed in this manner in November alone.

So perhaps it is not surprising that for the second time in less than a month, I've felt connected to a woman killed by her partner – not statistically surprising, but shocking nonetheless.

Last month I wrote about the Nov. 10 death of a woman whose children attend the same Jewish day school from which my sons graduated. Just 17 days later, death struck closer to home.

On Thanksgiving Day, a member of our company family, Tonya Dava, was shot and killed by her boyfriend, who then killed himself. Every time I think about her death, I see her sweet face bathed in disbelief. I never saw her in life with anything but a sweet smile, which is perhaps why in my mind I see her facing such a terrifying moment unable to believe that someone she loved could attack her so violently.

Throughout the long Thanksgiving weekend, those of us who worked with her called, cried with and consoled each other. We didn't want Tonya to be just a statistic. We want her

to be remembered as a human being who touched many lives. We decided to dedicate this issue to our co-worker and friend.

When we heard the news, Publisher Cindy Saltzman posted on Facebook: "To those who are reading this post, I know I don't need to remind you that domestic violence can happen anytime to anyone. Take a closer look at those you work with, family members, neighbors, maybe even your kid's teacher or your bookkeeper ... especially around the holidays. Maybe they need your help but are either afraid or ashamed to ask ... just be more aware. I wish I had been."

So, beyond remembering Tonya, we also want to help others who feel threatened by domestic violence. We wanted to share resources – both for those who need help and those who want to help someone they fear is at risk.

We appreciate the staff at Jewish Family and Child Service in Portland for both their kind, supportive words and for providing the following resources.

Deborah

Domestic Violence Resources

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
ncadv.org | Hotline: 800-799-SAFE (7233)

The Gateway Center
portlandoregon.gov/gatewaycenter | 503-988-6400
HOURS: Monday-Friday, 9 am-4 pm
10305 E. Burnside St., Portland, OR 97216

Portland Women's Crisis Line
pwcl.org | 503-235-5333

Raphael House
raphaelhouse.com | 503-222-6222
Mailing address only: Raphael House of Portland
4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd. # 503, Portland, OR 97214

Men's Resource Center
portlandmrc.com | 12 SE 14th Ave., Portland, OR 97214
503-235-3433

Choices
choicesdvp.com | 503-200-1310
3861 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005

ChangePoint
Vancouver Office
changepointinc.com/vancouveroffice.html | 360-604-0068
10621 Coxley Dr. Suite 106, Vancouver, WA 98662
Beaverton Office
changepointinc.com/beavertonoffice.html | 503-350-2758
1700 NW 167th Place, Suite 240, Beaverton, OR 97006

Bradley Angle
bradleyangle.org | 503-281-2442

Domestic Violence Reduction Unit – Portland Police
503-823-0078
portlandoregon.gov/police/35679

This website includes information on:
Eight ways to support a domestic violence victim
Warning signs of an abusive person
Resources to combat domestic violence
A guide to hope
Domestic violence victim's resource manual
Public records exemption form
What can I do to be safe?

From everyone at Oregon Jewish Life,
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Restoring childhood with Simple Parenting



Raising her own sons without television or computers, she discovered children are less stressed when they are “unplugged.”

“They know how to knit, they are great tree climbers and build forts,” she says. “The 10-year-old’s latest feat is learning to ride a unicycle. And they bake with me. I do my computer work when they are in school or after they go to bed, so it does not have a central role in family life.”

She also discovered that the natural rhythms of Jewish life help provide a structure and routine that children find comforting. The family belongs to P’nai Or of Portland, which they joined years ago when the Renewal congregation was led by Rabbi Aryeh Hirshfield, z”l. In the summer of 2013, Lisa attended a training program in Massachusetts and became certified as a Simplicity Parenting coach by the Center for Social Sustainability. As a parenting coach, she offered seven-week Simplicity Parenting classes and one-day workshops on specific topics such as meaningful holidays and the teen brain. In the summer of 2014, she completed an advanced training distance learning program to become certified as a counselor so she could work with parents one-on-one.

Now, in addition to classes and workshops, she also works with parents to tackle specific issues. A common request she gets is to help organize the home and the child’s bedroom.

“I organize with an eye toward making space for more family connections,” says Lisa. “If stuff is taking up so much space and so much time to put away, that takes time from connecting as a family.”

One recent day she visited a home while the child was away and went through the piles of toys their child could never seem to clean up. She says about half the toys were broken or had missing pieces.

“We kept what worked, was age appropriate, had no batteries and didn’t drive them crazy,” she says, noting it is a parent’s right to discard a toy simply because it drives them crazy. “When he could just play, cleaning up the room was easier.”

those education skills to teach other parents some of the skills she learned both in practice and through two training courses in Simplicity Parenting, a worldwide movement devoted to protecting families from the stresses of modern life.

“There is an undeclared war on childhood,” says Lisa. “There is too much, too fast, too soon of the grownup world. Simplicity Parenting is a movement to protect childhood and allow kids to be kids. ... it’s about making more time for connections and for parenting in ways that are more aligned with our values.”

above: Ezra, Andrew, Lisa and Reuben in Jaffa, Israel.

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GENERAL DENTIST

Surprisingly, she says, parents have never reported that the disappearance of things has been a huge issue.

“It has had a huge effect on the child’s play and care for his toys,” says Lisa. “It’s not just a junk pile, so the child has more of an attitude of care.”

One parent who took Lisa’s fall parenting series says that just talking about decluttering encouraged her to tackle it at her own home. “It was big inspiration for me to declutter my house and especially my kids’ play area,” says Andrea Livingston, whose children are 10 and 2. “We had way too many toys and books, mostly unused, and by simplifying their toys and books and being more deliberate about what we have in the house – it actually made it feel better. It has been much easier for them to play in an organized way, independently, for longer periods of time.”

Having met Lisa at the Waldorf School, Andrea decided to take the class because, she says, “I liked the concept in general AND we were facing issues in the area of creating weekly rhythms for our family to follow – so that the kids had predictability. Something as simple as creating a weekly breakfast plan and putting it on the refrigerator has helped alleviate things like morning stress ... the kids know what to expect.”

Lisa notes, “A lot of what I teach is creating dependable family rhythms.” She says that makes it a natural fit for Jewish families, because “The Jewish calendar is perfect for that.”

Another Waldorf parent whose older son is in the same class as Lisa’s son Ezra says several years ago he had read *Simplicity Parenting: Using the Extraordinary Power of Less to Raise Calmer, Happier and More Secure Kids*, the best-selling book by Kim John Payne on which Simplicity Parenting is based.

“I certainly was excited by its clear and gentle logic,” says Zachary Diamond, who also has a 4-year-old in Waldorf’s youngest class. “Reading a book is one thing, the act of implementing practical daily changes suggested in that book is something else entirely. Easy for some, challenging for us. Then this fall I saw a flyer advertising that Lisa was teaching a Simplicity Parenting class.”

In her classes or one-on-one, Lisa says she focuses on a concrete plan for small, doable changes that can have satisfying results. She also offers parents who take the class the option to retake it again for free if they need a refresher.

“What I am doing is so satisfying,” she says. “I can help parents deal with controlling behaviors, picky eating and all the regular culprits.”



Lisa Weiner leads a Simplicity Parenting class.

Simplicity Parenting Classes.....

WHEN: Seven-session class meets 10 am-noon Fridays beginning Jan. 16

WHRE: Tabor Space, 5441 SE Belmont, Portland

INFORMATION/REGISTRATION: HandmadeParenting.com

BIZ INS&OUTS



RABBI DEBRA KOLODNY LEAVES P'NAI OR; OFFERS LOCAL CLASSES AND GATHERINGS

At the end of October, Rabbi Debra Kolodny left P’nai Or, Portland’s Jewish Renewal congregation. She will remain in Portland and in January will start to offer monthly mystical Torah study classes (first Sundays), Rosh Chodesh groups (third Wednesdays) and LGBTQ Jewish gatherings (dates TBD). She is also partnering to lead “Bosom of Abraham, Rocking our Sufi, Jewish and Christian souls” with Sufi guide Amanda Arifa Byron and Pastors Jennifer Brownell and Barbara Campbell. This interspiritual gathering filled with song, dance and teachings will meet two Thursdays a month, once at Tabor Space on Portland’s Eastside and once at Hillsdale UCC on the west side of the Willamette.

Rabbi Kolodny will continue to offer private Spiritual Direction and Life Cycle officiation.

In addition, she is telecommuting as the executive director of Nehirim, a national Jewish LGBTQ retreat and advocacy organization. In this capacity she plans to bring queer Jewish retreat programming to the Pacific Northwest and San Francisco Bay area.

Rabbi Kolodny has been a leader in the Jewish Renewal world since 2002, when she became the executive director of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal. She is multiply published and has taught in hundreds of venues on Jewish mysticism, Jewish Renewal, conscious community, Jewish meditation, prayer and chant, G-d cosmology, Sacred Foods, gender, sexual orientation and Judaism, midrash, taiji, Five Rhythms dance and more. She is active in interfaith social justice work and is a frequent guest speaker, ritualist and teacher.

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JORDANA LEVENICK DEPARTS MJCC

Effective Dec. 12, Jordana Levenick resigned as operations manager of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

“I have spent the past 11 years learning and growing with and for the MJCC, and this decision was not made lightly,” says Jordana, who served in a variety of capacities over the years.

She says she plans to spend time with her children, Sadie, 5, and Henry, 3, and husband, Ryan Levenick, before seeking out employment opportunities “where I can make my next great impact!”

She notes the MJCC has an excellent management team in place led by new Executive Director Steve Albert.



Business Ins & Outs welcomes submissions of news items. Send brief and a photo to Oregon Jewish Life Editor-in-Chief at deborah.moon@ojlife.com.

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A lifetime of teachers

By Amy Hirshberg Lederman

As a child, I always dreaded going to Hebrew School. Although it was only a few blocks from my public school, the lonely bike ride felt like miles as I watched my friends walk away in the opposite direction, arms linked together like a human gum wrapper chain. Being Jewish in the small town where I grew up meant being different.

I didn't have the words or the convictions back then to explain what it took me years to appreciate: that an essential part of being Jewish is the continuing responsibility to learn, study and grow throughout our lifetime.

To learn: from our sacred texts and literature such as the Torah, Talmud and hundreds of other works by Jewish rabbis, authors and educators.

To study: alone, in pairs and in groups, with our children, our parents, our partners and our community, so that our decisions and choices in life can be informed by Jewish knowledge, wisdom and practice.

To grow: into a “*mensch*,” a person who is compassionate, caring, respectful and aware of the responsibilities we have to ourselves, each other and the Source of creation.

An essential part of being Jewish is the continuing responsibility to learn, study and grow throughout our lifetime.

Over the years, my teachers have come in different sizes, ages, affiliations and sexes. I have learned from rabbis and professors, therapists and yoga teachers. I have learned much from parents and even more from my children – stretching my mind and opening my heart in ways that challenged and delighted me.

When it comes to my most profound Jewish learning, however, I have to credit some of the finest people I know, who taught me how to love Judaism without even realizing it. My grandmother stands out as one of the greats, a woman with no more than a fifth-grade education who taught me how to light Shabbat candles and make chicken soup sweetened with parsnips. My friend Esther, whose generosity of spirit and willingness to share her love of Judaism inspired me to be a better Jew and a better person. My colleague Jeffery, who patiently explained Hebrew prayers to me; my sister-in-law, Judy, who helped me keep kosher; and my husband, Ray, who fought to maintain the Sabbath in a home where weekends looked like whirlwinds.

Jewish tradition recognizes that we encounter many teachers in our lifetime and that it is up to us to take what we can from each. Simeon Ben Zoma, a great Talmudic rabbi, answered the question: “Who is wise?” with the following: “He who learns from every person, as it is said: ‘From all my teachers I grew wise.’”

Jewish learning is more than a decision to learn about Judaism. It is a pathway to learning about living a more meaningful life.

It has always been hard to set aside the time for Jewish study. That is why the Talmud cautioned us more than 1,500 years ago: “Do not say, When I have leisure time I will study, for you may never have leisure time.”

COMMUNITY HEBREW SCHOOL PRECURSOR OF TODAY'S EDUCATION OPTIONS

By Sura Rubenstein

*You shall place these words of Mine upon your heart
You shall teach them diligently to your children (Deuteronomy 11:18-19)*

The words of the Shema, the great affirmation of Jewish faith, have always included the call to educate the next generation – and to pass on the teachings of our heritage.

That call resonated with Oregon's Jewish pioneers, who established a Sunday school for their youth soon after founding Congregation Beth Israel in 1858.

After the turn of the last century, that call continued to inspire new waves of immigrants, who established the Portland Hebrew School – a community effort that combined Hebrew and religious instruction with a passion for the emerging Zionist movement.

“Students were trained and tested on the Bible in its original language, Jewish history, Jewish law and custom, and the Hebrew language,” notes Steve Lowenstein in *The Jews of Oregon: 1850-1950*. The intent, he quotes one of the school principals as saying, was “the perpetuation of Judaism.”

For most of the past century – until 1986, when it joined with Hillel Academy to create Portland Jewish Academy – the Portland Hebrew School taught youths from throughout the city and celebrated their achievements.

“We went to Hebrew School from the time we were 6 years old and entered the first grade until we finished the eighth grade,” Frieda Gass Cohen recalled in an oral history at the Oregon Jewish Museum & Center for Holocaust Education. “We used to go from Monday through Thursday, again on Sunday, but never on Fridays.”

The students were also expected to attend – and sometimes lead – Shabbat services at what was then the



Portland Hebrew School students – from left, Jacob Sachter, Gilbert Schnitzer, Diane Holtzman, Blossom Wolf, and David Gass – led a Tu B'Shvat Shabbat service at Congregation Neveh Zedek in 1932. Schnitzer served as cantor, and Sachter was the reader; Holtzman and Gass gave sermons. Hebrew School students routinely led services throughout the city. Photo courtesy of OJMCH 6378

Jewish Old People's Home on Southwest Third Avenue and Lincoln Street.

“Woe unto you if you did not show up,” Cohen said.

The 40th anniversary edition of *The Observer (HaTzofeh)*, the school's annual report, dates its beginnings to Hebrew classes held at Congregation Shaarie Torah in 1911. The next year, classes moved briefly to the old Failing School and then to Liberty Hall on Southwest Second Avenue and Meade Street. By 1916, classes moved to the Neighborhood House, and a new board comprising leading citizens stepped up to ensure the school's stability.

One of the first principals, Carl A. Press, who served from about 1915 to 1918, resigned his post to move to what then was Palestine, where he owned land and hoped to help build a Jewish state.

His successor, Bert Treiger, introduced more modern methods of Hebrew instruction but resigned in 1930 to complete studies for the rabbinate. In his parting address, he urged parents to “cultivate a ceaseless love for the Bible” and the language in which it was written. “Without it,” he said, “the Jewish people will become broken.”

By the time of Treiger's resignation, *The Oregonian* reported that the Portland Hebrew School had “become one of the few big Hebrew schools in the country.” The students' work was of such high caliber that West Coast colleges and universities granted graduates two years' course credit for foreign language work.

The school's enrollment grew rapidly, from 65 students in 1918 to 165 in 1921, remaining between 140 and 185 through the 1930s. It held its first commencement

in November 1921, with four graduates: Fannie, Esther and David Naimark, and Nathan Green. "More than 150 persons were present at the exercises," an article in The Oregonian noted.

A 1937 report on the history of education in Portland took note of the Hebrew School's rigorous schedule: classes in session from 3-8:30 pm weekdays except Fridays, and 9 am to 3:30 pm on Sundays.

Students, many of whom went on to leadership roles in Portland and other Jewish communities, put on special programs in addition to participating in services at area congregations. One Hanukkah program – involving some 30 upper-grade students – included a sketch of Jewish history, a Hebrew play, and recitations and songs in Hebrew, Yiddish and English.

H.I. Chernichowsky, a former principal of the Seattle Talmud Torah, served as principal from 1931 until his death in 1955; he worked closely with people such as Joseph Shemanski, Abe Rosenstein and Israel Bromberg, all strong supporters of the Hebrew School.

Historian William Toll describes the leadership as "a very sophisticated and Americanized group of immigrants" who had been in Portland for several decades.

"The officers of the school hoped that its graduates, who averaged about a dozen annually from the mid-1920s through the early 1950s, would lead the community to a fuller appreciation of its cultural heritage."

"The survival of Judaism depends upon how thoroughly we ground our children in its origin, its history and its meaning," wrote Shemanski, one of the school's chief supporters and at times its board president, in the 1932 edition of The Observer. He described Hebrew schools as "the most vital agencies in our community life."

Arden Shenker, a Portland attorney who was both a student at the Hebrew School and later president of the Jewish Education Association, its umbrella organization, remembers begging his parents to let him attend the school even though he wasn't quite yet of age.

"An East Side branch was next to our house," he recalls. "I'd play ball with the older boys until it was time for classes – and then everyone but me went to the school."

He met no resistance: His father, William S. Shenker, was a 1924 graduate of the Portland Hebrew School and also one of its officers.

Shenker stayed through graduation as a high school senior. "It was intense and academically rigorous," he says. "I really enjoyed it – and the camaraderie of the class."

Although the tasks of religious and Hebrew education are now being filled by synagogues and three Portland-area day schools, Shenker believes there still could be a role for a Bureau of Jewish Education.

Joseph Shemanski



Joseph Shemanski
Photo courtesy of
OJMCHE 01254

Joseph Shemanski, perhaps the greatest supporter of the Portland Hebrew School, was a man who gave much to his adopted community.

Lauded as both a "merchant prince" and "a man of genius and kindness," Shemanski started his life in Portland as a peddler, later founding the Eastern Outfitting Company and eventually controlling, together with his brothers, 53 stores along the West Coast.

Born on April 11, 1869, in Sluzewo, Poland, Shemanski came to Portland in 1888. He sold clocks,

rugs, lace curtains and washtub ringers door-to-door, and later opened a small store on the corner of Southwest Third Avenue and Taylor Street. According to The Oregonian, he slept in the back of the store, and kept it open at night until he went to bed.

Business gradually increased, and in 1930 he built an eight-story building at Southwest 10th Avenue and Washington Street to house the Eastern Department Store. The Oregonian credits Shemanski and his brothers, Isadore of San Francisco and Alfred of Seattle, with being among the first to introduce installment buying on the West Coast.

He was a member (and board president) of Congregation Ahavai Sholom and later of Congregation Beth Israel, where a chapel is named in his honor.

In addition to his work with the Portland Hebrew School, Shemanski founded the hospitality committee of the Chamber of Commerce, served on the board of the Waverley Baby Home and was active in the Oregon Prison Association (originally organized as the Oregon Prisoner's Aid Society). He also was honored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

In 1926 he gave to Portland the "Shemanski Fountain" in the South Park Blocks near Southwest Salmon Street. The fountain includes a graceful sculpture of "Rebecca at the Well."

"I love to do civic work," Shemanski told The Oregonian in one interview. "I wish I could do more."

~ Sura Rubenstein

He was looking through some old yearbooks from the Hebrew School and came across a column by Rabbi Joseph Fain, the longtime rabbi of Congregation Shaarie Torah, urging that tuition should be free.

Whether tuition is free or not, Shenker – as his father and others in Jewish communities throughout the world and throughout the generations would concur – says there can be no question about the importance of Jewish literacy.

"There is," he says, "a communal command for Jewish education." 

Sura Rubenstein is a Portland writer.

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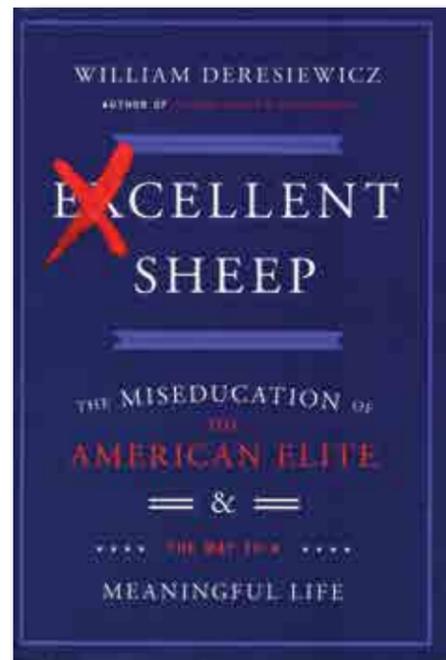


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By Deborah Moon

ESCAPE FOR EXCELLENT SHEEP

Portland Jewish author and former Yale professor William Deresiewicz spends his days scaring elite college students, prospective students and their parents into recognizing the potential pitfalls of an elite education and coaching them on how to find a sense of purpose.

“It’s understandable that parents want their kids to succeed and be happy,” says Bill during an interview at a Northeast Portland bistro. “But it’s problematic when a parent’s view is very narrow. There’s not a lot of room for kids to determine their own future and find their many talents.”

He says college is a time for students to think critically and creatively as they consider the important questions of life. Yet with the frenetic competition for admission to and success in Ivy League schools, he says many of the nation’s brightest students become so focused on achieving the next goal that they have little time for intellectual curiosity.

In 2008 while still at Yale, he wrote an essay “The Disadvantages of an Elite Education.” The piece went viral and was read more than one million times, with about 10,000 page views a month after the initial burst. Since then he has been speaking on college campuses across the

country and has received letters from thousands of students. He drew on those reactions to write *Excellent Sheep: the Miseducation of the American Elite & the Way to a Meaningful Life*.

Since the book’s release in August 2014, he has continued to speak on campuses (about a dozen since August) and been a guest on “The Colbert Report.” For the remainder of the school year, he has another 10 appearances scheduled including at Notre Dame, UCLA, Scripps College and the Global Access Through Education in São Paulo, Brazil, as well as a May 13 talk at the University of Oregon in Eugene and a May 14 talk at the UO campus in Portland.

His campus talks are always standing room only. “They desperately want to talk about it. People line up afterward to talk to me.”

“The whole middle half of the book is about what college is supposed to be for and how to find a path different than doctor, lawyer or banker,” says Bill.

In the chapter Inventing Your Life, he writes that American society “makes its most intelligent young people feel that they are being self-indulgent if they pursue their curiosity. ... It’s not OK to study history, because what good does that really do anyone, but it is OK to work for a hedge fund. It’s selfish to pursue your passion, unless it’s also going to make you a lot of money, in which case it isn’t selfish at all.”

Also the author of *A Jane Austen Education: How six novels taught me about love, friendship and the things that really matter*, Bill says literature is a tool for self-reflection and self-development. “I don’t recommend specific books; they are different for everybody... Jane Austen was my path.”

He also suggests students find a mentor. But he says, “My one concrete recommendation is for students to take time off – a gap year or during or after college. It’s important to step away and give yourself time to think.”

He encourages young people to take a year off, rather than a gap year program geared toward “acquiring skills and credentials.”

He actively promotes a year of exploration and discovery as a board member



of Tivnu: Building Justice, the Portland-based construction and social justice gap year program created by his long-time friend, Steve Eisenbach-Budner. The two met as teens involved in Young Judaea programs, including the Jewish movement’s national leadership camp Tel Yehudah.

Bill grew up in an Orthodox family and attended Jewish day school through 10th grade. His family lived in Israel when he was in the fifth grade in 1973-74, during the Yom Kippur War. His wife, Aleeza Jill Nussbaum, also has ties to the Jewish state. Her father grew up in Palestine.

Now Bill’s only involvement in the organized Jewish community is serving on the board of Tivnu. “I love Tivnu,” he says. “It’s a chance to reflect on who you want to be and where to find your place in the world and the type of world you should be working toward. All things that in the system I discuss you don’t have time to experience.”

He emphasizes that when he refers to the elite, he does not mean the 1%. “That lets the rest of the top 10% off the hook. The upper middle class think they are not the problem,” he says. He says when he discusses the elite, he means “people who attend or aspire to send their children to those schools ... people who make over \$100,000, not just \$100 million.”

A New York Times review of his book paraphrased a professor’s comment that upper-middle-class American life doesn’t have room for “passionate weirdos.”

Asked if Portland’s reputation for weirdness was one of the things that prompted him to move here, he laughed and said, “Yes, I guess that’s true. Portland has a very different vibe and culture than the world of the Ivy League.”

Bill and Aleeza had spent his sabbatical year of 2004-05 in Portland and thought it was a nice place to live. When he left academia to become a full-time writer in 2008, he says, “It gave us the freedom for the first time to live wherever we wanted. It was either here or New York, and New York is too expensive.”

Now the writer and his wife, who is a painter and ceramic artist, enjoy their funky Northeast Portland neighborhood.

“I had to find my way back to the thing that was right for me to do,” he explains. ☞



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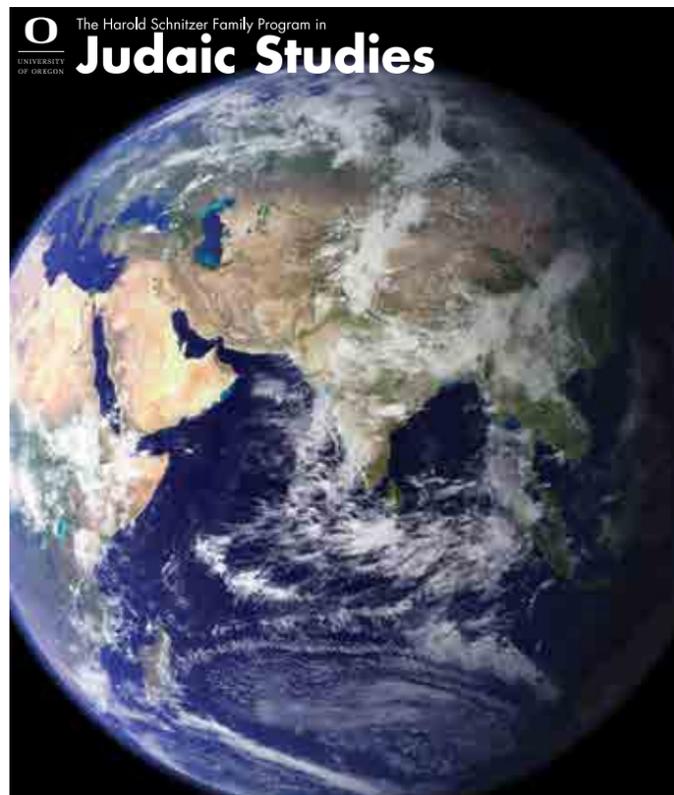
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SOUNDBITES

Why are you passionate about education?



RACHEL ROTHSTEIN
 OJCYF Adult Advisor
 Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation
 For high-school age teens
ojcf.org/youth-foundation
 OJCYF teens are passionate about education and learning because they know that this is a solution to so many of the world's problems: homelessness, hunger, crime and violence among others. Education helps to make a difference in the world.



LEAH CONLEY
 Director of early childhood services
 Neveh Shalom Foundation School
 2-PreK
foundationschoolpdx.org
 I am inspired daily by the unique ability that each of us possesses to affect change in ourselves and in the world around us. Education provides a beautiful and safe place for children to unfold that potential with both independence and kindness.



A. J. RILEY, PH.D.
 Visiting assistant professor of Hebrew Bible
 Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies
 University of Oregon
 The learning process can transform students into better people, thinkers and citizens. It is one of life's most gratifying experiences to stand next to students and facilitate that process. So I teach to change lives.



JOANNA TOBIN
 Principal
 Riverdale Grade School
 Preschool-8th grade
riverdaleschool.com
 As a child I was tremendously impacted by adults who loved education. It's a part of who I am and what I love to do. Educators have the significant responsibility of inspiring students to follow their dreams and providing the best learning opportunities possible – for me, it's a joy.



HEATHER KIRKBRIDE
 Religious school administrator
 Beit Haverim
 Kindergarten-confirmation
beithav.org
 Judaism is characterized by "lifelong learning" that extends to adults as much as it does to children. Jewish education teaches the values of *tzedekah* (righteous living), *rachamim* (compassion) and *tikkun ha'olam* (repair of the world).



BEN CHARLTON
 Associate camp director
 B'nai B'rith Camp
 2nd-12th graders
bbcamp.org
 Education is our way of taking what is most important to us and passing it along to future generations. Knowledge, values and understanding are all things I have found in my own Jewish education and what I am most passionate giving BB Campers every summer.



DORICE HORENSTEIN
 Education and program director
 Shaarie Torah
 kindergarten-12th grade
shaarietorah.org
 Simply put: because education is power! I believe that God places each and every one of us on this earth for a mission, and when I moved to the USA from Israel, I realized that my personal mission was connecting people to Judaism, to Israel and to the Jewish people.



MIMI WILHELM
 Director
 The Gan-Portland Jewish Preschool
 18 months-5 years
portlandjewishpreschool.com
 I believe in the power of education to nurture a child's natural capabilities, curiosity and compassion. I am passionate about providing every Jewish child with joyful and meaningful Jewish education that instills pride and excitement about their Jewish identity. The right education helps each child become his/her best.



ANN DELEHANTY
 Professor of French and Humanities
 Reed College Master of Arts in Liberal Studies
reed.edu/MALS
 MALS students amaze me with their ability to bring so much energy to the classroom, even after working a full day. They understand the value of learning for learning's sake and they want to get the most of each minute of class discussion. Students like this energize a teacher.

How do you motivate students?



TARA MCDANIEL
 General studies administrator
 Maayan Torah Day School
 2 years-8th grade
portlandjewishdayschool.org
 Everyone is motivated by something. Stop looking at what motivates you as a teacher, and look for what motivates each student, then use that. Most people are motivated when they are shown what they can do, not what they can't.



LIZ PHILLIPS
 Middle school teacher
 Portland Jewish Academy
 Infant-8th grade
pjaproud.org
 By getting to know my students – learning about their passions, their talents, their interests – I am able to structure my lessons and activities around things that are important to them. This 'hook' peaks their interest and they tend to be more willing and excited about engaging in their learning.



TAMARA SCHWARTZ
 K-1st Lead general studies teacher
 Maimonides Jewish Day School
 K-8th
maimonidesjds.org
 True motivation comes from within. To motivate *any* child, we must start from their own experiences, interests and curiosities. When we provide students the opportunity to explore, investigate and find the answers to their own questions, they are sure to stay engaged and connected to the learning.



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Through Hillel, student finds voice to support Israel



By Kelsey Kaplan
When I started at Portland State University, Greater Portland Hillel was a way to stay connected to the Jewish community and continue to discover my Jewish identity in college. However, I was not prepared to deal with the anti-Semitism and anti-Israel atmosphere I would face on campus. During my freshman year, I became involved with Portland Hillel and one of its umbrella groups, a Pro-Israel

group on campus called Cultural and Historical Association for Israel, or CHAI. For me, supporting Israel was a fun and interactive way to stay connected to a part of my Judaism I

hadn't unlocked before. What I wasn't prepared for was the negative response and vulgar names I would be called by some classmates and students.

During even simple events such as staffing information tables between campus buildings, I have had other students tell me that I support a terrorist country. I have been screamed at that I support an apartheid state and that I should be ashamed of myself. During one incident, I was yelled at in the middle of the campus by one of the leaders of a so-called "Pro-Palestinian" group that focuses more on anti-Israel activity and supports a one-state solution. She compared the "Al Nakba" or day of destruction to the Holocaust. She screamed in my face while I stood and listened while other students stopped and stared to see what all of the commotion was about. This was just one of many protests and disruptions I have encountered during my years at PSU.

By spring break of my freshman year, other CHAI leaders and I had collected a blue folder filled with our event fliers that had been defaced with swastikas and anti-Semitic remarks. Whenever I was in a situation where the people around me didn't know I was Jewish, I would tuck my Jewish necklace underneath my shirt. Other times I would take it off. CHAI also started to hold meetings in private locations, because we were nervous of being overheard talking about "sensitive" topics in public coffee shops. There was a hesitation in everything we were doing, and we all knew that there was always a possibility that we would have to endure a protest or disruption during our events.

Now as a junior, because of Hillel and my involvement with CHAI, I no longer hesitate to let a classmate know I am Jewish or to explain what student groups I am involved in. I no longer fear tabling for events outside. I have learned how to stand up and speak up for a country and people that not many others know enough about. Portland Hillel has given me the confidence to defend and represent what it means to be a Jewish college student. It has given me various opportunities to learn more about myself and the Jewish community. Furthermore, I have been able to meet and have important discussions about Israel and Jewish life on campus with community members.

In no way has the level of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel activity decreased on our campus, but I know that I will always have Hillel's support behind me. Furthermore, Portland Hillel has increased its support by hiring an Israel Fellow, Shiran Halfon, to help students face these challenges on campus.

Greater Portland Hillel has given me a voice. Hillel has given me leadership skills and the opportunity to explore my own Jewish identity. It's given me the resources to decide what type of Jewish life I want to live. 

Kelsey Kaplan is working toward a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies at Portland State University. She is a resident of CHAI, an executive board member of the Jewish Student Union and a StandWithUs Emerson Fellow.

UO Hillel keeps getting busier



By Will Rubin

As the University of Oregon's fall quarter began drawing to a close, Oregon Hillel Executive Director Andy Gitelson enjoyed a rare quiet afternoon in his office, reflecting on the busiest High Holiday season of his three years in Eugene.

"What we've seen overall is more and more different students engaging in smaller-scale programs, which is great," Gitelson said. "Two years ago,

we really focused on small programs we could handle with our staff size, so we cut a lot of the weekly programming down. This year, with the additional staff, it's been great. We're definitely headed where we want to be in numbers of engagement and depth of engagement."

Largely due to fraternity and sorority rush events, attendance fluctuated at weekly Shabbat events and other Hillel staples such as volunteer shifts at Food for Lane County and Director of Student Leadership and Learning Amanda Weiss' weekly Facetime and Fro-Yo sessions. However, Gitelson noted numbers were still up across the board.

He singled out the estimated 35-40 students who showed up for Shabbat services and dinner on Friday, Oct. 14. The Oregon football team had a televised game against the California Golden Bears the same night, so attendance at Hillel was about half its normal size. But Gitelson said just two years ago that would have been considered a normal attendance for a Friday night.

"There's always going to be conflicts with students, so we're trying to develop as many different touch-points as we can," Gitelson said.

When Gitelson makes reference to increased staff size, he's not only talking about new Director of Student Engagement Becca Marx, but a stable of student interns more than double the size of previous years.

Marx in particular has been instrumental in putting on those smaller, weekly programs Gitelson mentioned, including a "Bagels with Becca" meet-and-greet on campus and a Mitzvah Milers group with the goal of training to run a 5K race.

Marx also partnered with Jewish graduate students and recent college graduates in the Eugene-Springfield area to form "Jewgene," a social and networking group for young adults outside the general age range of Hillel programming.

"It was a lot of hats for both Andy and Amanda to wear before I came," Marx said. "Having someone focused on engagement, meeting as many students as possible and helping them in a way that's best for them – that's the aspect that I love in my career choice."

Now that the pressure put on everyone's schedule by the High Holidays and rush season is over, Gitelson and the Oregon Hillel staff are looking forward to furthering connections between themselves and Hillel regulars, as well as serving as conduits for Jewish students to forge their own.

All hands will be on deck for the annual Ski Retreat weekend in mid-January, when around 70 students and Jewish community members travel to the Oregon Cascades for a few days of fun in the snow and intimate Jewish conversations.

"Ski Retreat is always one of those high-intensity, fun events," Gitelson said. "Students can study, but they can also participate in meditation groups, skiing and other activities. It really is a quick pickup for us early on after the break."

Will Rubin is a senior at the University of Oregon with a major in journalism and an internship at Oregon Hillel. A lifelong resident of Eugene, Will has covered the Oregon Ducks for the Oregon Daily Emerald and AddictedToQuack.com, and currently writes for DuckTerritory.com. In the future, he hopes to write for a major metro publication or work for a collegiate athletic department. 

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Emily Glasgow:

Back home in Portland as principal at Vestal

By Gloria Hammer

B'nai B'rith Camp and BBYO are just a couple of the highlights Emily Glasgow remembers from growing up Jewish in Portland.

After graduating from Lincoln High and finishing her M.A. at Amherst College in Boston, Emily began teaching third grade at an inner city school in Oakland, CA.

Applying and getting into Harvard Graduate School of Education was supposed to be a one-year program and then back to her California classroom. But life happens. Emily met Craig Dorfman from New Jersey. They married and had two children, Amicha and Asa, named after Annette and Gene Veltman, Emily's grandparents. Fast-forward 10 years: Emily's career has moved from the classroom to the principal's office, and the family decides to move to Portland.

What brought you back to Portland?

We didn't mean to stay Boston, but we stayed a long time. Once we had our kids, I think we were realizing more and more that it would be valuable to have family nearby and a community with deeper roots. Our choices were the New Jersey area or Portland, and we felt Portland would be a great place to raise



our children. (Emily is the daughter of Bob and Lesley Glasgow.)

What are your husband's thoughts on leaving the East Coast?

It was a sacrifice for Craig. It was not easy for him to move away from his family, who live in the New Jersey/New York area, but he was excited to move to Portland, where he now teaches at Open Meadows High School. He's always loved his visits out here. It is great that my parents now have grandkids nearby, and we'll definitely be making visits back east to stay connected with the other side.

How did you begin the job search?

We spent a year figuring out if we could find jobs in

Portland. We put our house on the market. I wanted to be in the district I grew up in and also felt committed to working in urban diverse schools, in underserved populations. Portland was going to be the most likely place for me to find the kind of school that made the most sense to me.

Where did you work in Boston?

I was principal at a pre-K through eighth-grade school in the Boston Public School District called The Roosevelt K-8, which was a really diverse urban school both racially



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and socio-economically. Prior to that, I was in an East Boston charter school that was all kids of color and English language learners. I have always worked in large urban school districts.

What is the biggest challenge in those populations?

Urban schools are the place where equity and education meet. We have a lot of underserved kids suffering from all the symptoms of poverty. We have terrific families who work hard to support their kids, but many are challenged by money, language, employment and more. Our job at school is to work with the community to provide our students with opportunities equal to those available to kids all over the city. Our kids often come with less, therefore we have to provide more. Ultimately the hope is our kids will achieve at the same levels as kids who come to school with more. That's equity.

What was the process to get your job?

It was a long and thoughtful process with several rounds of interviews. Over the course of a year, there were three trips, several Skypes and phone interviews.

I was really excited that Portland Public Schools was able to work out this great match with Vestal, a kindergarten through eighth-grade school on 82nd and Glisan. We have 400 kids, coming from homes that speak 21 different languages. It is a really diverse group, about two-thirds are kids of color and about 75% of the children are on the free or reduced lunch program. It is a great school with a lot of needs and potential.

How is your second year as Vestal principal going?

I love Vestal. It is a great match for me. For the most part it is the same challenges and same priorities as Boston, but everything runs a little differently.

What are class sizes like?

In Massachusetts there were really clear class size maximums for every grade level in the teachers' contracts. In Portland, class sizes are larger and unlimited. Vestal is somewhat under-enrolled. We are working hard to get families in our neighborhood to choose us. Vestal right now does not have a great reputation, and we are trying to change that. We are bringing in new programs and advertising ourselves better. Our class sizes are on the low end for Portland ranging from 20 in one grade and classes of 27 or 28, but most classes are 20 to 25.

What are your thoughts on the teacher strike that was narrowly averted last spring?

I understood it from all sides. It was unfortunate from all sides. I was really impressed with the teachers in my building. They were committed to what the union was asking for, but they were also super-committed to their kids. And they really didn't miss a beat. With all the possible disruptions, they kept positive attitudes and stayed focused on teaching and learning. I am just glad it didn't happen. And they were glad it didn't happen.

Do you have a vision for Vestal?

In the seven years I was at my school in Boston, we grew immensely. We brought in several partnerships and became a

full-inclusion school for students with disabilities. It just became this robust, powerful, energetic public school that people wanted to come to. That is my vision for Vestal. It might not take the same path to get there. We may not bring in the same programs, but I want Vestal to be on the map. I want it to be a place that people of any socio-economic status want to send their kids if they live in the neighborhood.

What are the steps to accomplish your goal?

My school advocated being part of the afterschool Sun Program, and we are now part of the Sun Network. We needed it and we are proud we have it.

We have a great program at the middle school level called AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. It is a national college prep program for kids. We are going to be one of the first public schools in Portland to pilot AVID in the elementary school.

We are going to give our kids the organizational and critical thinking strategies they need to succeed in college.

Another program we are working on is PlayWorks. It brings a coach to the building who teaches the kids cooperative play through recess. They learn how to solve problems together through recess activity, but it kind of bleeds into the rest of the day. It boosts the social and emotional climate of the building. We are working to get financial support for this program. We have some donors and will fund some of it through our budget. It will be an ongoing fundraising challenge needing continued support.

By bringing these competitive programs to the building we will be able to sell ourselves.

What are your impressions so far?

It has been great. The teachers have been wonderful. The culture in Portland is embracing.

I felt really well-received by the community at the school and by the school district. My colleagues, people in Portland are extremely friendly, which is a big difference from Boston. It has been easy. It has been refreshing to start over as a smarter principal.

Has your Jewish upbringing played a part in your life as an educator?

I think for me, my Jewish upbringing was a lot about tzedakah and equity and learning. My parents instilled those things in me, camp instilled those things in me. BBYO was about those things. We were always doing community service projects. I do think all of that has fueled my interest in public education. This is something my husband and I think about – how we will instill those values in our kids?

Will your kids be future campers?

I hope so. I went to BB Camp from the time I was 7 till 21. I worked there every summer before college. That is where I spent my summers – 13 years at camp. That is where all my memories are. Yes, I would love for my kids to go. ■

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Jewish day schools grow nationally and locally



The recently released census of Jewish day schools in the United States sponsored by the Avi Chai Foundation demonstrates an overall increase in day school enrollment since the surveys began in the 1998-99 school year.

Conducted at five-year intervals, this research provides a clear picture of trends in the day school system over an extended period of time. The statistics were self-reported by every known Jewish day school in the United States.

The fourth census of Jewish day schools in the United States was conducted by Dr. Marvin Schick and was released late in 2014.

“The participation rate of 100% for known schools is a remarkable accomplishment,” says Yossi Prager, North American executive director of the Avi Chai Foundation. “Anyone interested in the Jewish day school field benefits from this achievement. We are indebted to Dr. Schick for his dedication to this project.”

This census demonstrates an overall increase in day school enrollment nationwide, as well as in Oregon. There were nearly 255,000 students enrolled nationally from the 4-year-old level through 12th grade in Jewish elementary and secondary schools in the 2013-14 school year. This represents an increase of 12% since the previous census in 2008-9 and 37% since 1998-99. Enrollment has grown by 70,000 students in this span of 15 years.

OREGON SCHOOLS

In Oregon, day school enrollment has grown 22.49% during that same period. In 1998 enrollment in Oregon day schools was 249. By 2013 that number had grown to 305. Oregon has three Jewish day schools, all located in Southwest Portland.

Portland Jewish Academy (pjproud.org) is the state’s oldest existing day school. PJA was formed in 1986 with the merger of Hillel Academy, founded in 1961, and The Jewish Education Association, which had operated an afternoon Hebrew school since 1934. In addition to the elementary and middle school, the community day school offers infant care and preschool on the

Schnitzer Family Campus (6651 SW Capitol Hwy.), which it shares with Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

Maimonides Jewish Day School (maimonidesjds.org) was founded in September 1985 as Aleph Bet Jewish Preschool. In 1998 the day school moved from Beaverton to its new campus in Southwest Portland. This fall the campus opened an expanded and renovated building with new classrooms and meeting space. The campus at 6612 SW Capitol Hwy. is home to both MJDS, with elementary and middle school classes, and The Gan-Portland Jewish Preschool.

Maayan Torah Day School (portlandjewishdayschool.org) was founded in 2011 with a preschool class. Now in addition to the preschool, Maayan offers Torah day school classes for kindergarten through eighth grade. Affiliated with Torah Umesorah – the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, Maayan meets at 2900 SW Peaceful Lane.

NATIONAL TRENDS

Portland is not alone in adding new schools. Students are enrolled in 861 day schools nationally, significantly more than the 802 schools reported in the previous census and the 676 accounted for in 1998-99.

RAVSAK or community schools have fared rather well, gaining 4,500 students and 16 schools across the 15-year period. This represents enrollment growth of nearly a third.

Chabad schools have also done well, growing by about 2,200 students, or more than 60%. In 2013 there were 15 more Chabad day schools than operated in 1998. The statistics also provide a sense of the relative smallness of Chabad schools. There were an equal number of Chabad and Modern Orthodox schools, but the latter category had many more students.

Among the Orthodox schools, where enrollment in Chassidic and Yeshiva World schools has grown by nearly 110% and 60%, respectively, another communal challenge arises. As Dr. Schick explains, this challenge is “whether there will be sufficient resources to provide adequately for the growth in these two sectors.”

In the non-Orthodox sector, community school enrollment has increased, whereas enrollment has declined in non-Orthodox schools overall. Non-Orthodox enrollment now constitutes 13% of all day school enrollment, a decrease from 20% as reported in 1998-99. These data, explains Dr. Schick, present “the community with an enormous challenge: will day school

continue to be a principal instrument for Judaic strengthening among those segments of American Jewish life for whom day school education is a critical determinant of young people’s future Judaic commitment?”

Small school size is a consistent feature of the Jewish day school world. In each of the four censuses, approximately 40% of day schools have fewer than 100 students. “The existence of so many small schools raises educational, financial and communal concerns,” explains Dr. Schick. “Many of these schools will not survive, while others will continue to struggle with their small enrollments. This has been a phenomenon we continue to see over the last 15 years.”

“As Avi Chai plans to sunset in 2020, this fourth census is the last one that will directly inform our grantmaking,” says Avi Chai Foundation Chair Mem Bernstein. “These censuses have provided our trustees and staff with data-rich perspectives on our work. Where it foretold challenges facing the community, it offered us, and others dedicated to the day school field, rich opportunities to make a difference through our grantmaking. We hope that this census and the next, which will be the last Avi Chai-sponsored census, will provide useful information as the day school field continues to evolve and grow.”

Avi Chai’s goal for its remaining years is to nurture and grow the strength and influence of institutions, people and ideas that serve the day school and overnight camp fields. ■

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— Kim Kent, parent, congregant, and religious school teacher

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Teens at last year's OJCYF annual dinner talk about the importance of philanthropy.

only the Jewish community, but the non-Jewish community – teaching me about different types of values.”

“In particular, OJCYF has helped me identify Jewish education as integral to the longevity of our Jewish community in Portland and around the world,” says Melissa Diamond, third-year OJCYF member and a senior at Sunset High School. “Ultimately, giving, or tzedakah, is central to Jewish values as a whole. Because of this, OJCYF enriched my Jewish life immensely and taught me to be more compassionate in everything I do.”

OJCYF 2014 Grants

In 2014, OJCYF distributed a total of \$42,046 in three grant cycles, with the majority being allocated through the year-end request for proposals occurring after the spring annual fundraising dinner, which was titled Imagine: Journeys of Generosity. Some of the largest grants were given to Hand in Hand to support its Project Harmony Summer Day Camp in Israel, and Jewish Family & Child Services for the Mensches in the Trenches Volunteer and Intern Program. Among secular organizations, Urban Gleaners garnered the largest grant for the Food to Schools: Warehouse Equipment Project. Other recipients included B'nai B'rith Camp on the Oregon Coast, Moishe House, Tivnu: Building Justice and the Community Transitional School.

Looking Ahead

The 2015-2016 academic year will mark the 13th year of OJCYF. Youth Foundation leaders will likely come up with something special to celebrate the group's b'nai mitzvah year. For teens interested in applying for next year, visit ojcf.org/youth-foundation. The application for the 2015-2016 season will be available on the website in May. Applications, including an essay, are required for the nine-month program. ■

Gail Mandel is the legacy development & marketing manager for Oregon Jewish Community Foundation.

OJCYF's Annual Benefit Dinner Flying into the Future | A Teen Philanthropy Celebration

WHAT: Join OJCYF's teen philanthropists, educators, community leaders and families for this exciting annual gathering to raise funds for the youth foundation's grants to community nonprofits.

WHO: Teen dinner Co-Chairs Brendan Edelson and Melissa Diamond, with the rest of the Manhigim group, will plan a celebration of giving and caring and demonstrate how our young Jewish leaders truly are "flying into the future."

WHEN: 5:30 pm, Thursday, April 30, 2015

WHERE: Stern Family Ballroom, Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland

Sponsorships available, contact 503-248-9328

Tickets on sale mid-March; check ojcf.org for more details closer to the date.

YOUTH FOUNDATION EVOLVES –

62 TEENS NOW LEARNING HANDS-ON PHILANTHROPY

By Gail Mandel

Now in its 12th season, the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, a program of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, continues to evolve. Currently 62 high school-aged teens from throughout the Portland metro area, including representatives from many high schools and synagogues, participate in the program. OJCYF teens meet monthly in three groups: first-year participants are Lomdim (apprentices), second-year participants are Bonim (builders) and third/fourth-year members are Manhigim (leaders). Each group meets separately for an hour to discuss and learn collaboratively on a given topic such as the Jewish view on philanthropy, the business of nonprofits or needs in the community through site visits and other experiences. New to the program this year, all OJCYF participants convene as a large group for an hour to hear from guest speakers.

Visiting speakers have included accomplished local leaders such as Rabbi Joshua Rose from Congregation Shaarie Torah and Rabbi Eve Posen of Congregation Neveh Shalom, who

together led an interactive session on Jewish values of giving. In November Sacha Reich, founder of the Jewish Theatre Collaborative, led discussions exploring the value of the arts in society. In December Roy Abramowitz, CPA, CFP and shareholder of Perkins & Co. accounting firm, joined OJCYF members to show them how to discover important financial facts on nonprofits and evaluate their financial health. Abramowitz is OJCF's treasurer and serves on the boards of many Portland nonprofits.

Adult advisors Rachel Rothstein and Julie Diamond collaborate to provide the OJCYF members with hands-on experiences that are meaningful to them. “We have great participants who are big on collaboration and love to share their ideas and previous knowledge with the rest of the teens. Although large, it is a nice and cohesive group,” comments Rothstein.

“It's clear that part of the joy of this experience for OJCYF members is sharing it with their Jewish friends and family,” adds Diamond. “OJCYF's annual benefit dinner brings together multiple generations of the participants' families and provides the opportunity for teens, parents and grandparents to all share in the delight of philanthropy together.”

Manhigim member Batya Beard, a junior at St. Mary's, says, “OJCYF gives me an opportunity to be involved with not



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New move puts **Moishe House** in the center spotlight



Moishe House residents, from left: Yossi Shallman holding Layla, Kenneth Gordon, Rochelle Schwartz and Eli Gregory. Photo by Polina Olsen

By Polina Olsen

It was like a Kiddush cup filled to the brim with wine spilling over, says Eli Gregory, when asked about Passover 2014 at Moishe House, a Portland young adult organization. Sixty-five people crammed onto couches, giant beanbags and extra chairs borrowed from the Oregon Jewish Museum. They followed Eli's socially conscious adaptation of the Haggadah on smartphones while enjoying delicacies like gluten-free, dairy-free, avocado-based chocolate mousse and, of course, homemade gefilte fish.

In fact, Moishe House has drawn crowds since Jodi Berris and Steve Bloom opened the Portland chapter in 2008. Today, the international organization, with the help of generous local donors, supports homes in 71 communities. Each home has four or five residents chartered to plan and host regular events geared to 21- to 30-year-olds.

Portland Moishe House started on the west side in 2008 and moved to the Southeast Clinton neighborhood in 2011. This past July, they shifted again, to a spacious 4,000-plus-square foot home near Mt. Tabor. The new move brings them the space they need, bull's-eye center in the population they serve.

"Since we moved to this house, our attendance at every Shabbat is like Pesach," says Eli, a transplanted East Coaster who arrived at Moishe House 19 months ago. Other residents include Rochelle Schwartz, a native Portlander who recently completed a master's degree in counseling, Yossi Shallman, a rhythm and blues guitarist, and Kenneth Gordon, who is busy writing a pilot for an urban martial arts series that takes place in a near-future, sci-fi setting.

"There's always people in the house, and I'm all for that," says Ken. "I say, 'This isn't our house, it's yours.' We put on events for that post-college, pre-family gap when Jewish engagement generally decreases."

And they find interest everywhere they turn. Yossi met one now-regular while walking home from work with his longboard. "We started hanging out and skating together," he says.

During an ecstatic dance class last month, Rochelle turned around and introduced herself when she overheard a young woman tell a friend, "I'm Jewish, and I need community."

While the level of religious observance runs the spectrum among residents and guests, Moishe House keeps a kosher kitchen so everyone feels comfortable and welcome. "Most people who come here, about 80%, are just Jewish culturally and want to learn more," Rochelle says.

Eli adds: "In this town, 'just Jewish' is a denomination."

Meanwhile, events keep coming, changing and evolving, and suggestions are always welcome. Moishe House teams up with Portland young adult groups Jews Next Dor and Hinenu on building projects sponsored by Tivnu, a Habitat for Humanity-like organization founded by Steven Eisenbach-Budner. This winter includes ski trips with Moishe House-Vancouver, British Columbia.

Moishe Meditation, led by Rabbi Shalom Mayberg, meets Thursday evenings at the house. "Last week was special," Eli says. "He invited a friend who is also a yogi, and they made raw, organic chocolates. They led an exploration of chocolate guided by meditation."

All the residents recommend Moishe House retreats sponsored by the international organization.

"I've been here for three years," Yossi says. "I tell my roommates, 'There's Moishe Magic.' You don't know if there's funding or enough food, but it always works out." Still, local funding is a constraint, and all four wish more monthly events were possible.

"I hope people know who the four of us are, what they can expect and that they are welcome," Rochelle says. "We look forward to meeting them, and I hope Moishe House continues to build."

"I love what we're doing; I wouldn't change anything," Eli says. "But, there's room to grow."

Sign-up for the Moishe House newsletter at <http://goo.gl/4Jy5hO> or on their facebook page [facebook.com/MoisheHousePortland](https://www.facebook.com/MoisheHousePortland). Learn more about Moishe House retreats at moishehouse.org/retreats.

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Public notice to the community Recent ads on buses highlight TriMet's Transit Advertising Policy

In 2011, in a case entitled Karuk Tribe et al v. TriMet, the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled that TriMet's advertising policy violated the Oregon Constitution's "free speech" provision. The ruling was affirmed by the Oregon Supreme Court in 2014. The Court said essentially that, when it comes to the types of speech that are allowed, the advertising space on a bus is equivalent to a public square or sidewalk and that TriMet has very limited discretion in deciding which viewpoints can or can't be expressed there. As a result of these rulings, TriMet is required to permit almost any message in the advertising space on our vehicles.

It is not our intent to create a public forum with this approach but to comply with the law as it has been interpreted by Oregon's highest court. Thank you for understanding.





Corvallis-OSU Symphony to perform acclaimed Holocaust memorial oratorio

By Polina Olsen

It starts with three blasts of the shofar and moves on to the prayer, Sh'ma Yisrael. Then the oratorio, "To Be Certain of the Dawn," sets the theme Love Your Neighbor as Yourself to beautiful music with an orchestra, adult choir, children's choir and four soloists including a cantor. The performance on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015, 7:30 pm at the LaSells Stewart Center on the Oregon State University campus will bring composer Stephen Paulus' haunting piece to Oregon for the first time.

Commissioned in 2005 by the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis to commemorate the 60th anniversary of concentration camp liberation and the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, the Vatican document that absolved Jews for Christ's death, the oratorio was Fr. Michael O'Connell's personal mission. Then rector of the basilica, he believed Christians must own and teach the Holocaust as much if not more than Jews.

"It's artistic and dramatic, but it's also celebratory," says Steven Zielke, the director of choral studies at OSU, who began planning the performance two years ago. "My brother saw it and called. He said, 'You've got to do this.'"

For the role of cantor, Zielke chose Cantor Ida Rae Cahana of Congregation Beth Israel. "I was looking for someone who could do the part authentically," he says. "She asked, 'Do you want me to wear a black symphony dress?' and I said, 'No, wear your robes; I want you to be a cantor.'"

"I've never been so impacted by a piece," Zielke continues. "One of the themes is the Golden Rule. It's sung in Hebrew and English, but before the Hymn to the Eternal Flame, which is based on Yad Vashem, we sing it in German. It's the only time we sing in German."



Conductor Steven Zielke



Jessica Lambert

Cahana was honored to participate. "The text I sing is from the Torah, the Holiness Code," she says. "It's like a heavenly voice, reminding people that if they loved their neighbor as themselves, the Shoah wouldn't have happened. I have a personal connection – my mother-in-law is a survivor. Her family was forced to evacuate their home and walk down the street with neighbors gawking and not doing anything. She is a role model for me, like the message of this oratorio. She witnessed the atrocity, but she is also a message of hope."

Jessica Lambert, a violinist and concert master for the Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra, is a member of Beit Am, the mid-Willamette Valley Jewish Community. "Beit Am is actively interested in this project," she says. "The symphony board president, Ken Krane, is a member of the congregation."

"It's a remarkable opportunity to hear this work. It comes from Jewish tradition, how we can find strength in G-d even when it seems we've been abandoned. In this world, we see the horrors of the past repeating themselves. This is a haunting reminder that evil can happen twice, three times, as many times as we let it. But we don't have to let it happen."

For more information and to purchase tickets for the Jan. 29, 2015, performance of "To Be Certain of the Dawn," visit www.cosymphony.org.

Kirtan Rabbi concert is the centerpiece of a weekend of learning and chanting

Shaarie Torah's Rabbi Josh Rose. "In our time it is no different, and I see Rabbi Hahn as part of that continual process of Jewish experimentation, development and growth. In some ways, of course, the kind of work that Rabbi Hahn is doing is cutting edge, exciting and new. But it is also ancient, part of a long tradition of stirring ourselves to pray with passion, with kavanah. The Torah, the Talmud, the records of the Hasidic masters – all these make clear that there has been an ongoing process of creating new forms and practices to express prayer with the deepest feeling. I can't overstate the importance of tuning in to this kind of feeling in Jewish prayer, and I'm grateful that Rabbi Hahn is guiding those interested in exploring this way."

The main event of the weekend is the Kirtan Concert on Saturday, Jan. 31, 7 pm, at Congregation Shaarie Torah, 925 NW 25th Ave.

Other events are:

6:30 pm, Jan. 30: Kabbalat Shabbat & Dinner at Shaarie Torah.

Rabbi Hahn will join Rabbi Rose to lead Kabbalat Shabbat Services. Afterward Congregation Beth Israel will join Shaarie Torah for dinner with a joint talk by Shaarie Torah Rabbi Josh Rose and Beth Israel Rabbi Michael Cahana. For dinner reservations call 503-226-6131.

10 am, Saturday, Jan. 31: Rabbi Hahn at P'nai Or, 9750 SW Terwilliger Blvd.

Sunday, Feb. 1 (Time TBA): Kirtan Rabbi at Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane.

Rabbi Andrew Hahn, known as "the Kirtan Rabbi," will be in Portland for a weekend of learning, chanting and ecstatic Jewish prayer Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

Congregation Shaarie Torah, in partnership with Congregations Neveh Shalom, Beth Israel and P'nai Or of Portland,

will sponsor this weekend as a special opportunity for the whole Portland community to come together. The Kirtan Rabbi unites celebration of Torah and song in a way that allows people of all ages to discover renewed energy within their Jewish or spiritual practice. A longtime martial arts instructor with a doctorate in Jewish philosophy, Rabbi Hahn laces his simple, alluring chants with meditation techniques and traditional learning.

The practice of Kirtan originated in India. Its intention was to bring sacred chanting out of the temple precincts and into the streets for everyone to experience. Its form is nearly always in the call-and-response format. Rabbi Hahn characterizes Hebrew Kirtan as "fully participatory call-and-response chant where short, sacred phrases from the Jewish tradition are treated as powerful, universal meditations. It is at once contemplative, ecstatic and simply fun."

Rabbi Hahn received rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and earned a Ph.D. from the Jewish Theological Seminary, both in New York City. He has two musical CDs: Kirtan Rabbi: Live!, recorded at New York's fabled Congregation B'nai Jeshurun on Manhattan's Upper West Side, and the studio production, Achat Sha'alti (one thing I seek).

"In every generation Jews have experimented with new forms for Jewish prayer and new ideas," says Congregation

KIRTAN RABBI IN CONCERT

WHO: Rabbi Andrew Hahn, known as the "Kirtan Rabbi"
WHEN: 7 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm), Saturday, Jan. 31
WHERE: Congregation Shaarie Torah, 920 NW 25th Ave., Portland

COST: \$18 suggested donation. No one turned away.

INFORMATION: shaarietorah.org/kirtanrabbi

TICKETS: brownpapertickets.com/ref/862478/event/1021876

YUVAL RON BUILDS MUSICAL BRIDGES



R By Deborah Moon
Recording artist, composer, educator and peace activist Yuval Ron returns to Oregon for three days of concerts and a workshop in January. While he has performed in Ashland and the Eugene/Corvallis area in recent years, he says this will be his first return to Portland in nearly a decade.

With his concerts around the world in synagogues, mosques, churches and secular venues, Yuval says he is a musical ambassador who tries to show points of light in the culture, history, traditions, music and dance of the three Abrahamic traditions.

“There is a continuity from Judaism to Christianity to Islam,” says Yuval. “I try to point out those connections. We are closer than we allow ourselves to acknowledge.”

He says he often performs both the Jewish prayer melody “Halelu” and the Sufi Muslim melody it grew out of – “Allah hu” (God is). “I use this kind of song as a bridge between the communities. It helps open the door to go in,” says Yuval.

“Musicians have keys to locked doors,” adds the Israeli-born musician. “I try to use this privilege to promote peace.”

In this era of heightened extremism on both sides and escalating violence around the world, Yuval sees his work to build bridges as both more difficult and more important. He hopes his music helps promote understanding of commonalities, resulting in more moderates on both sides.

“We need to increase the amount of light, not darkness, in the world,” he says. “We are not nurturing a peaceful future for Israel and the West.”

A graduate of the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Yuval says when he returns to Israel he does see points of light. He sees hope for a more peaceful future in the many programs that bring Jewish and Arab youth together. He points to schools where students learn together, including the Hand in Hand schools cofounded by Portlander Lee Gordon. Yuval says he has given concerts at Hand in Hand schools and encouraged families in the nearby communities to enroll their children.

He also points to the interfaith Jerusalem Youth Choir created by one of his students when he was a resident scholar at Yale. He says he encouraged Micah Hendler to go to Jerusalem, where Micah created the choir two years ago.

While studying other peoples’ culture and history are important, he says that intellectual learning alone has no power. But when youth and teens spend extended time together “they learn hidden lessons.”

During two years of rehearsals, recordings and international tours, Yuval says the youth learned to trust each other. “The kids learn there are kids just like them on the other side who have the right to live and be safe. ... They learn there are good people on both sides.”

He says his concerts and workshops similarly open minds to the connections between cultures. “What I am trying to do is develop dialogues so people learn,” says Yuval.

His workshops feature sacred music, chanting, movement and spiritual mindfulness practices from four ancient spiritual paths: Zen Buddhism, Kabbalistic Judaism, Early Contemplative Christianity and Sufi-Islam.

Yuval’s last two visits to Portland were for concerts at Congregation Neveh Shalom, where he was invited to perform by the Conservative congregation’s former cantor Linda Shivers. This year his performance is in a secular venue, Euphoria Studios.

“I like to perform at universities and theaters,” he says. “It is a neutral venue. It invites everybody, even people who would not go to a church or synagogue. People who are not as progressive are very important for me. I like to start a dialogue.” 

Yuval Ron in Oregon

Mystical Music of the Middle East, an evening of Moroccan, Yemenite and Hebrew devotional music with Yuval Ron Trio
8 pm, Jan. 16, at Unitarian Fellowship, Fourth and C Streets, Ashland
Tickets: stclairevents.com/20150115-Yuval-Ron-Trio.htm

Workshop with Yuval Ron Trio: Healing and Transforming Consciousness Through Sacred Sound, Music and Dance
Experience introspective and ecstatic practices of four ancient spiritual paths: Zen Buddhism, Kabbalistic Judaism, Early Contemplative Christianity and Sufi-Islam.

10 am-noon, Jan. 17, at Unitarian Fellowship, Ashland
Tickets: stclairevents.com/20150115-Yuval-Ron-Trio.htm

Yuval Ron Ensemble
7:30 pm, Jan. 17, at The Majestic Theatre
115 SW Second St., Corvallis
Tickets: majestic.org

Yuval Ron Ensemble
An evening of Moroccan, Yemenite and Hebrew devotional music
Featuring soulful Yemenite singer Maya Haddi David Reihns on percussion and special guest dancer Jane Archer
8 pm, Jan. 18, at Euphoria Studios, 1235 SE Division St., Portland
Information and Tickets: jane@euphoriasstudios.net

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Once again, the members of the NW Gospel Choir and CBI’s Kol Echad choir will share their voices to help make the music of the era come alive.



Sam Sachs = Advocate, Activist and Park Ranger

By Deborah Moon

Sam Sachs, 46, calls his volunteer efforts on behalf of minority rights tikkun olam, healing the world. He's been called an advocate, activist and even an agitator.

When he sued the Oregon Public Safety Academy in 1996 for anti-Semitic comments during his training there as a corrections officer, it launched a state task force investigation. Sachs says the task force determined there were systemic issues in the academy. Since then Sam has earned a bachelor's degree in black studies from Portland State University, worked to eliminate Native American mascots for school teams and filed an OSHA complaint on behalf of Portland Park Rangers for training (such as CPR) to deal with homeless populations in the parks. He was also instrumental in expanding the Rooney Rule (requiring minority candidates be interviewed for head coach openings on NFL teams) to public university sports programs in Oregon. Oh, and he returned to the police academy in 2008 as an instructor in diversity.

As part of his role as a Human Rights Commissioner for the city of Portland, he was recently named chair of the commission's Community Police and Relations Committee. Racial tensions between police and minorities have soared recently in the wake of grand jury decisions not to indict police officers who killed an unarmed black teen in Ferguson, MO, and an asthmatic black man in New York, who was put in a chokehold.

In the wake of Ferguson, Sam's says his immediate reaction was, "We still have work to do, and we've made progress."

"People are divided on the decision to not indict, and it seems largely to be across racial lines and a distrust for police," he adds. "To me there is a much deeper systematic problem around the way people of color are treated by police in this country, and the research and statistics support and validate that problem. People of color, especially black people, are justified in their anger and frustration."



Portland Human Rights Commissioner Sam Sachs with Avel Gordly, whom the commission honored with the Emily G. Gottfried 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award. Sam interned for Sen. Gordly when he was a senior at PSU.



Portland Park Ranger Sam Sachs with volunteers from Connected. Sachs was a founding board member of the group formed in 2011 to "take back the park." Crime dropped 23% during the first year Sam and five other men spent every Friday from 4:30 to 6 walking in Holladay Park. Since then a group of 10 to 25 people have maintained a presence in the park.

"My role as the chair of the Community Police and Relations Committee, as I see it, is to work with the other members of the committee to try and provide some sort of balance and progress to help bridge the gap between the community and police, and to address these systematic problems."

Portland Police Assistant Chief Michael Crebs agrees with Sam's description of the committee and adds that Sam was a good choice to chair the CPRC, especially in the current nationwide climate. "Sam has a good heart and passion for doing the right thing," says Crebs. "That alone gives him a lot of credibility in the eyes of both the police and community."

"Sam is a good person and someone I look up to," adds Crebs.



Grandpa's kippah - Sam Sachs holds his grandpa Ralph Sach's kippah. He wore the kippah under his helmet when he played football at Western Oregon University.

Lawrence P. O'Dea, who assumes his new post as Portland Police Chief Jan. 2, met with Sam before he was appointed to the CPRC. "I very much appreciate Sam for his honesty, directness and commitment to Portland becoming a better community," says O'Dea. "I appreciate his openness and thoughtfulness. The CPRC has been critical in helping the Bureau to continue to improve critical functions in the Police Bureau such as force policy and equity work."

Sam says that improving community relations will require open, honest and transparent communication, which will help build necessary trust.

"The police and community have to work from a place of trusting each other's goal is building better relations," says Sam.

Leading up to the Ferguson verdict, that approach paid off. "I am very pleased with the work that the Police Bureau has done around our response to the Ferguson decision," says O'Dea. "Police leadership and community leadership came together working on having a safe and productive event for weeks prior to the actual announcement. One of the most important priorities for the Police Bureau is to support people's rights to peaceably assemble for free speech and expression events."

Sam says he is confident that things will continue to improve under Chief O'Dea.

"In the year to come we will have a new chief who is committed to seeing the equity work become a reality and is committed to fine-tuning the culture of the Portland Police," says Sam. "I believe Chief O'Dea wants equity to be his lasting legacy as the chief."

Sam's goal as CPRC chair is to reach out to the community to engage people in being part of the work. He says he believes the police members of the committee, including O'Dea and Crebs, are committed to improving relations with the community.

"They do the work every day as police officers and community members to bridge this divide we have," says Sam.

Public safety and community action were also key motivators in another project Sam helped create. Sam is a founding board member of Connected, an effort that started April 27, 2011, in response to the shooting death of 14-year-old Shiloh Hampton. A few dozen men and women, nearly all of whom are African-American, meet at 4:30 pm at Portland's Holladay Park near the Lloyd Center. Sam says the group formed to "take back the park" and put an end to youth violence. In the group's first year, crime in the park dropped 23%.

In addition to fulfilling the Jewish value of tikkun olam, Sam attributes much of his motivation to the lessons of the Holocaust. Seeing the potential for stereotypes and discrimination to descend into pure evil motivates him to fight for the rights of all minorities. Personal experience also plays a role.



REUNITED: Sam Sachs and his brother Eli Rosenblum with Eli's brother, Jacob Rosenblum. When Sam reunited with his brother Eli, who had been given up for adoption, he gained an extended family. When Eli's younger brother Jacob was preparing to become a bar mitzvah he invited Sam to have a bar mitzvah celebration too.



PSU black studies 2007 graduating class.

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Sam Sachs and Eral Sachs, z"l, "my hero, my dad."

When he was the focus of anti-Semitic comments in the police academy, Sam filed a suit because, "I wanted to make sure nobody went through what I went through."

Though the task force determined the anti-Semitic slurs were isolated incidents, the governor's report found bias against women at the academy and some sexual harassment, blaming the problems in part on an organization dominated by white men.

"Sometimes white males struggle with saying racism and sexism exist," says Sam.

He's not content to simply follow the lead of others. He takes active leadership roles in many projects.

For instance, he was a key player in expanding the Rooney Rule to state universities.

Having become familiar with legislative procedures as an intern in former Oregon Sen. Avel Gordly's office, he approached Rep. Mitch Greenlick (D-Portland) about the issue to help promote diversity in Oregon sports programs.

"Sam really made it happen," says Greenlick. "I was just his vessel in the legislature. He did an amazing amount of lobbying. It went remarkably easy."

This legislative session, again at Sam's behest, Greenlick has introduced another bill that would provide oversight to ensure universities follow the rule. Greenlick says that when the original bill passed in 2009, he and Sam disagreed on including an enforcement provision. Greenlick says it would not have passed if enforcement had been included in the original bill, because that would have entailed a cost and it would have gone to the Ways and Means Committee.

"Mostly it has been followed," says Greenlick, though he says the few exceptions have frustrated Sam. So now Greenlick is proposing having the Higher Education Coordinating Committee provide an oversight role.

Though he has not taken an active role, Greenlick has also watched Sam's efforts to eliminate Native American mascots at all K-12 public schools in Oregon.

"Sam is so committed to and concerned with human rights and justice," says Greenlick. "I admire him and respect him a lot."

Sam says he took up the issue on mascots after learning the impact they have on self-esteem among Native American youth. In May 2012 the Oregon State Board of Education adopted a rule to ban Oregon public schools from using Native American mascots as of July 1, 2017. But early last year Senate Bill 1509 passed allowing schools to keep Native American mascots if the school has a written agreement with a tribe and the mascot follows a set of rules.

"We are still working to have Native American mascots eliminated by 2017, because studies show even acceptable race-based mascots have a negative impact on minority students," says Sam.

Growing up in Albany where he says his family members were the only Jews he knew in town, Sam says he learned early to stand up and be "a proud Jew." He says his father, Eral Sachs, z"l, would take his children to Corvallis, where Sam attended religious school at Beit Am for a time. The family celebrated most holidays in Portland with his grandparents, Ralph and Florence Sachs, at Congregation Shaarie Torah.

When he was 11, Sam says he started to wear a Star of David necklace visible outside his shirt. That first star is now buried with his grandmother in the Shaarie Torah cemetery, but Sam has replaced it with a second Star of David that he still wears. He also has his late grandfather's kippah, which he wore under his helmet when he played football in high school and at Western Oregon University, where he studied law enforcement after serving three years in the Army. He left before graduation when he was hired as a corrections officer at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility.

His knowledge and pride in his Jewish heritage got a boost when he was in his 20s and he unexpectedly gained an extended family – and not through the traditional route of marriage.

When Sam's parents divorced, his father felt that raising 7-year-old Sam and his older brother, Hiram, and sister, Rachel, was all he could handle. He felt toddler Eli would be better off with a family who had more time for him. So Eral put Eli up for adoption on the condition that he keep his first name and be adopted by a Jewish family.

When Sam knew Eli had turned 18, he began writing to every Jewish congregation in Oregon telling the rabbis he was hoping to be reunited with his brother.



"Sometimes white males struggle with saying racism and sexism exist //
-Sam Sachs

"In 1992 I got a call from Judy Fiestal, a member of Havurah Shalom, saying she thought her son, Eli Rosenblum, was my brother. We set up a meeting. I met him and became part of his family," says Sam. "When Eli's younger brother, Jacob, had a bar mitzvah, he asked me to have mine with him."

Judy taught him Hebrew and he says he owes a lot of his knowledge of Jewish values to Judy and her ex-husband, Stu Rosenblum.

When Sam decided to return to college to finish his degree, he focused on black studies at Portland State University feeling it would give him more credibility in his work. He also took classes in other minority cultures and women's studies.

And when he graduated he started working for equality for all and hasn't stopped since.

In addition to his advocacy work, he has created a website "The No Hate Zone" focused on ending hate and racism locally through education and information (thenohatezone.com).

"There's still a lot of great work to be done," he says. ■

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WITH HOME MADE STOCK

Chef's Corner

By Lisa Glickman | Photos by Deborah Moon

In "The Sound of Music" Julie Andrews explains, "when you sing you begin with Do Re Mi." While the Von Trapp family singers indeed possessed natural talent, the talented home cook knows that great food requires patience to coax optimum flavor from foods to produce perfect harmony on the plate. The first-year culinary student learns early on about the basics of stocks and mother-sauces. While boxed stocks are easy to come by on any supermarket shelf, one cannot dispute the difference a homemade stock brings to soups, stews, sauces and innumerable kitchen creations.

Stock begins with bones, vegetables, herbs and peppercorns. After slowly simmering, the solids are strained away, resulting in a rich, flavorful stock. While the words broth and stock may seem interchangeable, the difference is in the addition of seasoning. For broth, goodly amounts of salt or other spices are added to make a neutral stock taste delicious all on its own. But a good stock should not contain much superfluous seasoning. In this way the stock becomes a base that you can take in any direction you like.

Creating a rich, beautiful stock requires just a bit more care than throwing ingredients into a pot and turning the burner to high. Coaxing the flavor from a handful of ingredients is best done slowly. Once the contents are in the pot, most of the work is largely left unattended. Begin by roasting the bones and vegetables in a hot oven, producing caramelization that will add rich color and flavor to the stock. Roasting bones before adding them to the pot also coagulates the meat juices, which almost eliminates the need to skim the nasty foam that can appear when making a meat broth.

To begin your chicken stock, consider buying two whole chickens and removing the breast meat. The mild breast meat doesn't really bring much to the party and is much better used pan roasted in a finished soup or stew. Place the chicken carcass on a roasting sheet with uniformly chopped onion, garlic, celery and carrot. Roast in a 450-degree oven for about an hour. Place bones, vegetables and any rendered juices in a stockpot and cover with cold water and a bouquet garni of fresh parsley, fresh thyme, bay leaf and about a teaspoon of whole peppercorns. Bring just barely to a boil, and then reduce heat to a slightly bubbling simmer. Allow to cook uncovered for 4-6 hours before straining.

The vegetable stock also benefits from roasting first in a hot oven. Begin by preheating a large roasting sheet in the oven. Toss uniformly chopped onions, garlic, cabbage, fennel, celery and root vegetables such as parsnips, rutabaga, carrots or turnips in a large bowl with a bit of flavorful olive oil. After vegetables are roasted add to stockpot, cover with cold water and add some canned or fresh tomatoes and a bouquet garni. Bring to a boil and then reduce heat and simmer for 2-3 hours before straining. 📖

Quick Roasted Chicken Pozole

- 3 tablespoons olive oil, separated
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 10-ounce can Mexican-style tomatoes (such as Rotel)
- 1 teaspoon chile powder
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon Mexican oregano
- 8 cups plus ¼ cup homemade chicken stock, separated
- 1 25-ounce can hominy, drained
- 2 skin-on boneless chicken breasts
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

Garnishes:

- Shredded cabbage | Thinly sliced radishes | Cubed avocado | Shredded cheese such as pepper jack, cotija or cheddar
- Grated jicama | Roasted pepitas | Crumbled tortilla chips | Sour cream

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Heat a medium sauté pan to medium high and add olive oil. Sprinkle chicken breasts with salt and pepper. Place chicken breasts skin side down into pan. Turn heat down to medium and cook until skin is rich golden brown, 8-10 minutes. Turn chicken breasts and add ¼ cup chicken stock to pan. Place in oven and roast until done, 15-20 minutes. Remove pan from oven and allow to rest before cutting chicken into bite-sized cubes.

Heat olive oil in a medium-sized soup pot. Add tomatoes and garlic. Cook, stirring occasionally until most of the juice disappears. Add chili powder, cumin and oregano and stir to combine. Add the 8 cups of chicken stock and season to taste with salt. Add hominy and cubed chicken just before serving to heat through. Serve soup in wide bowls and top with any or all of the suggested garnishes. Serve immediately.



Vegetarian Cheddar Biscuit Skillet Pie

These cheddar biscuits are made with just three ingredients: self-rising flour, cold whipping cream and grated sharp cheddar cheese. Thanks will be in order when you see how simple and delicious these biscuits are to make. It's worth having a bag of self-rising flour on hand just to whip these up for this skillet pie or anytime you crave a tender biscuit at breakneck speed. You're welcome.

Cheddar biscuits:

- 2 cups self-rising flour, plus a bit more for dusting
- 1½ cups cold heavy whipping cream
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese

Vegetable filling:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 2 tablespoons butter
 - ½ sweet onion, finely diced
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 bulb fennel, diced in 1-inch pieces
 - 1 parsnip, peeled and cut into 1-inch dice
 - 10 ounces sliced mushrooms (I used chanterelles in season, but use what you like)
 - 1 14-ounce can artichokes in water, drained and cut into quarters
 - 1 10-ounce package cooked and cubed butternut squash (or peel, cut and cook your own)
 - ½ cup frozen peas
 - ¼ teaspoon celery seed
 - ½ teaspoon kosher salt
 - ¼ cup freshly ground pepper
 - ½ cup all-purpose flour
 - 4 cups homemade vegetable stock
 - ¼ cup heavy cream
- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Place 2 cups self-rising flour in medium bowl. Add grated cheddar cheese and toss to coat. Add cold cream and stir gently until just combined. Turn out onto floured work surface and knead 10-12 times gently until smooth. Roll or pat dough to 1-inch thickness. Cut into rounds and set aside.

Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil and 2 tablespoons butter in a 10-inch, oven-proof skillet, preferably with straight sides. Sauté onion, garlic, fennel and parsnip about 10-12 minutes until soft. Add sliced mushrooms and sauté until most of their moisture is rendered. Season mixture with celery seed, salt and pepper. Sprinkle in flour and stir. Cook flour for 1-2 minutes to remove "raw" taste. Add vegetable stock and cream and continue to boil gently until creamy and smooth. Taste and season if necessary. Add artichokes, squash and peas. Brush biscuits with heavy cream and sprinkle with coarse salt such as fleur de sel if desired. Arrange biscuits atop filling an inch or so apart. Place skillet in oven and bake until biscuits are rich golden brown and filling is bubbling, about 20-30 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool for 10-15 minutes before serving.

Lisa Glickman is a private chef and teacher who lives in Portland. She has made TV appearances on COTV in Central Oregon and appeared on the Cooking Channel's "The Perfect Three." She can be reached at lisa@lisaglickman.com.



HIDDEN GEMS SWISS HIBISCUS



Swiss Hibiscus: 4950 NE 14th Ave., Portland | 503-477-9224 | swishibiscus.com/home

By Kerry Politzer

Northeast Alberta Street is dotted with so many great restaurants that it's easy to overlook the side streets. But if you head south on Northeast 14th for half a block, you'll be rewarded with one of the most satisfying meals in Portland. Swiss Hibiscus, which has been open for four years, serves up authentic Swiss German favorites in a room as cozy as your grandma's kitchen.

Chef Jennie Wyss, the daughter of Swiss chef and salad dressing entrepreneur Martin Wyss, presides over a menu that features specialties such as Swiss cheese fondue made with kirsch, Emmentaler-glazed Swiss onion soup, house-cured gravlax on toasted rye and various *salats*, all of which are served with Martin's Swiss Dressing. This creamy, peppery condiment accompanies the complimentary basket of warm house-made bread that starts every meal. (If you just can't get enough of it, you can ask your server for a 12-ounce bottle; it is also available online at martinsswissdressing.com/order.html).

Wyss accommodates various dietary preferences; not only can she omit the ham from her croute emmental, she also offers a vegan rösti. Vegetarians will enjoy the vegan lentil stew, which can be made without gluten. The *salat teller*, or assorted Swiss marinated salads, may be ordered without fish.

This writer was delighted to find spätzli ("little sparrow" pasta) on the menu. The buttery, irregularly shaped egg dumplings complemented three tender fillets of wild rockfish in a lemon butter caper sauce. Homemade coleslaw with tomatoes and shredded carrots was refreshing. A plate of marinated *salats* featured dill-accented albacore salad, egg salad, and marinated beets and carrots.

The dessert of the day was a warmed almond plum buckle with vanilla bean-flecked ice cream. Since the restaurant prides itself on its homemade hot chocolate sauce, we ordered a side of it; this sauce also formed the base of the whipped cream-topped cocoa. Other sweet treats included caramel custard, chocolate mousse and *eis kaffe* (vanilla ice cream blended with coffee and whipped cream).

Since there are only about half a dozen tables in the restaurant, reservations are recommended. According to our server, weekend wait times at Swiss Hibiscus often approach one to two hours. (As we finished our meal, we heard an old gentleman yodeling; perhaps he was overjoyed to score a table!) 



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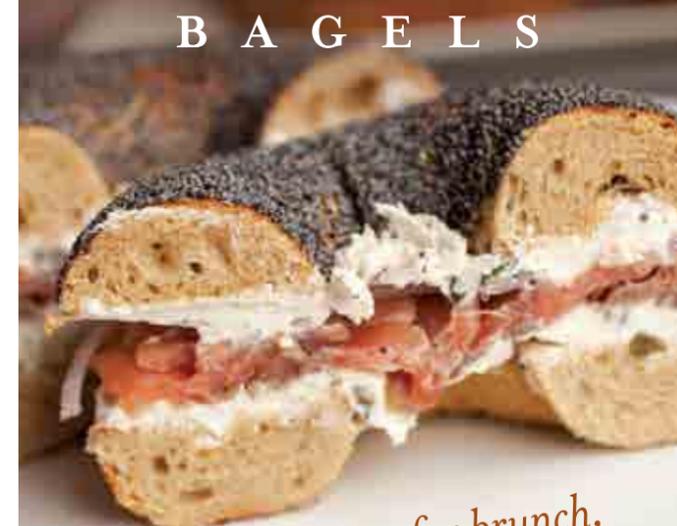
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Sandra Stone loves the abundant windows in her home that allow her to watch people living their lives.



Sandra's "Proust Room" focuses on writing. An antique writing desk sits below a white canvas etched with the faint lines of notebook paper and a picture of a "number 2 pencil."



sits below a white canvas with hints of notebook rules and a drawing of a number 2 pencil on a postcard. The manual typewriter she received as a high school graduation gift is displayed beside one of her "assemblages" – this one devoted to writers' implements.

Just outside the writing room is another of her multimedia assemblages – this one of pieces of broken musical instruments dedicated to the memory of victims of the Holocaust and "music they would have made."

Her colorful walls feature an eclectic assortment of paintings. "I'm not a collector," she says. "I buy selectively based on the story of the painting." Shortly after her mother's death, she commissioned Oregon artist Henk Pander to create a painting featuring many of her mother's things.

Windows, both real and painted, feature prominently in her home. From her fifth-story condo overlooking the Pearl District, she says, "I can see people living."

Born in Portland, Stone moved with her parents to Seattle when she was 3 months old and later to Los Angeles. She returned to Portland in 1956 after marrying Mel Peters in Manhattan. The couple, who later divorced, had three children – Adam, Julie and Lisa – who live within blocks of each other in Manhattan. She has three grandchildren, Joshua, Zachary and Kaia, all of whom she says are keenly interested in their Jewish heritage.

Stone's given name was Alessandria, which she shortened to Sandra to fit on the cover of her first book. Many in the community know her as Sunny Peters.

For many years, Stone was a member of Congregation Beth Israel, where she taught for about three years.

From her first book, *How N'Chinky Came to Love His Father*, a children's book published in limited edition under the name of Sunny Stone decades ago when she lived in Manhattan, to her soon to be published nonfiction *The Juggler of Day*, Stone's words have always explored issues of humanity. Information on ordering any of her books is available from orders@prospectcovepress.com. 

Sandra Stone: Living and writing poetry

By Deborah Moon

Sandra Stone says she started writing seriously at age 5; in the decades since she has won a host of awards including an Oregon Book Award and a trip to Japan.

In 1998 her *Cocktails with Breughel at the Museum Café* won the Oregon Book Award. The next year she was standing in line at the post office when she saw a flyer for a free trip to Japan for the person who could best capture friendship in 25 words or fewer. With the deadline that day, she composed a 24-word entry on death and friendship. Her book on her experience in Japan, *The Inmost House: Memory Making Journeying*, was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award in 2013.

The poignant poem, her winning entry, was inspired by her memory of a book in her collection of some 5,000 books that fill bookshelves throughout her home. In Japan, where people seldom speak of death, the death poem is both an art form and a farewell to life. From 7,500 entries Stone's concise writing stood out and captured the essence of pain, loss and, most importantly, friendship.

*Cancer, she said.
Second time around, she said.
I intend to ride it out in style.
We raised a glass.
I cried at home.*

She attributes her ability to capture so much story in such a short verse to her years of writing poetry, with its concise, dense verse.

Her poem "Snow Whippets" won numerous awards including the 2010 Lucille Medwick award for a single poem on a humanitarian theme by the Poetry Society of America, a 2010 Campbell Corner Prize and the 2008 Dana Award for linguistic invention.

She describes her recent book, *A Sum of Whirligigs*, as "a poetry of place, desolation, disaster, sorrow, love & despair, human suffering and world pain." Though not specifically identified as such, she says the book is about climate change and pain – "what we humans have done to our planet." She says the whirligigs, or pinwheels, of the title denote the practice of soldiers "to put a helmet on a stick to show where their mate died."

Published by the literary press Prospect Cove Press, the book has been submitted to for the 2014 Oregon Book Awards, with winners announced in April 2015.

Though she says she writes for herself, her three adult books and many published poems have garnered lavish praise.

Richard Speer, a visual arts critic, essayist and reviewer for Opera News, writes: "Sandra Stone is a writer of exquisite sensibility, elegance, cadence, nuance, mastery, mystery, imagery, subtlety, precision." Of *Whirligigs*, he says: "I don't know quite what to make of

the way Sandra Stone deploys language... The poems you will find here are outcry for the suffering inhabitants of the planet."

Stone also deploys words in her architectural commissions. "My name appears on more buildings than books," she says. She has received some 40 commissions to create art for both public interiors and the landscape. In 1997 she won a national design award for literary narrative in the Mark O. Hatfield Federal Courthouse. When a worker died during construction of the courthouse, she was commissioned to create a plaque in his honor. Recalling her father's fondness for tradespeople and the frequent visits to plumbers, bakers, electricians on which she accompanied him, she designed a plaque that lists the name of all who worked on the courthouse, with the dead man's name seen through a screen of glass.

Stepping into Stone's home is like stepping into a piece of art. Her "Proust room" is both a tribute to the cork room in which Proust wrote and a visual poem of writing. A small antique writing desk

SENIOR ADVENTURES

Grizzlies in the Mist



By Mary Levy Peachin

Danger doesn't come from the direction of the water. So Big Mama, when not nursing her yearling cub, hungrily chews on long stalks of sedge grass just 10 feet from our zodiac. Dan Wakeman's 20 years of observing yearly life cycles in British Columbia's Khutzeymateen, North America's largest grizzly bear sanctuary, has provided him the opportunity to visually bond with many of its grizzlies. Those decades of experience have enabled Dan to share his intimate knowledge of grizzly habits and many of their individual personalities with wildlife lovers – especially photographers.

After a 30-minute flight from Prince Rupert, the single-engine de Havilland Beaver float plane touched down in Khutzeymateen Inlet. Before we finished

unpacking our cameras, a blonde-colored bear sauntered along the nearby shore. Jumping into the zodiac, we noticed that the young male's back was covered with bite scars. "She is one of Lucy's," the Khutzeymateen's great matriarch offspring, explains Dan as he narrates our experience.

It's early June and still mating season. This male is on the prowl for a female. Not being the dominant male (Barney is the Valley's "stud") he'll have to "get lucky" to find an eligible female, one without a cub, one who is also in estrus. He might kill her cub, but he won't mate with her until her hormones make her fertile.

"I've known these bears since they were cubs," Dan says, adding that summers in the Khutzeymateen have

been a "labor of love." Life on the 40-foot sloop, Sunchaser, typically moored in Cedar Creek, is planned around the tide, when the water is deep enough to navigate up the estuary. High tide affords the best opportunity to view bears. Dan is dependent on Inland Charters to fly in his clients and many of his supplies.

That evening, Dungeness crab pulled from Dan's trap were cleaned and boiled for dinner. Between the various food allergies and taste preferences, only three members of the group enjoy the seafood delicacy. The others eat chicken breasts, mashed potatoes and vegetables.

High tide arrives around twilight. Dan shepherds the five of us into the zodiac to head up Khutzeymateen estuary. In about an hour, we see nine bears. One large male, a sizable scar on its back, stomped on a dead log and hissed. "He's warning us to back off." The bear repeats this action a second time. Throttling the boat into reverse, Dan comments, "If we'd been on land, we'd be dead. This is HIS sanctuary."

A cub swims across the estuary, another runs through the sedge and a large grungy male lumbers out of the woods. Dan surmises that he is coming to mate with the female on the beach. Seeing us, he growls angrily and lopes back into the trees. We continue to hear him in the forest growling. Obviously we have interfered with a romantic interlude.

Sun doesn't set until after 10 pm in Northern British Columbia, but by 9 pm we were ready to crawl into our bunks for the night. Rain pounds on the skylight of our cabin.



IF YOU GO: Take layers of warm clothing including long underwear and fleece. Dan provides rain gear and rubber boots. I wish I had taken my own rubber boots.

Be prepared to overnight (in both directions) in Prince Rupert. My preference is Eagle Bluff Bed and Breakfast, eaglebluff.ca. Hawk Air and Air Canada fly nonstop from the gateway, Vancouver, British Columbia. If the stars align and there is no fog, it is possible to make a close connection on Hawk Air with no outgoing overnight.

Physical requirements include being able to climb in and out of the zodiac, over the sloop transom and down three steep ladder-type stairs to the cabin. There is little privacy, a marine head and a basic shower that was not offered to us.

While viewing is 10 to 20 feet from the bears, Dan can sense, and he backs off, when the bears feel threatened. Many hours are spent, sometimes in the rain, on the pontoon of the zodiac without back rest.

Dan can accommodate some dietary requests. The food is good, but basic. We took fresh fruit, chocolate and cheese. Take your favorite treats.

Sunchaser Charters Grizzly Tours, grizzlytour.com

We awoke to a day of viewing "grizzlies in the mist." By noon, we've observed 11 different bears: a mating pair, several shy "runners," a few yearlings, sub-adults, cubs, and both male and female adults. After the short June mating season, females will come out of winter hibernation with up to four recently born cubs. Later in the summer, the grizzlies' coats darken in color when they start feeding on spawning salmon.

Weather again interferes with the rest of the day's viewing plans. A torrential afternoon rain remains steady throughout the night. Layering in long underwear and fleece, I'm so happy that I brought lots of layers. All of us cozy up under blankets and quilts. The temperature is a mild 59°, but rainforest dampness is penetrating.

This season, Barney, the Khutzeymateen's dominant male, had not been sighted yet. Motoring up the Khutzeymateen Inlet to search for him was unsuccessful, but we were rewarded with the sighting of a female with two cubs feeding on sedge. We felt that it was a perfect ending to a world class adventure.

Our third and final night Dan prepared barbecued steak and potatoes. Boarding the zodiac for a short evening tour, we returned for a closer view of the sow with two cubs. On our return, we spotted a dark-colored head in the grass near the forest. It was Barney! He was too far away to photograph, but close enough to wish us farewell.

Drifting off to sleep, the distinctive call of the loon reminds us that this spectacular place was in Canada. 📍

Mary Levy Peachin is the granddaughter of a Jewish pioneer family that migrated to the boom town of Douglas, AZ, in 1903. She divides her nontravel time between Vancouver, BC, and Tucson, AZ, with frequent stops in Portland to visit her daughter, Suzie, who is a vice principal in a metro area school. Peachin has authored seven books featuring sharks and her adventures diving with them and Caribbean books on sport fishing and scuba diving (Amazon.com). peachin.com



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The Conversation Partner Project



By Liz Rabiner Lippoff

Rose Rustin was 40 years old in 1972 when she married Portland resident Arnold Rustin. As usually happens, his friends became hers, and hers his. When one of her new friends, Joan Liebreich, invited Rose to join the National Council of Jewish Women, she jumped at the chance, thinking it was a good way to make a difference ... and to make more Jewish friends.

That decision changed her life. Already an active community volunteer, she added Jewish projects to her busy schedule. Since then she has helped on countless committees, served as president of the National Council of Jewish Women and of Congregation Beth Israel, and today is a volunteer archivist at the Oregon Jewish Museum.

Rose moved to Terwilliger Plaza, a continuing care community, in December 2009. Her husband had passed away the year before and,

although she was still active, her doctor thought that the time was soon coming when she wouldn't be able to care for a home and garden. "It was prudent to move while I could still do that by myself." To her surprise, she loved her new apartment and her life at Terwilliger Plaza.

Her community involvement, both Jewish and secular, continued unabated, and she was happy to learn that Terwilliger Plaza engages in projects with other nonprofit organizations to fulfill its charitable mission. The committee responsible for social engagement, however, had sputtered of late, and its programs had languished. Rose naturally volunteered

to lend a hand. In 2011, with the help of other volunteers and later a staff person, she reorganized the program. They began to reach out to organizations such as Lift Urban Portland and Cedar Sinai Park to fundraise, sponsor events and create partnership projects.

Rose met with Cedar Sinai Park CEO David Fuks to explore partnership possibilities there. He suggested they look to the Rose Schnitzer Tower, one of four downtown affordable housing buildings owned by Cedar Sinai Park and all relatively close to Terwilliger Plaza. Rose then met with David VanLoo, the service coordinator in charge of activities.

English is a second language for the 40% of the Tower residents who are immigrants. Most speak Russian, Mandarin or Farsi. Improving their English is important as they navigate the community, enhance their lives and work toward achieving citizenship.

"We put our heads together," Rose says. "What is needed here? What can we do?" Language classes were already

"I am a refugee myself. You don't have to be a master of English. You just have to enjoy people and get them interested. I like to talk about recipes. One Iranian lady gave me a wonderful recipe that uses pomegranates."

—Irene Etlinger, Terwilliger Plaza volunteer

available. What the people lacked was opportunities for improving their skills through low-stress social conversation.

The result is The Conversation Partner Project, and it is simply a weekly opportunity for interested residents of Terwilliger Plaza and Rose Schnitzer Tower to sit down, have a snack and chat. For the first five weeks the Terwilliger Plaza bus shuttles volunteers to the Tower; the second five weeks, it drives Tower residents to Terwilliger.

"A good number of the Terwilliger participants are themselves immigrants," Rose notes, "so they understand the value of conversation as a learning tool."

Irene Etlinger, a Terwilliger Plaza volunteer, is a case in point. "I am a refugee myself," she says.

You don't have to be a master of English. You just have to enjoy people and get them interested. I like to talk about recipes. One Iranian lady gave me a wonderful recipe that uses pomegranates."

Rose explains just how informal the sessions are. "An instructor is available as a resource but only participates when







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someone asks," she says. "There is a list of suggested topics, but you can ignore it. You can visit one-on-one or sit in a small group. You can even just sit and watch if you are shy.

"It surprised me how much they like to talk about American politics, but it makes sense," says Rose. "One of the men told me, 'we didn't get to talk like this in our country. Here in America, we can say what we like and don't like about politics.' That's pretty profound. Quite unexpected by most of us are the bonds that form. It's not uncommon for a Tower resident to invite a partner, 'Come up to my apartment and I'll cook you lunch from my native country.'" At the end of the 10 weeks, they go on an outing to celebrate their progress as well as their growing friendships. Together they have explored places like OMSI, the Japanese Gardens and the Portland Art Museum.

Parvis Farhand, a Rose Schnitzer Tower resident from Iran, speaks highly of the program. "This is very good for us. I've been coming for two years. Every time, it works," he says.

Both Terwilliger Plaza and Cedar Sinai Park think so highly of this program and its value to their respective residents that they are planning a 2015 expansion into a second CSP residence, The 1200 Building. Rose says the programs will likely begin separately and then potentially could merge, rotating from one building to another week to week. One thing is certain, though: they will have all the volunteers they need.

"We all love doing this," Rose says. 

Liz Rabiner Lippoff is a medical marketing consultant, freelance writer and community volunteer. Lizlnk.biz

DEFENDING NETANYAHU NO MORE

By Mylan Tanzer

Elazar Shtern is a colorful and sometimes controversial character. Religious, a former IDF general and a Knesset member in Tzipi Livni's "Hatnuah" (The Movement) party, he defies the typical religious Zionist stereotype. Unlike many of his colleagues, he has been a staunch defender of Israeli democracy, declaring in both words and actions that for Israel to exist as a Jewish country, it must be first and foremost a democratic one. His role in the Gaza withdrawal brought intense criticism from the religious Zionist camp and even resulted in the physical assault on his family on one occasion.

As commander of the IDF manpower division (which he renamed the human resources division), he streamlined the process for non-Jewish IDF soldiers (mostly from former Soviet republics) to convert to Judaism to help them to integrate into mainstream society on their discharge – much to the disdain of the religious establishment. During his command of the division, he invoked the "Israeli people build the army which builds the country" philosophy, re-emphasizing the importance for all to serve in the IDF. One of Shtern's most vivid actions was when he jumped on stage in 2008 to prevent rock star Shira Gavrielov from performing at a military farewell party on the grounds she had not served in the military. He is one of the few figures that allow me to keep faith that the growing political rift between the secular Zionist sector and the religious Zionist movement can be bridged.

In the aftermath of Benjamin Netanyahu's dispersal of the Knesset spurred by his stupefying dismissal of Yair Lapid and Tzipi Livni, reactions and opinions came in from every politician, journalist and panelist the media could get its hands on. It became impossible to get any clarity, not to mention sincerity. That is until I heard Shtern's reaction. In a radio interview, he said, "I was raised and educated in a household that, regardless of party and ideology, not only respected the prime minister because he was prime minister, but trusted him. In many cases we did not agree with him, but we always knew that what he did, right or wrong, was for the good of the country. ... Sadly, Netanyahu's actions have utterly shattered this confidence, because he is motivated only by his own political survival."

Over the years in this column, I have tried to explain Netanyahu's decisions and actions. While I do not always agree with Netanyahu's decisions, I can understand many of them because I live here. If you live here and deal with our reality, you can put this in the proper context, something not possible if you live in the relative safety of North America or Europe.

One consistent criticism I have had of Netanyahu, and have written about in past columns, is my feeling that unlike many of Israel's past prime ministers, for Bibi, the PM's office is the

end and not the means. Most prime ministers since David Ben-Gurion ended up being prime minister not as a "career decision," but from circumstances, as a logical and inevitable evolution. These include Ben Gurion, Eshkol, Meir, Begin and Shamir from their positions as ideological leaders of the Zionist movement; Yitzhak Rabin from the position of IDF chief of staff; and Ariel Sharon also from a senior IDF rank. Even these leaders' controversial or partisan decisions were almost never made for their own political survival, but rather for the survival of Israel. The most important characteristic of these leaders was their deep-seated feeling of responsibility and accountability. They did not cling to their seats, and in several cases they stepped down. Due to all of the above, after last week's events, Elazar Shtern's simple comments resonated deeply with me.

Netanyahu's Dec. 2 press conference to explain his firing of Lapid and Livni was Bibi at his worst. As someone who feels his and his family's well-being is in the hands of his prime minister, seeing him like this was pretty scary. His inane accusation of a Lapid/Livni putsch against the government in collaboration with the Ultra-Orthodox was bewildering. Lapid, whose primary agenda of drafting Haredim and bringing them into the workforce have made him their modern-day Haman, in cohorts with the Ultra-Orthodox to depose Bibi? Livni was unwilling to pay the price to tolerate them as coalition partners to be prime minister in 2006. Would she do so now for the sake of Yair Lapid becoming prime minister? These are the reasons that Netanyahu dissolved the government after only 20 months of a four-year term? Elections, in addition to being expensive, also mean that no decisions are made until a new government is formed. With elections slated for March 17, it is reasonable to assume a new government will not be formed until well into May. With all of the urgent and fateful security, diplomatic, economic and social issues on the agenda, most of which were being dealt with, a seven-month freeze for elections is tantamount to abandoning the people that you represent. And for what? Lapid and Livni were by no means the only ministers critical of Netanyahu. In our splintered multi-party coalition governments, when has a government been harmonious? This government was no exception. With partners such as Livni's party, several of whom are decidedly left wing, and some of the extreme right-wing coalition members in the Likud and "Ha Bayit Hayehudi" party, what was to be expected? But despite this, or perhaps because of it, this government actually succeeded in setting out an agenda, or more correctly a collection of agendas based on each of the major parties' priorities. Major infrastructure projects and the economic and social legislation being advanced made this coalition more proactive than all recent governments. In a full term, it might have been able to follow through on at least some of these initiatives.

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In his press conference, Netanyahu shamelessly praised his previous government as strong and stable, advancing a positive social agenda while improving security. Shortly afterward, Amnon Abramovitch of Channel 2 commented, "How the memory plays tricks. The previous government ignited the largest social protests in the history of the country and did not solve any of those issues and in fact presided over the largest rise in housing prices. It was the most bloated government in history, with 38 ministers and deputy ministers, it's 'success' in Operation Pillar of Defense led to Operation Protective Edge, and the government ended its term with the largest deficit in three decades, in turn creating the current coalition."

Sima Kadmon of Yediot wrote, "shameful and even embarrassing, those are the feelings from Netanyahu's press conference. It was so hallucinatory that it begs the question if the man facing us, defaming Lapid and Livni, ministers who have more decency than most others, is worthy of running the country even in the three months remaining until the elections. The shopping list that Netanyahu read as examples of the fired ministers' subversion was so pathetic and ridiculous, that it takes the interest out of reminding him of his subversive comments against Sharon when he was a minister in Sharon's cabinet. ... The press conference was reminiscent of the old Netanyahu who used to run to every TV studio to try to explain things when he should have counted to 10 before speaking."

What is most striking is that Netanyahu placed the blame not only on Lapid and Livni, but essentially on us, for not giving him a broad mandate.

Nahum Barnea, also of Yediot wrote, "The people are guilty according to Netanyahu. He said that the results of the elections two years ago did not give his party enough seats, forcing him to build a coalition with ministers trying to plot against him." Barnea also questions Netanyahu's judgment in thinking that snap elections will strengthen him in any way. "Netanyahu knows that Israelis do not want these elections. Not because they are satisfied with government or the current situation, but because people assume that the situation will not improve following the elections, and will perhaps worsen."

Indeed the initial polls show another splintered election result, and that Netanyahu's move has further lowered his popularity and he might not even form the next government, sparking the question why did he take this step? Barnea adds: "The first lesson from recent governments is that it is not a reality show. You don't choose your coalition partners, you manage them. Likud MK's like Danon, Faiglin and Miri Regev said and did whatever they wanted, just like Uri Ariel and others in Habayit Hayehudi."

So what happened? Why did Netanyahu do this now? Why not earlier, or why not even make an attempt to resolve the issues with Lapid and Livni instead of using the doomsday weapon of snap elections? Netanyahu is always looking over his shoulder at the other right-wing parties cannibalizing his power base. Perhaps he believed that firing Lapid and Livni would give him needed momentum amongst his natural right-wing and Ultra-Orthodox allies to jumpstart his campaign and attempt to re-assert himself as undisputed leader of the right wing, and carry him to a good election result.

In my opinion the trigger for all of this lies elsewhere. In November a law called the "Israel Today law" passed the initial vote (new laws must pass three votes to become law). Israel Today is a free daily newspaper launched several years ago by Netanyahu's chief patron, Sheldon Adelson, the casino mogul and Republican activist and financier, to glorify Netanyahu. Israel Today treats Bibi like "Romania Libera" treated Dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu at the peak of the Communist era. Handed out daily on street corners, bus and train stops, and cafes, Israel Today recently overtook Yediot as the highest-circulated paper in the country. The phenomenon of a foreign billionaire underwriting a media outlet with such a blatant political agenda spurred several opposition MKs to propose the "Israel Today law," which would require readers to purchase daily newspapers. Several coalition partners such as Lapid's Yesh Atid and Livni's Tnuah allowed their MKs freedom to choose how to vote. Netanyahu was uncharacteristically and visibly angry when the law passed the initial reading and has been on the warpath against Lapid and Livni ever since. His aggressive handling of the controversial Nationality law was just one example of how he tried to force a crisis, which did not materialize until Netanyahu's dismissal of them both.

I am personally convinced this was the catalyst for Netanyahu's step. If Netanyahu did this on his own or if he did it at the behest of Adelson, both are frightening possibilities. I don't know which worries me more. It strengthens my fear that while perhaps Netanyahu is the CEO of the country, Adelson is the chairman of the board. During Netanyahu's tenure, Israel has lost much of its nonpartisan appeal and support in the United States. I fear this due is in part to the Adelson-Netanyahu connection.

So, astonishingly, we are heading to elections. The pollsters are going wild. In initial polls, Netanyahu's lead has been reduced significantly due to the election move. The center-left is uniting for the first time in decades, as seen with the agreement between Livni and the Labor Party. Recent talk about a possible agreement between popular ex-Likud Minister Moshe Kachlon and his new party with Avigdor Liberman's Israel Beitenu party and possibly Lapid and Yesh Atid is likely to be the bigger threat for Netanyahu. But for we Israelis, will things change after these unnecessary elections?

Sima Kadmon wrote, "In his speech, on two things, Netanyahu was right: that this was a bad government forced on him and that Israelis are deserving of a better government. On the first, we need to ask what responsibility Bibi has for this, and on the second, yes, we do deserve better."

I am hopeful, but doubtful that we will get it. The question is this: Will it be with or without Bibi, and if it is without Bibi, will he be missed? Now there is a scary question. We will find out soon enough. 📍

Mylan Tanzer is a Portland native who moved to Israel in 1981. He was the founding CEO of the first Israeli cable and satellite sports channel. Since 2005, he has launched, managed and consulted for channels and companies in Israel and Europe. Tanzer lives in Tel Aviv with his wife and five children. He can be reached at mylantanz@gmail.com.



CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST TO SPEAK AT BETH ISRAEL

Myrlie Evers-Williams, author, activist and wife of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, will be the featured guest speaker at a special Shabbat service at Congregation Beth Israel on Jan. 16 at 6 pm in the historic main sanctuary (1972 NW Flanders St.). Since 2007 Beth Israel has collaborated with the African-American communities in Portland to present this lecture and Shabbat service honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., his life and achievements. The celebration also features performances by members of the NW Community Gospel Chorus and Beth Israel's congregational choirs.

Born in Vicksburg, MS, in 1933 and raised by her schoolteacher grandmother in the segregated South, Myrlie enrolled at Alcorn A&M College, where she met Medgar Evers. They were married in 1951. Myrlie worked as his secretary after Medgar was named the Mississippi state field secretary for the NAACP, helping him to organize voter registration drives and civil rights demonstrations. On June 12, 1963, Medgar was shot to death in their driveway. His killer was indicted for murder but was set free by two all-white juries.

In 1995 she became the first woman to chair the NAACP, a position she held until 1998. In 1999, she published her memoirs, *Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way to Becoming the Woman I Was Meant to Be*. In January 2013 she gave the invocation at President Barack Obama's second inauguration, becoming the first laywoman to do so.

503-222-1069

ECHOES: A CABARET RESPONSE TO 'THE DISAPPEARED'

"In dark times, will there also be singing? Yes, there will be singing. About the dark times." - Bertolt Brecht

The second installment of Jewish Theatre Collaborative's *The Ministry of Special Cases* Page2Stage season features "Echoes: A Cabaret Response to the Disappeared." JTC artists Avital Shira and Sacha Reich and musical composer and director, Amir Shirazi, collaborate with Los Portenos, Portland Latino Writers' group to create an original, dynamic cabaret performance. Echoes will explore the subject of forced disappearance and how we can give life to those whose memory was "erased."

This performance is part of JTC's Page2Stage season, which culminates in the world-premiere stage adaptation of Nathan Englander's *The Ministry of Special Cases* - a novel that shares themes with this cabaret event. Performers include Andrew Bray, Jack Falk, Anthony Green, Sofia May-Cuxim, and Crystal Ann Muñoz.

JTC offers a mini-tour of the cabaret during Portland's Fertile Ground Festival of New Work, performing Jan. 25 at Milagro Theatre, Jan. 26 at Mittleman Jewish Community Center and Jan. 27 at PSU Lincoln Hall. All performances are at 7:30pm.

jewishtheatrecollaborative.org | 503-512-0582



CATCH "THE Q" BEFORE IT GOES ON THE ROAD

Portland's annual trivia contest returns at 8 pm, Jan. 24 at the MJCC and then it takes to the road. The fundraiser for the Jewish youth group NCSY is in its 7th year here.

But it's gained such renown, that creator Rabbi Chanan Spivak has taken the trivia show on the road.

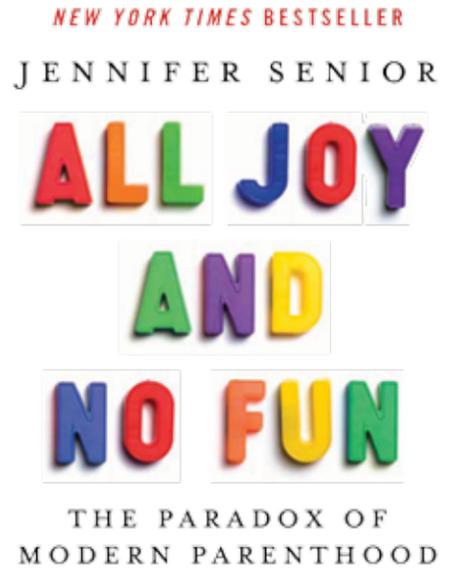
"I have done three so far, and all of them are signed up again for next year," says Spivak, the executive director of the Portland Kollel. "I'm currently negotiating with five others."

When the groups across the country hire Spivak, he says that and instead of paying him, they have been making a donation to the Portland Kollel.

"I have a bank of nearly 1,800 questions to choose from," he says. "But I also need to design new questions for each city. I do questions that specifically are attractive to their demographic (which is even more crucial when I do it in Canada, where U.S. history and sports questions are of less interest."

Tickets for the Portland edition are \$54 until Jan. 8 and then \$72.

portland.ncsy.org | 503-757-3037



"A trenchant and engrossing book... with extremely impressive research. Salted with insights and epigrams, the book is argued with bracing honesty and flashes of authentic wisdom. ... All Joy and No Fun inspired me to think differently about being a parent."
—ANDREW SOLOMON, *New York Times Book Review*

AUTHOR TO SPEAK ON PARENTHOOD PARADOX

Portlanders are invited to a free conversation with Jennifer Senior, the Jewish bestselling author of *All Joy and No Fun: The Paradox of Modern Parenthood*.

Slated for 10 am, Feb. 1, the program is co-hosted by Portland Jewish Academy, PJ Library, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Mittleman Jewish Community Center, where Senior will be speaking.

Thousands of books have examined the effects of parents on their children. But almost none have thought to ask: What are the effects of children on their parents? In *All Joy and No Fun*, award-winning journalist Jennifer Senior analyzes the many ways children reshape their parents' lives, whether it's their marriages, their jobs, their habits, their hobbies, their friendships, or their internal senses of self. She argues that changes in the last half century have radically altered the roles of today's mothers and fathers, making their mandates at once Jen's TED Talk of the same name was one of the year's most popular and has been viewed more than a million times.

503-244-0111 | oregonjcc.org

1. ORA TASTE OF ART – Mosaic artist Cassandra Sagan and blacksmith artist Nitzan Lil (in red cap) display some of their creations at

A Taste of Art/Celebration of Art Nov. 22 and 23 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. The two events were co-sponsored by the MJCC, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and ORA Northwest Jewish Artists. Photos by Bob Sorokin

2. KEEP THE CHANGE – On Motzei Shabbat Dec. 6, 35 participants from across the Portland Jewish community joined together to receive their certificates to celebrate the completion of Portland Kollel's #KeepTheChange project. Participation in the program required commitment to a specific goal involving Judaism for 101 days. Among those completing the challenge were Eric Kornblit and his son Daniel, who studied Mishna together for 10 minutes a day for 98 days out of the 101. Another round of #KeepTheChange (portlandkollel.org/ktc) begins this month.

Photos by One Click Photo

3. TOY DRIVE – Children at The Gan Portland Jewish Preschool collect toys for children in Randall Children's Hospital as part of a Hanukkah Toy Drive. This was a meaningful way for the children to experience giving, a core Jewish value.

4. J STREET VISIT – J Street founder and President Jeremy Ben-Ami (leaning forward) listens intently to a comment from Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman, left, during a gathering hosted by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. Ben-Ami was in Portland Dec. 9 to discuss hopes for Middle East peace after the breakdown of US-led bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. That evening Ben-Ami spoke at the MJCC on the need for a two-state solution at a program moderated by David Sarasohn from The Oregonian.

5. NATIONAL THEATER – Jewish Theatre Collaborative founder Sacha Reich meets with David Chack, president of the the Association of Jewish Theatres. The AJT conference was held in Washington, DC, Dec. 6-7.

6. PJA AUCTION – Portland Jewish Academy Auction drew 350 attendees to the MJCC Dec. 7, including PJA/MJCC Executive Director Steve Albert and PJA Principal Merrill Hendin. The annual fundraiser brought in \$590,000 for the community day school.





JAZZ AT THE J – Jazz will be in the air in the Mittleman Jewish Community Center this month. Jazz portraits by Diane Russell (dianerussell.net), including this painting of Portland Jewish musician Art Abrams will be on display in the MJCC lobby Jan. 12-16 in conjunction with George Fendel's *Jews in Jazz* workshop and concert on Jan. 15. The free concert, offered at 1:30 and repeating at 7 pm will feature music from famous Jewish jazz musicians presented by Fendel, a local jazz pianist and radio DJ. For more information, call 503-244-0111 or visit oregonjcc.org.

Jan. 5-Feb. 27

Portland Jewish Academy and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center are collecting used books for their annual used book sale (March 8-10). Drop off books at the guest services desk at the MJCC, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland. pjabooksale@gmail.com

Jan. 9

Donate blood at the upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive 2-5 pm at Beit Haverim, 1111 Country Club Road, Lake Oswego. Sign up at redcrossblood.org/give/drive/driveSearch.jsp# and enter the sponsor code BeitHaverim.

Jan. 11

Come donate blood to the American Red Cross. 10 am-3 pm at the MJCC.

Jan. 12-16

Jazz at the J: Portraits and concerts. See photo

Jan. 13

Retirement party honoring Laurie Rogoway for 31 years of serving Portland's Jewish community. 6:30 pm at the MJCC. \$40 includes cocktails, kosher tidbits and pupus. RSVP by Jan. 9: 503-892-7413 or jewishportland.org/Laurie

OMJCHE Lunch: Anne Frank: A History for Today. 11:45 am-1:15pm at the Multnomah Athletic Club, 849 SW Salmon St., Portland. Hilary Stipelman of the Anne Frank Center USA and Reed College Professor Steve Wasserstrom will speak on the exhibit and the newly merged Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Lunch tickets: \$36. 503-226-3600 or ojm.tofinoauctions.com/annefranklunch/tickets/ticket_sales

The 8th Annual Sephardic winter film series continues with triple feature night. "1492 El Otro Camino": English, 12 minutes, an educational masterpiece. "Toledo – The Hidden Secret": Spanish with English subtitles, 70 minutes. "Turkey's Sephardim: 500 Years": English, Turkish with English subtitles, 50 minutes. 7 pm at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 3225 SW Barbur Blvd., Portland. Free. Films, Sephardic desserts and speaker. Info: David, 503-892-6634

Jan. 14

Anne Frank: A History for Today Opening Reception, 5:30-7:30 pm at OJMCHC. Free; no reservations. Exhibit continues through April 14. Preceded by at OJMCHC Teacher Open House, 4-5:30 pm. Free but RSVP required: education@ojmche.org

Join Portland authors, JD Chandler and JB Fisher to discuss their book; *Portland on the Take: Mid-century Crime Bosses, Civic Corruption and Forgotten Murders*. 7:30 pm at the MJCC. Free.

Jan. 16

Tell It Slant: The Voice That Haunts Us. 7 pm at OJMCHC. *Tell It Slant* is a monthly reading series for emerging writers held monthly in Portland at various venues. January's *Tell It Slant* explores our relationship with the iconic persona of Anne Frank, a young girl liberated by her voice and yet silenced by the regime under which she lived. General, \$10; OJMCHC Members, \$8; Students, \$5. [Ojmche.org](http://ojmche.org)

Jan. 16-18

Yuval Ron in Oregon. See page 38
MLK Day lecture. See page 59

Jan. 18

Religion in the Supreme Court: Recent Developments with Steven Green, Willamette University College of Law. Join Beit Haverim and Lake Oswego United Church of Christ (1111 Country Club Road, Lake Oswego) at 2:30 pm to hear this national expert on the First Amendment and religion and the law discuss two recent decisions. 503-568-1241

Potluck in the Park with Portland Mitzvah Network. jewishportland.org/mlk

Jan. 19

Bink-a-Thon: Make Blankets for Children with this Portland Mitzvah Network Martin Luther King Weekend of Service project. Details on registration. 503-245-6449 caron@jewishportland.org

Jan. 23

Friday Night Lights: Celebrate Shabbat with friends 5:30 pm at the MJCC! Enjoy dinner, songs and entertainment. Adults: \$15 (G: \$18) Age 3-12: \$9 (G: \$12) Max \$50/family. RSVP Jan. 21: oregonjcc.org/fnl

Jan. 24

The Q! See story page 59

Jan 24- 31

PDX Playwrights' staged readings of 26 plays by 19 Playwrights at this years Fertile Ground, Jan. 24 at 7 pm, Jan. 25 at 1, 3, 6 and 8, Jan. 30 and 31 at 7 pm. It Takes an Audience! Be ours! See pdxplaywrights.org/wp/fertile-ground-2015/ for a complete listing. Performances at Hipbone Studio, 1947 E Burnside, Portland.

Jan 26

Page2Stage: Jewish Theater Collaborative draws on the voices of other authors to create a staged reading of the book *The Ministries of Special Cases* by Nathan Englander. 7:30pm at the MJCC. \$10 (G: \$15) at the door or tickets: Jewishtheatercollaborative.org

Jan. 28

Moral Challenges of Scholarship. The Oregon Humanities Center presents Dartmouth College Professor Susannah Heschel, daughter of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. 7:30 pm, at 182 Lillis Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene. Free. ohc.uoregon.edu | 541-346-3934

OJCF's Life & Legacy Community Celebration honoring legacy donors and celebrating the end of the first year of Life & Legacy program. 5 pm at the MJCC. gailm@ojcf.org

Jan. 29

Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity: The Life and Legacy of Abraham Joshua Heschel, a lecture by Professor Susannah Heschel. 7:30 pm, UO in Portland, White Stag Block, 70 NW Couch St., Portland. Free. ohc.uoregon.edu | 541-346-3934

Holocaust memorial oratorio in Corvallis. See page 36

Jan. 30-Feb. 1

Kirtan Rabbi weekend. See page 37

Feb. 1

All Joy & No Fun-The Paradox of Modern Parenthood. See story page 59

Feb. 5

"American Jews and the Russian Revolution: A Romance Lost." The Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at Portland State University presents the 10th Annual Gus & Libby Solomon Memorial Lecture featuring Professor Tony Michels of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. 7:15 pm at Hoffman Hall at PSU, 1833 SW 11th Ave, Portland. Free. 503-725-8449

Add events to our calendar at ojlife.com. Click on "Add an event" at lower right of home page.

OJMCHC is the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at 1953 NW Kearney, Portland. 503-226-3600, ojmche.org

MJCC is the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland. 503-244-0111, oregonjcc.org

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Other Events w/ Rabbi Hahn

1/30 - Kabbalat Shabbat - Shaarie Torah

1/31 - Rabbi Hahn at P'nai Or

2/1 - Kinder-Kirtan, Neveh Shalom

More at shaarietorah.org/kirtanrabbi

