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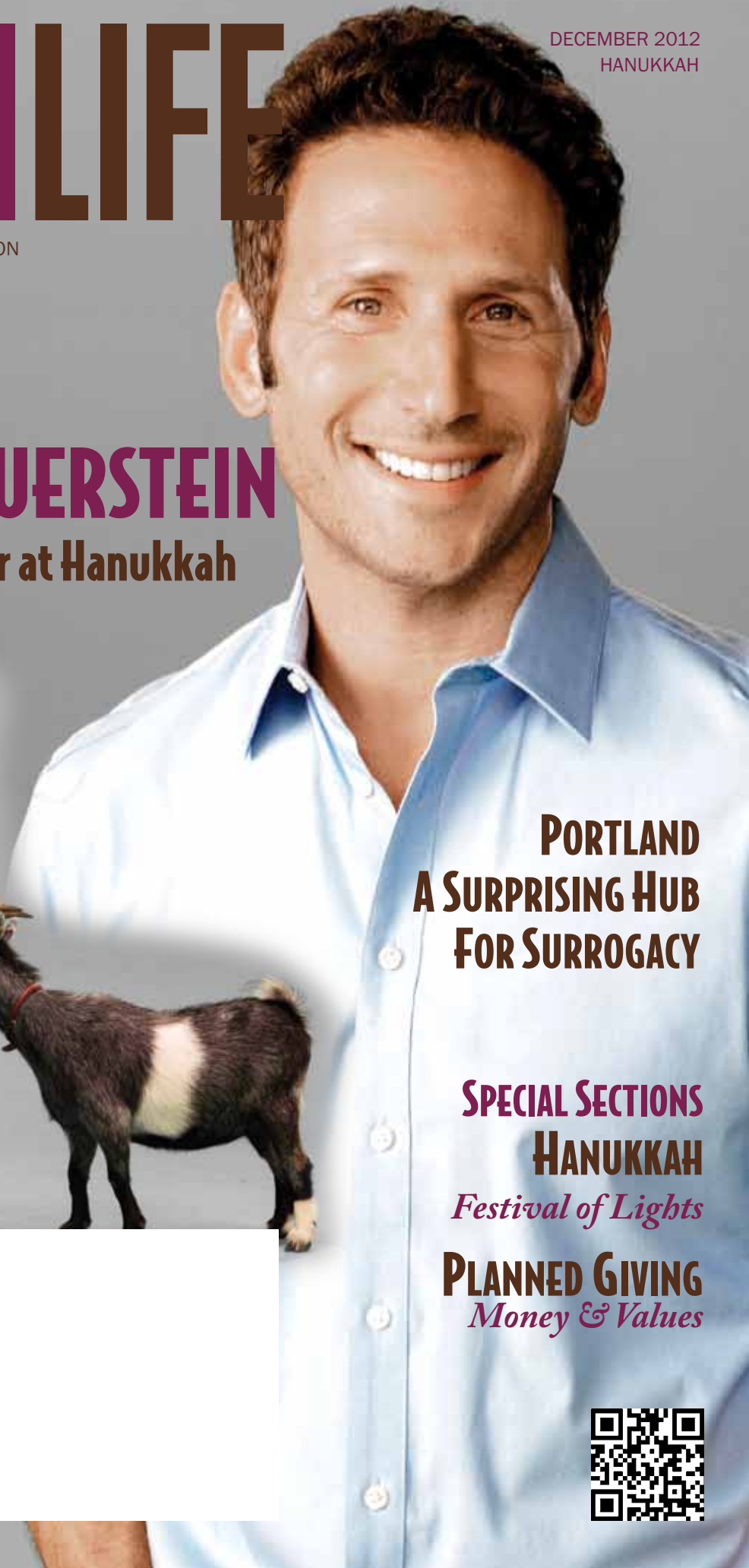
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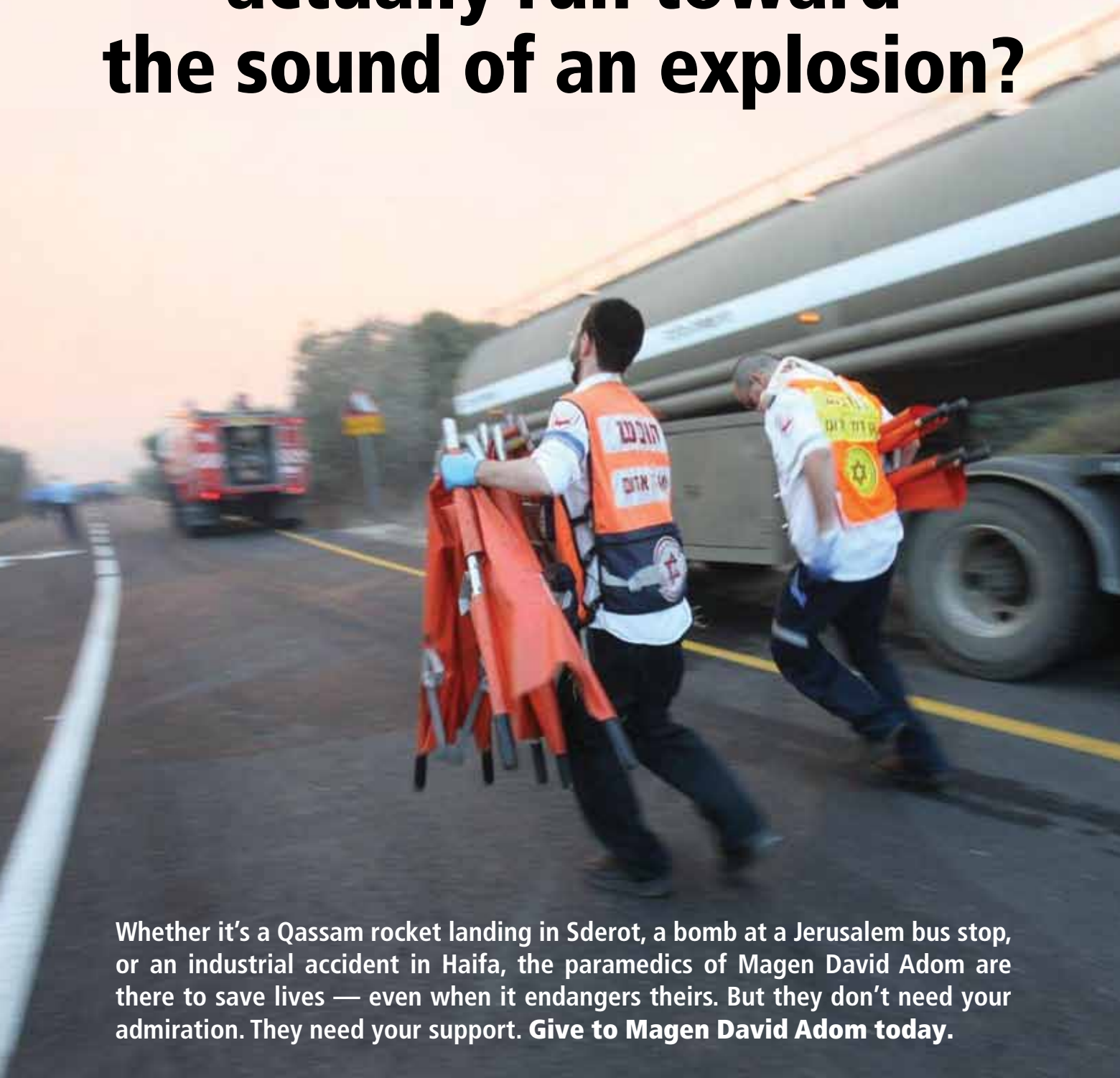
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## CORRECTIONS

In the November history article about Oregon Court of Appeals First Chief Judge Herbert Schwab, a caption under the photo of Barbara and her husband, Herbert Schwab, inadvertently identified her as Herbert's sister Mildred. Additionally, Barbara's last name before marrying Schwab was Mayer.

An article about Jewish astronauts in the November issue misspelled two of the astronauts' names. The correct spellings are Judith Resnik and Garrett Reisman.



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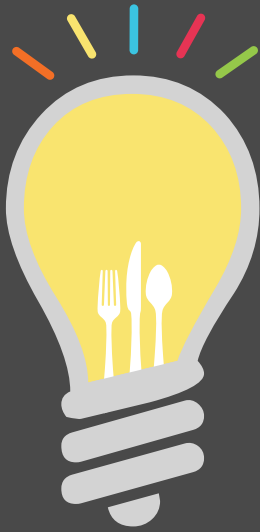
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**Advertising and Editorial Director**  
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**Jan Behrs, Julie Diamond, Rich Geller, Amy R. Kaufman, Joseph Lieberman, Liz Rabiner Lippoff, Lauren M. Murphy, Polina Olsen, Kerry Politzer, Sura Rubenstein, Elizabeth Schwartz and Vanessa Van Edwards**

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**Editor@ojlife.com**  
**503-892-7402**

**Publisher@ojlife.com**  
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# Guest Editorial: Israel under attack by missiles and words

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In light of the serious situation in Israel as we were preparing this issue of *Oregon Jewish Life*, the following Guest Editorial replaces the Letter from the Editor this month. Bob Horenstein is the community relations director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

**by Bob Horenstein**

As most of us sleep soundly in our beds here in the Pacific Northwest, millions of Israelis have passed the hours of darkness in absolute fear. In one 24-hour period in mid-November, more than 200 rockets were fired at Southern Israel from Gaza. In the past year, that number is nearly a thousand. Over the course of the past 12 years, it soars to more than 12,000 rockets and missiles. To put it plainly, Israelis have been living in a state of terror for far too long.

Although Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system, developed with the assistance of the United States, can intercept many incoming missiles, it can't prevent all from hitting their targets. When the violence flares, hundreds of thousands of Israelis must listen for the blare of an alarm, in Hebrew *tzeva adom*, signaling the need to take cover in nearby shelters. Those warnings will afford civilians a mere 15 seconds to run to safety. Fifteen seconds – roughly the time it will take you to finish reading this paragraph.

No government in the world should, or would, tolerate a situation where more than 25% of its territory and a fifth of its people – over 1 million – live under a constant threat of fire. To put that in perspective: if a terrorist group from Mexico were launching rockets

into 25% of our country, southern California and most of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas would be under attack. Just like any other country, Israel has the inalienable right to defend its citizens, and yet, inexplicably, some still question that right.

As we observe this conflict from afar, we should ask ourselves several poignant questions: If Hamas truly had the best interests of the Palestinian people at heart, why does it engage in terrorism that is knowingly counterproductive to peace? Why smuggle thousands of rockets and missiles into Gaza, many of them manufactured in Iran, and deliberately place them in civilian homes, schools and hospitals, putting their own population at risk? Why, despite Israel's total withdrawal from Gaza seven years ago, does the Hamas leadership remain focused on targeting innocent Israelis instead of building towards a peaceful future for its own citizens?

Sadly, the answer is obvious. Hamas targets Israel because it rejects Israel's existence as the democratic nation-state of the Jewish people, leaving the Israelis with no choice other than to employ military means to eradicate the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza while at the same time seeking to minimize casualties among non-combatants who are frequently exploited as human shields.

Ultimately, rocket fire from Gaza not only poses a threat to the safety of both peoples, it also makes it infinitely more difficult to move toward a just and lasting peace – a negotiated solution – that would enable both Israelis and Palestinians to live securely side-by-side. Only when this terror is defeated will peace become possible.



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Joanne dancing with the Oregon State University dance theater.

# On Pointe

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOANNE VAN NESS MENASHE



During a fall 2010 visit to Israel, Joanne Van Ness Menashe and her husband, Joe Menashe, tour Tsfat, known as an artists' community and a center of kabbalah.

## *Former dancer connects community to heart of Oregon Ballet Theatre*

by Lauren M. Murphy

Joanne Van Ness Menashe has done a great many things in her illustrious career working for nonprofits throughout the state, but it's her latest position with the Oregon Ballet Theatre that is bringing her back to her roots. Though she got a degree in botany, plant pathology from Oregon State University, Menashe knew before even graduating that a career in the performing arts was something she wanted to pursue.

"Even though I was really good at it, I was pretty aware by my senior year that I really didn't want to spend my life doing science," Menashe says with a laugh. "I had been dancing, singing and doing musical theater since I was 5, including dancing with the Oregon State University dance theater, so I opened my own dance school in Corvallis for a few years after graduating. Dancing really is my first love."

From there Menashe went on to head the arts and education program for Benton and Linn counties, where she had a hand in every aspect of the process from interviewing artists, to reaching out to schools and working with administrators to making sure programs were put into place, raising money and writing brochures. There was another aspect of that job that would forge the path in what would turn out to be a long career in the arts and nonprofits.

"My favorite part of that job was going out to the rural communities where they had been devastated by the downturn in the timber industry. They were just so hungry for the arts and any sort of an experience that would help the children. It was amazing to see the whole community get involved," says Menashe. "It was at that point that I realized how important the arts and arts education is to communities, to children and the way that they learn, and of course for providing jobs and economic stimulus."

Menashe, who was born in Central Washington, spent a few more years in Corvallis where she eventually worked for the Oregon Advocates for the Arts and became the executive director of the Downtown Corvallis Association, before moving to Portland to become the director of development for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in their Portland office.

"For someone who loves theater so much, being a part of that was so amazing. I particularly loved being able to see the behind-the-scenes action, from the costumes, to the tech rehearsals and lighting and sound – it's amazing to see what goes into performances."

After a stint working in real estate with her husband, Joe Menashe, she felt the pull back to nonprofit work. She began working as the director of individual development at the Oregon




PHOTO BY DEBORAH MOON

Oregon Ballet Theater Vice President of Development and Marketing Joanne Van Ness Menashe gives a tour to Phillip Coston, regional VP for Saks Fifth Avenue. The two watched students of the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre rehearse for an upcoming performance of George Balanchine's "Who Cares?" Menashe gives tours to business and community leaders to connect individuals "with the heart of our organization's mission."

Symphony, where she helped raised millions of dollars. She once again immersed herself in the arts while feeling she was making a difference.

She has also exhibited her commitment to community with numerous volunteer roles throughout the years. Menashe has served as the vice president of the Portland section of the National Council of Jewish Women, and as a board member of the OHSU Center for Women's Health and the Oregon chapter of Dress For Success, to name just a few. An active member of Congregation Beth Israel in Northwest Portland, Menashe also participates in the sisterhood and the Kol Echad choir.

"Making a difference is really what most of us want to do and at the end of the day there isn't anything else in this life."

In her new position as vice president of development and marketing of the Oregon Ballet Theatre, she feels she is doing just that. "What I want to see for the ballet is for it to continue to be able to present the highest quality repertoire with dancers of the highest caliber," says Menashe. "More importantly though, I want the community to value and support the arts because if we don't we will lose them." 

A Portland transplant, Lauren Murphy is a lifestyle writer and editor whose articles have been published in *Los Angeles Confidential*, *Aspen Peak*, *Hamptons Magazine* and *The New Jersey Star-Ledger*. She can be reached at laurmmurph@gmail.com.

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# A Jewish Carol

*Actor feels High Holiday themes portraying Sherlock Holmes*

by Deborah Moon



Sherlock Holmes (Michael Mendelson) gets a visit from the ghost of Moriarty (Tobias Andersen). Photo by Owen Carey

The Jewish star of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* says, for him, the play resonates more with the themes of the Jewish High Holidays than those of Christmas.

Local actor and director Michael Mendelson plays Holmes for the play's second season at Artists Repertory Theatre Nov. 23-Dec. 30. Originally scheduled to end Dec. 23, tickets have sold so fast the show already has been extended.

"The play uses Dickens' (*A*) *Christmas Carol* as a framework to move Sherlock from a place of isolation to a place of self-forgiveness and acceptance of others," says Michael. "Scrooge's journey is about the spirit of Christmas. This (play) is about the spirit of embracing humanity."

"It's an extraordinary script and an extraordinary journey," he continues. "For me it connects to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. You have to ask those you have offended to forgive you to move forward. ... That is what Sherlock has to do to be able to move forward."

Written by Seattle playwright John Longenbaugh, the play uses a host of supernatural visitors led by Holmes' nemesis, Moriarty, to force the ill-tempered detective to face his own past, present and future.

The past in the play finally gives Holmes' fans an explanation of the famous detective's unemotional outlook on life. The present shows Holmes how innocent people will suffer if he refuses to use his unparalleled skills at discovering the truth. In the play, the future is World War I and the play evokes a real event from that era. Shown his potential role in that event, Holmes is inspired to celebrate life and find his own humanity and way back to detection.

"What I love about the script is – like Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, it combines two great tastes in one story," said Michael. "Holmes' character combines seamlessly with Scrooge's journey to redemption."

Michael has acted and directed extensively in Portland since 1991, with a four-year break in New York. A frequent performer in ART productions, he has been a member of the ART acting ensemble since it was created in 2008. He is also the artistic director of the Portland Shakespeare Project, which is "in


residence" at ART during the summers. He has performed in several Jewish-themed shows, including *Beaufest* and *Bent*, about the treatment of homosexuals in the Nazi concentration camps.

Jewish audiences may recognize Michael from the 2007 production of *Address Unknown* by the Reader's Theater Repertory at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Written in 1938, the story is told in a series of letters between two California business partners, one a German Jew and the other a German gentile who returns to Nazi Germany. The gala opening benefitted the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center, which arranged for Holocaust survivors or their children to participate in a talkback after each performance.

Michael calls the talkbacks with the survivors, cast and audience "some of the most poignant moments in theater I've had."

Raised in Detroit, Michael became a bar mitzvah at Temple Israel, which was at that time the largest congregation in the city.

Michael says when he was in grad school his mentor told him he would have to choose between being religious and acting because, "Actors can't get off for the holidays."

He chose acting, but says, "I try to be as religious as possible. I've grown more spiritual than religious, but it's spirituality based on Judaism. As I get older, I cling more to my religious upbringing." 

## *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*

**Dates:** Nov. 23-Dec. 30

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Sunday at 2 pm. Additional matinee Dec. 19 at 11 am

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**Written by:** John Longenbaugh

**Directed by:** Jon Kretzu

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Miss Lasko Gross (2010) "Self Portrait"

Eisenstein waxes nostalgic in "My Parents," a loving portrayal of family ties across generations.

Trina Robbins' "Big Sister" deals with the author's discovery of feminism, while Pearlman talks about the Israel-Palestine issue in "The Gap."

Several works address the artists' thoughts about Jewish identity. Ariel Schrag's "The Chosen" makes humorous reference to her status as the child of an interfaith marriage (she is emphatically pronounced "Not Jewish" by a Brooklyn real estate broker). In the colorful "Different Combinations of Me and Tim," Lauren Weinstein wonders "who" her Jewish/Eastern European and Lutheran/Irish/Swiss baby will be. Miriam Katin's "Eucalyptus Nights" asks, "Is a Sephardi not a Jew?"

Other works, like Sarah Glidden's textless color sequence "How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less," address the American experience in the Jewish state. In "Falafel," Glidden's American protagonist asks, "Can I have a falafel, um, *bevakashah?*" In "Jobnik," Miriam Libicki resolutely declares, "Here is my home... I belong to Israel."

For viewers who would like more insight into the work of the artists, the exhibit includes a computer that displays author commentaries. 

Oregon Jewish Museum: 1953 NW Kearney St., 503-226-3600. Graphic Details is on through Feb. 17, 2013.



# Women Strength

*OJM exhibit of female cartoonists runs gamut of experience*

by Kerry Politzer

The royal blue walls of the Oregon Jewish Museum make a striking setting for "Graphic Details: Confessional Comics by Jewish Women," a traveling exhibition of 18 Jewish female cartoonists from four countries.

This poignant, witty collection is co-curated by journalist Michael Kaminer and artist Sarah Lightman. The idea for the exhibition originated in an article Kaminer wrote for the Jewish Forward about Jewish female autobiographical cartoonists. Says Kaminer of the material on display: "These female anti-heroes, I would argue, are just as brave (as male-created superheroes) and deserve equal appraisal."

The exhibition encompasses a variety of styles, from the text-rich storytelling of Corinne Pearlman to the compelling still lifes of Lightman. Subjects range from the deeply personal to the political. The artists use watercolor, pencil and stark black pen and ink to express their stories. Some of the works are frankly funny, while other pieces evoke nostalgia for a lost past.

A good place to begin one's visit is with a view of Pearlman's "Show and Tell." In her introductory piece, Pearlman provides a context for the works to follow. She explains, "The urge for Jewish women to 'show and tell' in graphic form is nothing new."

In "Reciprocitea" and "Dumped Before Valentine's," Lightman imbues objects with deep emotional meaning. Her intensely penciled teacups and benches illustrate themes of longing and disappointment.

A couple of the artists sound economic themes in their work. In Miss Lasko-Gross' darkly funny "The Turd," a local coffee shop is "bought out by Starbucks." Sarah Lazarovic's precise, colorful "Shop Til You Stop" addresses questions of economic dislocation, while her "Abstained" poses the question, "Who needs shoes?"

One of the funniest works in the exhibition is Vanessa Davis' "Toys in Babeland," which depicts a Hasidic voyeur scrutinizing the purchases of two embarrassed young women. Bernice

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## Book offers fresh, joyful look at Moses

by Joseph A. Lieberman

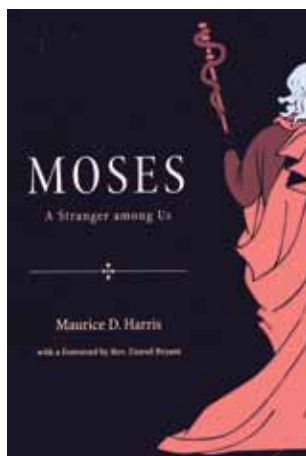
It's a gifted writer who can take a subject that we feel is totally familiar and present it in a fresh way that's not only enlightening and informative, but a joyful read as well. Rabbi Maurice Harris, formerly associate rabbi at Eugene's Temple Beth Israel, brings to his writing the same mix of wit and wisdom that were hallmarks of his many lectures, discussions and classes at TBI.

By calling Judaism's greatest prophet "A Stranger Among Us," Rabbi Maurice is hinting at how much we don't know regarding the remarkable life, conflicts, triumphs and tribulations of Moses. At the same time, he's also signaling that Moses represents the ultimate Jewish "insider" who was simultaneously an "outsider" – a man with an Egyptian name raised in a non-Jewish home who committed murder, married twice outside the faith, had a sometimes violent temper and a speech impediment, and was not allowed to enter into the Promised Land.

The people who surrounded Moses are also brought to life with depth and compassion. Moses' earliest survival, for example, was only made possible because of courageous acts of civil disobedience by several women: his mother, Yokheved, who sheltered him from the Pharaoh's decree of infanticide for as long as she could; his sister, Miriam, who was instrumental in his fateful float and later rescue down the Nile; Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted and raised him (unwittingly with Yokheved's help); and the Egyptian midwives Shifra and Puah who refused to carry out the Pharaoh's hateful decree in the first place and risked their lives lying to the monarch.

Regarding the latter, Rabbi Maurice writes, "...they were midwives in more than one respect. They facilitated the birth not only of Hebrew babies, but also of the (Israelite) slave rebellion that would come."

Well known in Eugene's Jewish community for taking discussions beyond conventional boundaries, Rabbi Maurice




*Moses: A Stranger Among Us*, by Rabbi Maurice D. Harris; 2012, Cascade Books (orders@wipfandstock.com), paperback, \$19

uses the life of Moses to demonstrate concepts that spin off into much larger ideas. Making the case for "open" religious systems, as opposed to "closed" and narrowly defined fundamentalism, he compares Judaism's potential for functional adaptability to life itself:

"A living organism," he says, "is not less authentically itself because it takes in food and air from the environment around it. Similarly, a culture or religion is not less true to itself when it functions as a creative open system. ... A religious tradition is a living entity, and in order to stay healthy its boundary needs to be permeable so that it can live in an interconnected and interpenetrating relationship with the world around it."

He closes that point by adding, "... Religion is at its most dangerous when it is made up of followers rather than responsible and conscientious participants. ... Blind obedience to any received tradition is a moral choice that can cause tremendous destruction and harm."

Rabbi Maurice helps us differentiate between the historical Moses and the composite literary Moses, who has been overlaid with various mystical, magical, authoritative or heroic attributes as seen through the lenses of succeeding generations of religious proponents. These images add further layers to this most central of Jewish prophets, who was later adopted and given entirely new characteristics by Christianity and Islam as well. 

Joseph Lieberman is a freelance writer and photographer in Eugene.



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# Colors of Life

*Artist Anna Kodesch enriches colors she sees in the world*

by Elizabeth Schwartz



Purple onions glow against a neutral background. Apples burnished by red and gold highlights. A female torso whose contours are outlined in green, orange, turquoise and gray. This is the color world of painter Anna Kodesch, a third-generation Portlander whose upcoming show, “Oregon, My Oregon,” opens Dec. 1 at Bellamy Studios in Multnomah Village (6715 SW Multnomah Blvd.).

Kodesch, who is represented by Caplan Art Designs, explains her distinctive approach to color on her website: “I love to challenge the notion of ‘accurate color’ by using the paint on the canvas as a medium to prove that accuracy does not always equal perfect aesthetics. I do this by taking seemingly unrelated splotches of paint and combining them in such a way that, as a finished product, they result in a true, beautiful, artistic representation of the subject – whether that be a face, a landscape or a piece of fruit.”

By using her own perceptions of color, Kodesch’s representations of beaches, fruits, mountains and people capture hidden facets, like turning a cut gem this way and that in a strong light. Her paintings of everyday objects provide these ordinary subjects with added depth and sometimes a startlingly different perspective.

Kodesch studied graphic design and painting in college and later worked in design production. The mother of three young children, Kodesch has increased her focus on her painting over the past year or so. “I’m really trying to get out there and show and be recognized for the work I’m doing,” she says. “It makes me happy to share my work and see others’ enjoyment of my work.”

When you look at Kodesch’s paintings, even in the reproductions on her website ([www.annakodesch.com](http://www.annakodesch.com)), the fat brushstrokes are notable. Kodesch applies color with a buttery thickness, explaining, “I want my paintings to be delicious. For me, paint just feels yummy, thick and rich, full of viscosity.” Interestingly, given the almost three-dimensional quality of her work, Kodesch paints from photographs rather than from life.




“Chinese Rooster” (24"x24") can be viewed at Caplan Art Designs, 1031 NW 11th Ave., Portland.

“Painting from photos allows me to divorce my emotions from what I’m seeing,” she says. “When I paint from a photo, I have an easier time capturing what is really there, rather than what I think is there. It also allows me to abstract a little more.”

Abstraction is also how Kodesch describes her relationship to color. “I always thought I was a realist, but now I think I’m more about expressions and impressions. My paintings are realistic depictions with abstract use of color.” Although she acknowledges the exaggerated nature of her color choices, Kodesch says when she chooses a color, that’s the color she actually sees. “In traditional color theory, you learn that every color is made of every other color,” she explains. “When I look at a pear, I see that it’s reddish. I try to exaggerate the oddity or anomalous quality of the color.” This highlighting of anomalies in colors also challenges viewers to take part in experiencing the paintings. “I want the viewer to use their vision to make the colors work together.”

Kodesch does not consciously direct her art; she allows her artistic impulses to dictate her paintings. “It’s important to let the work evolve without too much conscious direction,” she says. “I’m pleased to see how my work has developed over the past year. I’ve become a more aggressive painter. I’m more confident in what I want to do and I think people respond more strongly to my work.”

In addition to her upcoming show at Bellamy Studios, a series of Kodesch’s paintings of fruits, vegetables and roosters is on display at the Daily Cafe at the Tram on the South Waterfront, located at 3355 SW Bond Ave. 

Elizabeth Schwartz is co-host of the Yiddish Hour on 90.7 FM KBOO Community Radio and a freelance writer living in Portland.

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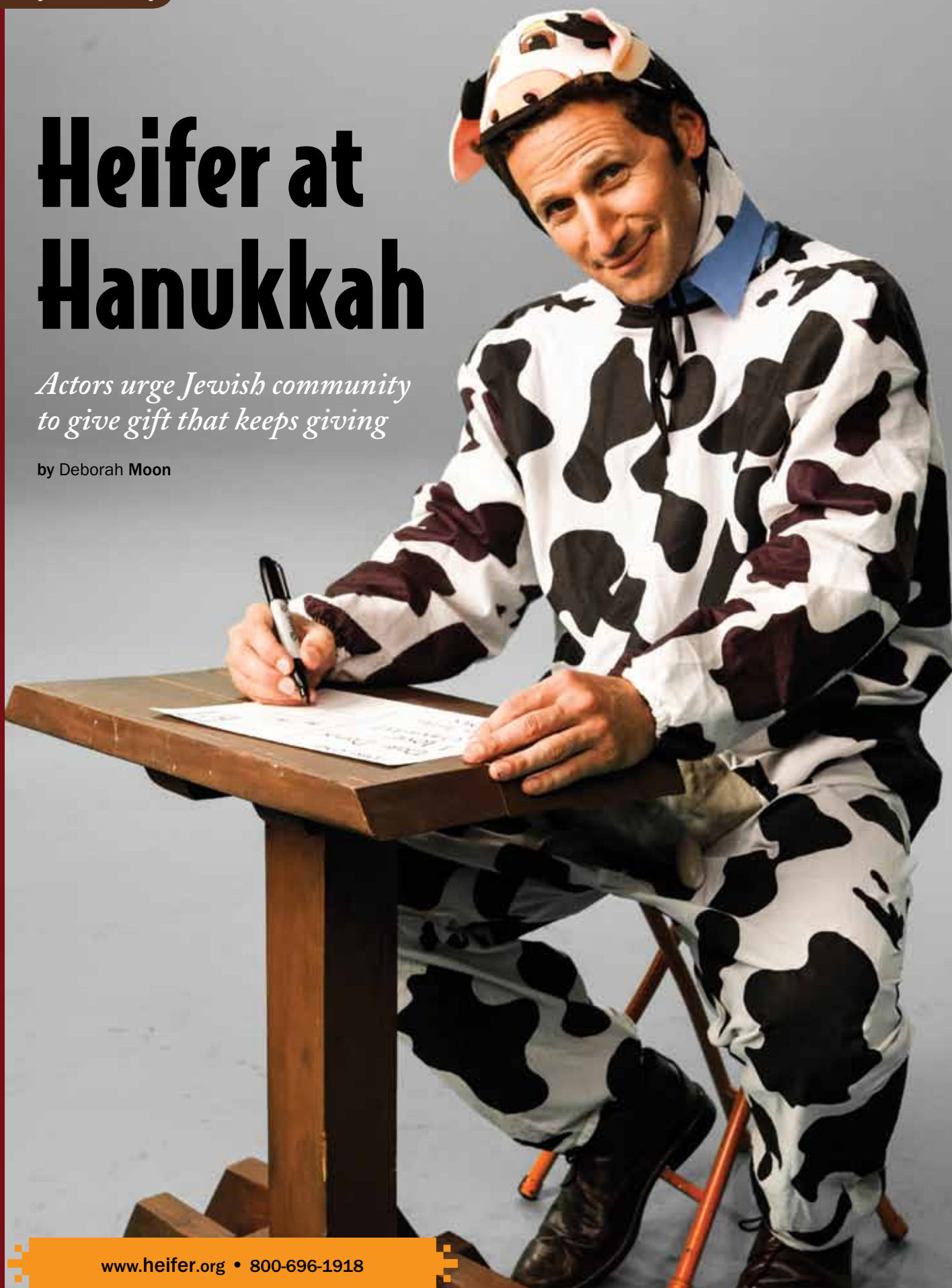


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# Heifer at Hanukkah

*Actors urge Jewish community to give gift that keeps giving*

by Deborah Moon



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About 30 years ago, Ed Asner tried and failed to convince his rabbi about the importance of Heifer International, so he narrated a documentary to convince others of the project's unique benefits. This year he was joined by *Royal Pains* star Mark Feuerstein to create a Heifer at Hanukkah video to encourage other Jews to support a sustainable end to hunger and poverty.

Since 1944, Heifer International has provided livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle with reliable sources of food and income. Heifer provides 30 kinds of livestock and a multitude of trees and seeds to families in more than 42 countries.

The Heifer at Hanukkah website that features the video also offers a variety of gift options that fulfill the responsibilities of both tzedakah (justice or charity) and tikkun olam (repair of the world), "so shoppers can honor a loved one – from Abba (father) to Zaide (grandfather) – with a cow, goat, chicks or water buffalo to help an impoverished family move from dependence to independence."

Watching the video, the two Jewish actors seemed rather spunky, reminding me of the famous exchange in the first episode of the *Mary Tyler Moore Show*. News director Lou Grant (Asner) tells Mary, "You know, you've got spunk." Mary takes it as a compliment until Lou adds: "I hate spunk!"

So I asked Asner how his views of spunk compare to those of his famous character.

"I'm in total disagreement with Lou. I enjoy spunk, I certainly do," he said emphatically in a phone interview from New York City, where he is currently appearing in the Broadway play *Grace*.

Asner said he first heard of Heifer on an airplane when he was seated next to the son of one of the nonprofit's founders. Sold on the benefits of the group, Asner told his seatmate to have the organization call him and then shared his new enthusiasm with his rabbi.

"I failed to convince him of the benevolence of the organization," says Asner, noting that the refusal was likely what drove him to become so involved with the organization. When Heifer International called, he not only made a donation, he narrated "a wonderful documentary they made of their work."

Asner describes Heifer as "the best example" of the old adage, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime." Asner says Heifer goes beyond that and gives a man a fish and teaches him to raise more. "It's the best resistance to hunger you could find," he says.

Listening to Asner praise Heifer, it's hard to believe he couldn't convince his rabbi. But he admits he was too tentative. Raised in an Orthodox home, Asner no longer considers himself

Mark Feuerstein (left), best known as the star of USA Network's *Royal Pains*, and Ed Asner (above right), famous for his roles in *The Marty Tyler Moore Show*, *Lou Grant* and the Pixar film *Up*, are featured in a new online video at [www.heifer.org/heifer-at-hanukkah/](http://www.heifer.org/heifer-at-hanukkah/). In the video, Mark dresses up as a heifer – the gift that Ed plans to give his granddaughter, which will provide an impoverished family with four gallons of milk a day. "My granddaughter will receive the gift of giving tzedakah," Asner says. "Kids play with a good toy for a few months or a year, but this gift ends poverty here at home and abroad." Photos courtesy of Heifer International



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a religious Jew. However, until last year he says he would attend services each year and serve as a reader for the congregation on Yizkor.

Feuerstein likewise grew up at an Orthodox shul – Park East in New York. Now he and his family belong to Reform congregation Ikar in Los Angeles. But when he is in the New York area filming *Royal Pains* each year, he still enjoys attending Park East.

“On the High Holidays, and a few others, I will join my dad and my brother in the beautiful turn of the century sanctuary on 67th Street between Third and Lex. It’s nice to see the same rabbi, Arthur Schneier, and president Michael Scharf sitting on the bima and to sing L’Dor V’dor (from one generation to another) with the choir and great congregation,” says Feuerstein.

Dor l’dor is part of the appeal Heifer has for Feuerstein: “Heifer takes us out of our little bubbles and reminds us that there are families in countries all around the world who are

suffering, who need sustenance. Further, Heifer does this not by giving a family a fish so it can eat for a day, but by giving a cow so it can be milked, or a chicken so it can produce eggs for years to come. L’dor v’dor, from generations of people to generations of cows and chickens.”

Asked when he realized that as a successful actor he could make a difference in the world by speaking out for organizations working to make the world a better place, he replied: “When my father’s partner’s son, Jordan Rathkopf, asked me to help Heifer International launch this excellent Hanukkah campaign, that’s when! Why actors are given the microphone more often than teachers, doctors, nurses, community workers, etc., is beyond me, but if I can use my exposure to do a little good, then I’m thrilled and honored.”

When the USA Network’s summer series *Royal Pains* airs a special two-hour holiday special Dec. 16, Feuerstein says viewers will get a taste of two of the values he feels Heifer at Hanukkah promotes: tikkun olam and tzedakah.

“I think Dr. Hank Lawson (Feuerstein’s character) stands for the deepest sense of tikkun olam. He is literally repairing the world around him in every episode, because he takes his Hippocratic oath seriously. Dr. Hank is always looking to help those around him by keeping them healthy and saving lives. And when Evan R. Lawson (Hank’s younger brother) realizes that the amount of money with which he reimburses his cousin Owen was way more than he actually owed, he decides

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to support his cousin in a way that is perfectly in line with the concept of tzedakah and tikkun olam. I think Hank and Evan are perfect mensches, notwithstanding the actors who play them.”

His *Royal Pains* role as a concierge doctor in the Hamptons is not the first time Feuerstein has played a doctor. He earlier had a role in *Sex in the City* that his father was not as impressed with as his recent work: “I think my father will have slightly less of a heart attack from this video for Heifer than he did when he had to watch me (on *Sex in the City*) play the ophthalmologist (the doctor part was good) who was so bad in bed that Miranda had to fake her orgasms (this part not as good).”

Asner and Feuerstein have one other thing in common – a fondness for Oregon.

“I think Portland and Scottsdale (AZ) are two of the greatest cities in America. Portland for Powell’s Books – best bookstore in America. And Scottsdale for that hike up Camelback Mountain – it’s the perfect hike, length, terrain and view – perfect,” according to Feuerstein.

Asner owned a vacation home on the Oregon coast for many years and his daughter lived in Gresham for about 20 years.

“I loved going to Oregon,” said Asner. “It is one of the most beautiful places you can find. I love its way of life and love its philosophy.” 

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Left: Cham Udom, 11, from Cambodia, poses with a heifer his family received from Heifer International supporters. Photo by Matt Bradley, courtesy of Heifer International. Right: Twelve-year-old Rekha Rana holds one of her family's goats in Baugha Gumba Village, Nepal. A goat is one gift that students from Congregation Beth Israel purchased through Heifer in 2007. Photo by Russell Powell, courtesy of Heifer International

## *Local students accept challenge to buy Heifer at Hanukkah*

by Deborah Moon

Unlike the reaction Ed Asner received when he tried to introduce Heifer International to his rabbi, Portland synagogues have long supported that charity's efforts to end poverty and hunger.

This year Asner helped launch Heifer at Hanukkah and Congregation Shaarie Torah accepted the challenge to raise funds to buy a heifer.

When Shaarie Torah Education Director Dorice Horenstein asked her Wednesday night school students if they wanted to devote their tzedakah efforts this season to buying a heifer for a hungry family, some of the students had one question: What is a heifer?

Fortunately, they had an expert on hand. Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman spent five years on an agricultural kibbutz in Israel before deciding to go to rabbinical school. Having been in charge of the milk cows on the kibbutz, he was able to tell the youth

not only that a heifer is a female cow that has not yet had a calf, but also how much it would mean to a family after it gave birth and began supplying milk.

The gift of a heifer provides up to four gallons of milk a day, which enables a family to nourish its children and sell the extra to pay for food, clothes, school and medicine. When the heifer is a gift from Heifer International, the recipient's impoverished village also benefits when the family fulfills its promise to give the first female calf to another member of their village – an especially appropriate concept given the Jewish tradition of *dor l'dor* (generation to generation).

After the students watched the Heifer at Hanukkah video featuring Asner and Mark Feuerstein, they immediately began to brainstorm ways to raise money. Though the middle school and high school students at Wednesday night school have taken

the lead, all Shaarie Torah students from preschool to 12th grade are raising funds for the Heifer project in November and December. Within two weeks they had more than half of the \$500 needed to buy a heifer, so they upped their goal to \$990 to buy a Cheeses of the World Gift Basket, which includes a heifer, a goat, a sheep and a water buffalo – four animals that produce milk families can use to make cheese.

"It's a life-changing mitzvah," says Horenstein.

Students have pledged to donate money they earn from babysitting and gardening during the two-month project. Zuckerman has pledged to match any money the Wednesday night students earn and donate themselves (no, he won't match money their parents donate). In addition, if that amount comes to \$100, he will dye his hair Beaver orange and blue to fulfill a promise suggested by Jordan Runstein, who got the





Shaarie Torah Wednesday Night School students, shown here with Education Director Dorice Horenstein (back row second, from left) and Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman (center back), are raising money for Heifer at Hanukkah. During November and December, students are holding bake sales (with kosher baked goods donated by Albertsons), babysitting, doing garden work and holding a variety of other fund-raising projects.

idea at a leadership conference. If students donate another \$100, Horenstein will go an entire week without wearing makeup, jewelry or heels.

Three Shaarie Torah youth (Ben Mansfield, Aedan Mills and Jonah Bloom), who also attend Portland Jewish Academy, are making flyers about Heifer and plan to sell glowsticks to fellow PJAsers as a fundraiser. Joanna Friedman has asked her Peace Club at Lake Oswego High School to set up a booth with Heifer information at lunch time. Deanna Jennings is selling PartyLite candles, and Kiara and Israel Miles, with the help of their parents, Pamela and Perry, have created a website for friends to donate through PayPal: [www.pamelamilsltd.com/fundraiser/](http://www.pamelamilsltd.com/fundraiser/).

Shaarie Torah is just the latest Portland congregation to give a Heifer gift. The local Jewish community's awareness of Heifer preceded the Heifer at Hanukkah launch this year.

About eight years ago, as part of Congregation Neveh Shalom's annual efforts to alleviate hunger at Passover, Rabbi Daniel Isaak encouraged congregants to donate enough to buy an entire ark of animals. The congregation donated \$7,500 – enough for one and a half arks!

Isaak said he was introduced to Heifer by Sandy Axel, a past president of Neveh Shalom whose daughter used Heifer as a centerpiece theme for her bat mitzvah.

Isaak says Jewish support for Heifer is very consistent with the famous lesson from Hillel found in Pirke Avot: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself what am I? And if not now, when?"

Isaak notes, "As Jews we refuse to look out upon the world wearing blinders, only seeing Jewish pain, Jewish suffering, Jewish need. We are religiously mandated to identify the struggles of others as an extension of our own. Heifer works in the third world with the poorest of the poor, those fighting to survive. Rather than simply distributing food, the Heifer Project recognizes as did Maimonides in his eight levels of charity that the highest level of assistance is achieved when one provides the means by which the needy can become self-reliant and not dependent on others."


Congregation Beth Israel has also made Heifer gifts.

"Heifer International is a top pick for a lot of our school-related tzedakah projects," according to Jemi Kostiner Mansfield, CBI's congregational affairs director.

In 2007, CBI middle schoolers raised

enough to purchase a sheep, a goat, a flock of chicks, two New Beginning Baskets (lambs), three Flocks of Hope (chickens, geese and ducks) and two Earth Baskets (bees and tree). This June CBI donated \$350 from preschool and religious school classes to purchase a variety of items from the Heifer gift catalog, including flocks of chicks, ducks and geese; honeybees; a hope basket; an Earth gift basket and a llama. And Early Childhood Education Director Deborah Kaplan plans to make another donation to Heifer from the preschool and kindergarten tzedakah funds in the spring.

Students at Oregon Episcopal School, which attracts many Jewish students, recently raised about \$11,600 for Heifer. OES Chaplain Jenny Cleveland notes, "In both the Jewish and Christian faiths, the commandment to love God and others is in practiced through Heifer in a way that makes profound sense for children... People, animals, all of creation is important in the Heifer story and that is why Heifer speaks so powerfully to the children, I think."

Whether they have heard Asner's message or not, Oregonians obviously share his sentiment: "If your neighbor is starving, it doesn't matter what religion he is; he needs to be fed." 

# FEDERATION FASHION FUN

Photos by Deborah Moon

*After two weeks of twice the average rainfall at the end of October, early November's balmy weather inspired some women at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland to have a little fun with fashion. In a city known for individual style, three of the women showcased diverse tastes that reflected their individual outlooks.*

Israeli shlichah Natalie Nahome wore a colorful outfit to her office at the federation on that early November day. "I usually go for black. That day was a crazy day," she says.

When Portland's traditional gray skies hit in mid-October, Natalie decided not to buy black anymore. "I'm trying to get colorful," she says.

Since moving from Israel to Oregon at the end of August, Natalie has purchased three hats. She likes the look when she straightens her hair. She topped off her brightly patterned leggings and peach top with a crocheted cloche. The black boots are the only part of this outfit she brought from Israel.

"I like secondhand stores. It's cool there are so many here," says Natalie, adding she still has a lot of shopping to do because "I don't have enough winter clothes."





Nicole Walters, JFGP marketing/communications manager, loves to accessorize her outfit with a scarf to add movement and variety. She purchased this scarf from Indigo Traders in Multnomah Village. On this early November day, a light breeze made the scarf dance.

"I start with a basic canvas of two neutrals and add a splash of color with either a scarf or fun jewelry," says Nicole.

She likes to focus on a triad of colors when she dresses.

"I like blue. I'm a sucker for a peacock print," she adds.



As Yael Grundstein says, "Every girl's got to have the little black dress. Black is appropriate for any occasion."

Yael is the JFGP executive assistant/receptionist at federation and the first person most people see when they come in the door. She selects her clothes for the office with that in mind.

"My boyfriend says my style is hipster, but I don't think I am that at all," says Yael. "I think my style is Boho-chic with a splash of preppiness."

She bought this dress at Banana Republic and the necklace at Macy's. The boots are a staple of her wardrobe.



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# An Inspired Design:

## *The Menorah through the Ages*

Story and photos by Amy R. Kaufman

Each year as we light the menorah, the beautiful symbol of the Jews, we recall the meaning of Hanukkah.

We can imagine what it meant to the Jews of the Second Temple in 165 BCE, when Judah Maccabee lit the seven-branched menorah he had ordered to be made and proclaimed the holiday of Hanukkah (dedication). Three years before, on that very day, the Syrian King who called himself Antiochus IV Epiphanes (manifest god) and his armies had massacred the Jews of Jerusalem and profaned the Temple, seizing the great golden menorah that stood on the altar. (1 Maccabees v.20)

The first menorah, as told in Exodus 25:26-26:9, was created for the Tabernacle in the wilderness by the divinely inspired artist Bezalel, whose “wisdom, insight and knowledge” enabled him to understand G-d’s intricate design.

The menorah was to be hammered from a talent of gold, all of a piece, with three branches emerging from either side of the shaft. The menorah was to have seven lamps. In his book *Horeb*, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch describes the adornments as “cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with its knob and petals.” He interprets the explicit instructions given in Exodus: “[O]n the middle shaft, there were thus a total of four flower cups, two knobs and two flowers. In addition, there was one knob under each pair of branches that came forth from the sides of the menorah ... and a knob under two branches of one piece with it. Thus the menorah had a total of 22 flower cups, 11 knobs, and nine blossoms.”

Lighting eight candles at Hanukkah connects us with the lighting of the seven-lamp menorah at the rededication of the Second Temple.

The menorah in the Tabernacle is to be kindled with “pure, pressed olive oil” and remain alight “from evening until morning” as “an eternal decree.” (Exodus 27:20-21) And so the seven-branched menorah, interpreted by artists through the ages, stands on the altars of our synagogues to this day. The Hanukkiah, with eight lamps and a separate candle used to kindle them (the *shamash*, or servant), came into use during Talmudic times and is lit only at Hanukkah.

That first Hanukkah commemorated the victory of the Jews in a series of battles against the Greek/Syrian armies, the last numbering 65,000 soldiers, according to historian Nathan Ausubel. As recounted in 1 Maccabees – the apocryphal book whose Jewish author is considered a reliable historical source – the king had ordered the Jews to “profane sabbaths ... to build altars for idols, to sacrifice swine.” Anyone possessing the sacred books was put to death; “they put to death the women who had their children circumcised.” (v. 41-60)

Looking back on these events in an account that relies heavily on 1 Maccabees, the eminent Jewish historian Josephus (37-101 C.E.) states, “And from that time to this we celebrate this festival and call it Lights.” Then he lapses into a reverie of exceptional pathos: “I suppose the reason was that this liberty beyond our hopes appeared to us, and that thence was the name given to that festival.”


The Talmud recounts the miracle that occurred when the Jews went in search of sacramental oil to light the menorah. They found only one small flask, enough for one day. They kindled the menorah, and the oil lasted for eight days. According to tractate Shabbat 24a, it is incumbent upon us to “publicize the miracle” by placing the Hanukkah lamp where passersby can see it, preferably by the door or at the window.

The great golden menorah stood in the Second Temple for more than 200 years. Then the invincible Roman armies, led by Emperor Titus, came to conquer Jerusalem. The Jews ferociously defended the besieged city, even as flames engulfed the inner sanctuary of the Temple in 70 C.E. The Romans were so proud of their victory that they erected the Arch of Titus in Rome, which prominently depicts the menorah among the spoils of war.

In one part of his article “Mysteries of the Menorah” (*Commentary*, 2008), Rabbi and scholar Meir Soloveichik discusses the controversy that ensued when, “in the late 1940s, the nascent state of Israel chose the menorah depicted on the arch of Titus as its symbol.”

The argument led to a mystery: whether the menorah depicted on the monument was really the menorah of the Second Temple. Soloveichik points out that the stone image has a “large stepped pedestal,” while “Halakhic tradition long insisted that it [the ancient menorah] stood on a three-legged base, and this has been confirmed by archeological evidence” dating to the first century C.E. The menorah on a “tripod” base appears on Jewish coins, on the mosaic floors and walls of ancient synagogues, on graves in Jewish catacombs, and in illuminated Hebrew Bibles.

Soloveichik concludes that Israel’s official seal, a menorah flanked by olive branches, “perfectly embodies the unredeemed condition of the world, a world in which there is both much to be joyously celebrated and much that remains to be mourned and to be longed for.”

History blazes up before us when we light the Hanukkah candles, and the menorah spreads light over the world. Hirsch describes the joy inherent in the design when he writes that “this whole light-bearing tree” signifies “a life of eternal, fruitful blossoming.” 



This replica of the menorah described in Exodus stands in a full-scale model of the wilderness Tabernacle near Eilat, Israel. The original specifications did not mention the base.



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# Hanukkah collection kindles memories of family and history



This hanukkah was owned by Sandra Friedman's great grandmother and it is the menorah the family lights each year at Hanukkah.

who immigrated to England for an arranged marriage and eventually came to Portland.

"I grew up seeing this menorah when we would go over to visit her in Old South Portland in a tiny apartment," said Sandra. "It had candleholders that could be turned at an angle."

Sandra eventually inherited the hanukkah from her grandmother, and it stands on the old secretary where her grandmother kept it. This is the hanukkah she lights every year with her husband, Barry, and her grown son, Marshall.

"It was something I really cherished looking at," she said. "It was as close as I could get then to something that had been a part of our family, how they immigrated and what they had to do to get here. Through it all, that menorah just came along. I'm the one in our family who really focuses on the history of our family, so having that hanukkah is important."

The collection is fast outgrowing the mantel and bookcase where it resides. "We take all of them out at Hanukkah time," said Sandra.

Prized beyond measure is the hand-hammered, filigree hanukkah Barry gave her when they were first dating.

"He had gone on a trip, and when he came back he gave me our first menorah," she said. "He said at the time, 'I found this, and I knew right then and there I was going to ask you to marry me.' It has two coins with menorahs on it and a pedestal base."

The sequel to the story is Marshall's contribution to the collection. "One Hanukkah he bought for us a menorah somewhat like the one Barry had given me," said Friedman. "I don't know whether that was on purpose. They're together in our cabinet."

She and Barry gave Marshall his first hanukkah just before he turned 1. "It's a tiny little one. The *shamush* is blue, and the rest of

by Amy R. Kaufman  
Photos by Deborah Moon

Sandra Friedman's 40-piece hanukkah collection stems from childhood, when, she said, she was awestruck by the "two big menorahs with seven branches" that still flank the bima of Congregation Beth Israel, her family's temple for generations and "the most beautiful sanctuary I've ever been in."

She was also fascinated by the 10-inch brass hanukkah – the nine-branched menorah used to celebrate Hanukkah – in the home of her great-grandmother, Sarah Arnsberg, of Bialystok, Russia,

the holders are painted red near the top. We did it more for us. Each year we gave our family one hanukkah, sometimes more."

The Friedmans treasure the 17-inch-tall hanukkah created by Robert Lipnick, "the son of a rabbi ... who felt a great need to fill the void created by the destruction of Jewish art in Europe throughout history," said Sandra. "Elie Wiesel commissioned the artist."


On a whimsical note is artisan Noi Volkov's big ceramic hanukkah depicting "Fiddler on the Roof."

Sandra also favors a "really old oil-burning menorah" her grandmother brought back from Israel. "I thought for someone in her 80s to go to Israel was remarkable."

Sandra said the hanukkah collection may have reached its limit. "My husband finally said 'enough,' so we've moved on to dreidels."

She said seeing the Hanukkah lights makes her think of family, "and that's the most important thing to us."

"It makes me reflect back on what happened, with the destruction of the Temple, and just the idea that we can survive. Look what our forefathers went through, and everything we've gone through."

She describes Hanukkah as a celebration of "a bitter time and a hard time; but it's also a celebration of the light itself. The shining of that just makes you feel good." 

Amy R. Kaufman is a freelance writer and editor in Portland.



The Friedman family's extensive hanukkah collection has overflowed the case where it is displayed all year until Hanukkah arrives.

# Oregon's Chanukah Resource Center



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# Hanukkah a treat for adults and children too

Story, photo and top five lists by Rich Geller



Hanukkah lights mesmerize children of all ages.

It's hard to believe, but Hanukkah is upon us once again. As Charlie Brown's little sister Sally might say, "I haven't even finished eating all my Halloween candy!" My kids can barely contain their excitement. "Daddy, how many more days until Hanukkah?" is the constant refrain around the house these days.

Hanukkah in Oregon is indeed an extraordinary experience. There are so many great things for all ages that eight crazy nights hardly seems sufficient. But before we explore the fun, first a little Hanukkah history.

Most Jews are familiar with the bones of the Hanukkah story. In the second century B.C.E. Judah "the Hammer" Maccabee led a ragtag band of misfits to defeat the mighty Syrian army. The defiled Second Temple in Jerusalem was subsequently rededicated, and one day's supply of oil miraculously lasted for eight. Since those ancient times the Festival of Lights has been commemorated by Jews around the world.

However, during the past century in America, Hanukkah has blossomed into a much more elaborate spectacle than practiced by previous generations. Just how did Hanukkah in America become the holiday we know today?

By the late 19th century, Hanukkah observance in America was in decline. Some Jews were enthusiastically embracing the spirit of Christmas, which alarmed Jewish leaders of the day. As Jenna Weissman Joselit explains in her remarkable book *The Wonders of America*, "For much of its history, Hanukkah fared poorly in the New World, a victim of neglect." Yet Hanukkah experienced a dramatic revival during the 20th century. After World War I, American Jews began to reinvent Hanukkah by borrowing from both the more mercantile and the more domestic aspects of Christmas. As a new consumer culture took root, Hanukkah mirrored the conspicuous consumption associated with the American Christmas celebration, itself a relatively recent innovation. As the State of Israel came into being, Hanukkah became grander still by association, as Israeli soldiers were often touted as latter-day Maccabees.

Today, in the 21st century, our own Rose City packs so many events into the eight days of Hanukkah that it is nothing short of miraculous. Most congregations hold Hanukkah parties during the eight days of the festival; contact your local congregation for details. Chabad of Oregon holds two of the best Hanukkah events in Stumptown. The annual menorah lighting in Director Park in downtown Portland is a wondrous sight. The Hanukkah Jewish Celebration Night at the Rose Garden in partnership with the Portland Trail Blazers is a blast. Come cheer on the home team Dec. 10.

Living as we do in Beervana, I look forward to the annual cornucopia of regional holiday beers. Portland's Lompoc Brewery will again offer their seasonal Hanukkah beer Eight Malty Nights. This decadent Chocolate Rye Porter boasts a roasted chocolate flavor with a sweet finish.

San Francisco's Schmaltz Brewing Co., proud brewers of kosher He'brew Beers, will again release their holiday gift pack featuring a

## TOP FIVE CHILDREN'S HANUKKAH BOOKS:

- 1 *Hanukkah at Valley Forge* by Krensky Harlin: Wonderfully told and beautifully illustrated, this stirring tale of independence and freedom is based on General George Washington's account of learning about Hanukkah from a Polish soldier at Valley Forge in 1777. Shifting between the time of the Maccabean Revolt and the American Revolution, and using some of George Washington's own writings as dialogue, this book draws wonderful parallels between the two conflicts. As Washington explains to the Polish soldier over the glow of the Hanukkah lights, "The fight for liberty is an ancient one."
- 2 *The Golem's Latkes* by Eric Kimmel: Charming tale of a Golem gone wild. When the Rabbi of Prague must visit the Emperor, he leaves it to his housemaid, Basha, to prepare the house for Hanukkah and make the latkes. The Rabbi allows Basha to work with his Golem, a mythical creature made of clay. "Mix, chop, peel, fry" is the refrain as the complacent Golem labors without cessation. The dull, yet somehow satisfied expression on the face of the Golem as the latkes pile up is priceless. Basha's acerbic wit and confident incompetence make this book utterly charming.
- 3 *Runaway Dreidel* by Leslea Newman: This exciting and silly tale of a dreidel run amok will delight any young reader.
- 4 *The Hanukkah Hop* by Erica Silverman: Sunny, warm images of happy Hanukkah revelers, fun rhymes and a retro tone come together in this Hanukkah jewel. The sing-song feel of this book will have your little ones doing the Hanukkah Hop in no time.
- 5 *The Borrowed Hanukkah Latkes* by Linda Glaser: This touching tale of a young girl reaching out to her lonely elderly neighbor and helping her share in the joy of Hanukkah teaches children the true spirit of the season.



TOP FIVE HANUKKAH TV AND MOVIE MOMENTS:

- 1 *A Rugrats Chanukah*: Whether you have small children or not, this animated classic is definitely worth picking up. The Jewish answer to *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, this holiday tale skillfully tells the story of Hanukkah through the eyes of the toddler heroes of Rugrats. In 1999 *TV Guide* praised the special: "The babies acting out their own version of the story is enough to entertain a child of any religious denomination, so learning the historical meaning behind latkes and dreidels is just an added bonus." As Tommy Pickles would say, "A Macababy's gotta do what a Macababy's gotta do."
- 2 *The Night Hanukkah Harry Saved Christmas*: Be sure to watch Jon Lovitz as the beloved Hanukkah Harry from *Saturday Night Live* on hulu.com or nbc.com. "On Moische, On Herschel, On Schlomo!"
- 3 *The Hebrew Hammer*: When Hanukkah is under attack, only the Hebrew Hammer can save the day. As a latter-day Judah the Hammer, this film's anti-hero downs shots of "Manischewitz straight up" before dispensing with the bad guys. A clever parody of the blaxploitation movies of the early 1970s, this flick will provide ample laughs as you digest your latkes.
- 4 *Can I Interest You in Hanukkah*: Sung by Jon Stewart to Stephen Colbert on *A Colbert Christmas*. In 2008 Comedian Stephen Colbert was comically serenaded by Mr. Stewart on the "joys" of Hanukkah, with lyrics such as, "It's not my least unfavorable time of year."
- 5 *Shalom Sesame: Chanukah at Bubbe's*: Muppets and menorahs; really all you need for silly holiday fun.

build-your-own-beer-bottle-menorah kit. This amazing kit includes eight different He'brew beers, a custom glass, Hanukkah candles and instructions to build your menorah. Among the beers will be He'brew's 16th annual Hanukkah release, Jewbelation Sweet 16 – brewed with 16 malts, 16 hops, a dash of chutzpah and an impressive alcohol content of 16%. As the packaging states, "This Hanukkah the candles won't be the only thing getting lit!" When your guests gaze upon the light of your beer bottle menorah, they will know that a great miracle happened here.

*continued on next page*

As the days grow shorter and darker  
we are called upon to share our light.

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If you're looking for a more kid-friendly treat for Hanukkah, look no further than the Beaverton Krispy Kreme for the very best doughnuts around. All doughnuts are certified kosher by Oregon Kosher. As a bonus, you can watch the doughnuts being made through a wall of Plexiglas. Your kids will thrill to the spectacle of doughnuts on the conveyor belt being drowned beneath a cascade of glaze. Fried in oil, Krispy Kremes are the perfect Hanukkah treat!

There are so many Portland restaurants offering fried Hanukkah goodies that you could dine at a different establishment on every night. Kenny and Zuke's Delicatessen, Kornblatt's Delicatessen, Baker and Spice, Mother's Bistro, Elephants Delicatessen and Three Square Grill all offer Hanukkah delights such as latkes, rugelach and Hanukkah cookies. Visit the Sweetness Bakery and Café in Southeast Portland and pick up some iced Hanukkah cookies. Be sure to swing by Sesame Donuts for more fried fun.

Another overlooked gem is the Albertsons on 5415 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy. in Portland. Chock-full of all your holiday needs featuring a kosher deli plus an extensive selection of fresh and frozen kosher foods, Albertsons is your one-stop Hanukkah shop.

Trader Joe's sells terrific kosher latkes in their freezer section. Their produce section is bursting with local apples. Why not liven up your latkes by making your own applesauce with some Columbia Gorge apples?

However you plan to celebrate the Festival of Lights this year, have a joyous holiday filled with peace, love and latkes. 

TOP FIVE MUSICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR HANUKKAH PARTY:

- 1 **Woody Guthrie's *Happy Joyous Hanukkah***: The Klezmatics. Woody Guthrie's second wife and three of his children were Jewish, and he wrote some fine Hanukkah songs in his day. The youngest of these children, Nora, approached *The Klezmatics* and asked them if they would write music for Woody's Hanukkah lyrics. The result is nothing short of spectacular.
- 2 ***Barenaked for Hanukkah***: The Barenaked Ladies, an EP featuring three songs, including a rousing version of "Hanukkah O Hanukkah."
- 3 ***Mr. Hankey's Christmas Classics***: This South Park soundtrack features two of the funniest and most offensive Hanukkah songs ever, and they are definitely for adult ears only. Key tracks: "The Lonely Jew on Christmas" and "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel."
- 4 ***Gods of Fire: Hanukkah Gone Metal***: Truly glorious. If Ronnie James Dio were Jewish, this is how he would have sounded.
- 5 ***The Latke Song***: Debbie Friedman: A kid's favorite with a disco beat. Shake your tuchus to this one!

Honorable Mention: *The Chanukah Song* Parts I, II, and III: Adam Sandler. The now classic Hanukkah song first performed on *Saturday Night Live* in 1994. It just isn't Hanukkah until I hear this tune.

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## How can Jewish or interfaith families turn their “December dilemma” into a positive, meaningful experience for children?



**Rabbi Benjamin Barnett**  
Beit Am Jewish Community  
Corvallis

The phrase “December dilemma” itself reflects the heart of the challenge here. It suggests a contest: Hanukkah versus Christmas. Instead, when we engage in and appreciate Hanukkah – and Judaism in general – in its own right, we expand the potential for Jewish life to impact us in meaningful ways.

During this season, I encourage us to look within. The question is not how to make Hanukkah as good as or better than something else, but rather how to make it special. This looks unique for each of us, but the opportunities are vast: music, stories, games and acts of generosity. As I trust that our children will be shaped most deeply by experiences in which they feel loved and at home, I ask myself: How can Hanukkah become an opportunity for my family and community to reflect and share light between and amongst us?

This question is not about Hanukkah. It is about meaningful Jewish experiences and positive Jewish identity. When held in the context of our yearly cycle and the myriad ways in which we can cultivate love of Jewish life and connection within Jewish community, the “December dilemma” becomes another opportunity to shape and celebrate who we are.



**Rabbi David Zaslow**  
Havurah Shir Hadash  
Ashland

Let’s reframe the “December dilemma” as the “December opportunity.” When I was a boy in Brooklyn magnificent Christmas trees decorated storefronts, apartment building foyers and Rockefeller Center.

Concurrently, throughout the city thousands of small menorahs sat humbly in the windows of homes and small businesses. Even giant department stores like Macy’s and Gimbels paid homage to the Festival of Lights with lovely menorahs in their windows.

There was no dilemma – Jews did Hanukkah. Christians did Christmas. I realize those were simpler times, and intermarriage was not prominent. Nevertheless, why call something a dilemma when it really is an opportunity? In the old days Jews knew how to do Hanukkah. Parents knew the blessings, songs, foods and games. Today, that skill set is lacking in many families. We depend upon Hanukkah parties in synagogues to get the blessings’ melodies and lyrics right.

So, here’s the opportunity – regardless of whether partners are both Jewish or not, it’s incumbent upon everyone to study a little, to download and learn the blessings, songs and stories in advance. In that way your home celebrations will be enhanced, your children will be enriched, and the miracle of Hanukkah will happen once again in your own home.

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**Rabbi Motti Wilhelm**  
Chabad of Oregon/Benaroya  
Jewish Learning Academy  
Portland


Not only in December but every day we must ask; “In a world of unprecedented exposure and opportunities, how do we make our children proud and secure with their Judaism?”

I recently returned from the international convention of Chabad rabbis. Rabbis from Utah to Uzbekistan have found the answer lies in these points:

They have questions, do you have answers? Our children are encouraged to ask; yet parents often feel unequipped to answer. The key to educating our children is through remaining lifelong students. Attend a Torah class, read a book or visit educational websites like Chabad.org.

We need to be able to communicate the relevance of our heritage and show how it is a guide to real life problems. Hanukkah did not just happen 3,000 years ago, it is the story of our struggle and the message that light overcomes darkness.

Joy! not Oy! Perhaps the most popular Jewish phrase is “Mazel Tov!” Jewish life is full of celebration. Celebrate Hanukkah, Purim, Pesach, Simchat Torah and visits to bubbe (grandma).

The best way for children to find meaning and inspiration in their Judaism is to see how their parents find meaning and inspiration in theirs. 

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# CHEF'S CORNER



## Minimize your latkes for tasty appetizers

Story and photos by Lisa Glickman

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights starting on the 25th day of Kislev, which may fall from late November to late December. Hanukkah usually falls somewhere near that other little holiday known as Christmas, but not this year. This year Hanukkah begins the evening of Dec. 8 and ends Dec. 16. For me that means it's time to light the menorah and invite friends and family over to sip some holiday cheer and eat some yummy food.

Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrians, who had desecrated the Temple. The holiday is known for the miracle of the one-day supply of oil that miraculously lasted eight days. For that reason oil is the main player in Hanukkah fare. Fried foods like potato pancakes (latkes in Yiddish and *livivot* in Hebrew) and jelly-filled doughnuts (sufganiyot in Hebrew) are traditional Hanukkah treats because they are cooked in oil and remind us of the miracle of the holiday.

Although they should be eaten in moderation, fried foods are delicious when done correctly. Cooking at the

right temperature minimizes oil absorption while creating that sublime, crispy crust on the outside of fried foods. Try to choose a healthier oil that's low in saturated fat. I like peanut oil because it has a very high smoking point and imparts great flavor. It's also low in saturated fat and high in polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats, making it healthier than frying with shortening. Soybean and canola oils are also good. Watch oil temperature like a hawk: if it's not hot enough, the food will soak up extra oil. Also, when deep-frying, make sure to leave plenty of room at the top of a deep, heavy pan and use a good deep-fry thermometer to keep an eye on the heat.


Hanukkah is called the festival of lights, and at our house it's also the festival of latkes. For us Hanukkah means latkes and although you can easily find latkes anytime on the menu of a good Jewish deli, Hanukkah signals the green light to treat yourself freely to these crispy, fried potato pancakes. I'll admit that occasionally I have attempted to reinvent the wheel and made latkes with

The inspiration for the antler menorah decorating this Hanukkah arrangement came from a picture of a menorah made from a tree branch. Antlers are pretty easy to find here in Central Oregon.

things like sweet potato, zucchini or even cauliflower and they can be delicious but I always come back to my standard recipe.

### Mini-Latkes

I use my food processor to grate four russet potatoes. I give the grated potatoes a rinse in cold water and a good spin in my salad spinner. Then I add two-thirds of the grated potato back to the food processor now fitted with the steel blade. I add half of a sweet onion, one egg and a couple of heaping tablespoons of matzah meal. Season with salt and pepper, and process until almost smooth. Then mix the processed potato back into the grated potato. I think it makes the perfect latke. My husband insists that they must be fried in schmaltz (chicken fat) to be authentic. Although chicken or even duck fat would be over-the-top delicious, it certainly is not the healthiest option, and olive oil works just fine. Additionally, frying in schmaltz would limit your options to non-dairy toppings. Here is an idea to reinvent the way I usually present latkes.

I use my small ice cream scoop to make mini-latkes. When they are lightly fried on both sides, I gently press them into my mini-muffin tin and place them in a hot (400 degrees) oven to finish cooking. Once finished, they can be taken out of the oven and set aside to wait for my guests to arrive. A quick reheat in the oven and they are ready to be topped with several of these delicious fillings for beautiful, hearty and delicious hors d'oeuvres. 

Lisa Glickman is a private chef and teacher who lives in Bend. She has made TV appearances on COTV in Central Oregon and recently appeared on the Cooking Channel's *The Perfect Three*. She can be reached via her website at [lisa@lisaglickman.com](mailto:lisa@lisaglickman.com).





Mini-latkes topped with an assortment of fillings make for hearty and delicious hors d'oeuvres.

**HERE ARE SOME GREAT MINI-LATKE FILLING IDEAS:**

**Goat cheese and Madeira figs**

Coarsely chop dried figs and place in a small saucepan. Cover with Madeira wine and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until wine is almost completely evaporated. Place ½ teaspoon of goat cheese on latke and top with figs.

**Sour cream and homemade applesauce**

Peel and coarsely chop 3 apples (I like honeycrisp). Place apples in a small saucepan with a splash of water, 2-3 tablespoons of sugar, juice of half a lemon and ground cinnamon to taste. Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer and cover. Cook about 15 minutes until apples are very tender. Mash gently with potato masher.

**Smoked salmon and crème fraiche**

Use good-quality lox or hard smoked salmon and top with a sprig of fresh dill.

**Smoked trout mousse with fresh apples**

½ lb. smoked trout

3 tablespoons butter or margarine

1 tart apple such as Granny Smith – peeled, cored and coarsely chopped

½ small red onion – peeled and coarsely chopped

1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 tablespoon brandy

A couple grinds of black pepper

2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil

Remove the skin and any bones from the smoked trout. Place the trout in the bowl of a food processor with the butter and process until blended. Remove to a separate bowl.

Add the apples and onion to the food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add back the trout/butter mixture, plus the lemon juice, brandy and pinch of black pepper. Process until smooth. Taste and adjust seasonings. Chill in refrigerator until ready to use.

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## Kryszeks' kosher chocolates unbeatable Hanukkah surprise

by Kerry Politzer

Joanne Kryszek, who co-owns Chocosphere with her husband, Jerry, never liked chocolate as a child. But when a friend brought her a Côte d'Or milk chocolate bar from Belgium, she had an epiphany: "This chocolate was different. It just changed my mind completely about chocolate." After a while, Joanne's friend stopped traveling to Europe, but her newfound craving for fine chocolate remained. Unfortunately, she discovered Côte d'Or and other fine chocolate brands were unavailable in Oregon.

Joanne said to Jerry, "There have to be other people looking for this chocolate; you can't find it anywhere. We have to start a website." The idea for Chocosphere was born. In 1998 the Kryszeks traveled to Europe and forged connections with major chocolatiers like Callebaut, Café Tasse, Jacali and Valrhona.

Chocosphere now operates a 6,000-square-foot warehouse in Tualatin from which it offers more than 50 brands of chocolate from all over the world. The company sells chocolate via its online store ([chocosphere.com](http://chocosphere.com)) and also provides bulk chocolate and cocoa powder to local chocolatiers. While Chocosphere has no plans to open a brick-and-mortar shop, local customers may schedule pickups at the warehouse.




Says Joanne, "Since I'm Jewish, I always had it in the back of my mind that I wanted to provide chocolates for folks who keep kosher."

When asked which Chocosphere products are suitable for those who observe kosher dietary laws, Jerry mentions several options: "The Valrhona bonbons have a kosher dairy certification. The Mozartkugeln is kosher – it's a round ball with marzipan enrobed in milk and then dark chocolate. We just got Van Cortlandt kosher parve cocoa powder for Passover, and we have Callebaut milk and dark chocolate bits, cocoa powder from Valrhona and Dagoba, and Scharffenberger bars and baking chunks. We sell cocoa nibs and a lot of other products that kosher homemakers could use."

Adds Joanne, "We also carry Bonnat; all the dark eating bars are kosher parve. The milk bars are kosher, and some of the fancy boxed chocolates are kosher too." Customers who wish to purchase kosher Hanukkah gifts can request that Chocosphere customize a special gift basket.

One local chocolatier that sources ingredients from Chocosphere is Small Comfort Chocolates ([smallcomfort-chocolates.com](http://smallcomfort-chocolates.com)), which is known for its chocolate bark. Owner Jonathan Edelson says, "These are thin pieces of chocolate with various inclusions such as toasted almond pieces, cocoa nibs or salted pistachios. I am also making something called 'enrobed gianduja,' which are small chocolate pieces filled with a hazelnut chocolate base." Edelson purchases kosher parve semisweet and bitter chocolate, cocoa powder, cocoa nibs and cocoa butter from Chocosphere.

As members of Congregation Neveh Shalom, the Kryszeks have donated baskets to auctions that benefit the synagogue. They also support the efforts of the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center, as Jerry is the son of Holocaust survivors. However, the couple's daily lives are mostly consumed by fine chocolates. With Chocosphere, the Kryszeks plan to continue pleasing their customers with a wide selection of chocolate that is both "difficult to source and delicious." 

Food and travel writer and jazz pianist Kerry Politzer is a recent transplant from New York. She greatly enjoys the Portland food scene. She has written for *WhereTraveler*, *In New York* and *Dessert Professional*.

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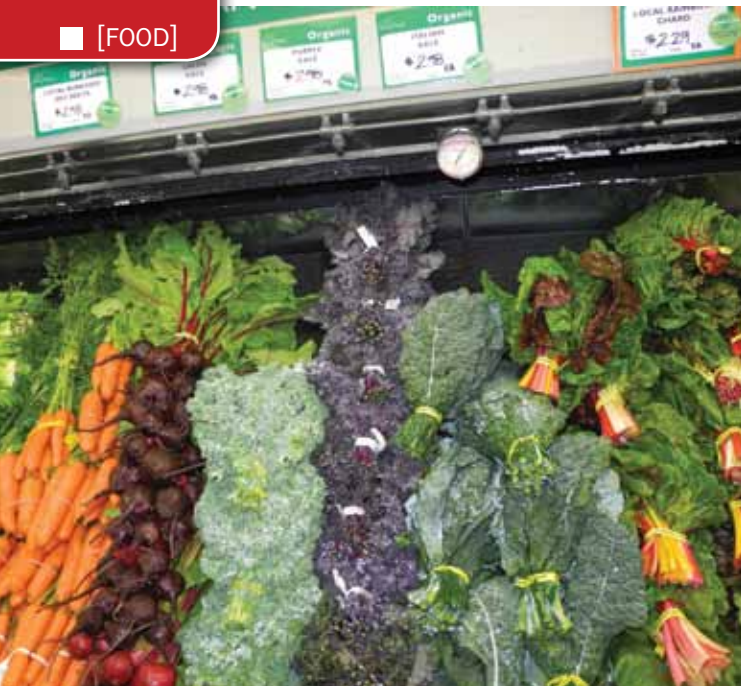


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Check out our holiday menu at any of our 12 stores or online at [newseasonsmarket.com](http://newseasonsmarket.com)





Food Front features locally grown produce even in the winter. Photo courtesy of Food Front

## Portland's food, co-op cultures converge at Food Front

by Elizabeth Schwartz

Portland is justly famous for its food culture, particularly its emphasis on local and sustainably produced foods. But Portland is also notable for something fewer residents know about: the number of cooperatively owned businesses that make their home here. According to a directory listing of cooperatives on the People's Food Co-op website, Portland has more than 50 cooperatively run businesses, including preschools, grocery stores, bike shops, housing co-ops and health care providers.

Food Front Cooperative Grocery combines these two aspects of Portland life under its two roofs. Food Front, which celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary earlier this year, began in 1972 in a modest storefront on Northwest 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Portland. Today they're in the process of completing extensive renovations to their current Northwest Portland location at 2375 NW Thurman, and five years ago they opened a second location at 6344 SW Capitol Hwy. in Hillsdale.

Food Front is a member-owned cooperative with more than 8,700 member-owners. You don't need to be a member to shop in either of its two stores. However, membership offers a number of benefits, including monthly owner specials, patronage dividends, a 5-10% discount during quarterly Owner Appreciation Festivals, and the power to both serve on and elect the co-op board.

Jessica Miller, Food Front's director of marketing and outreach, describes the various improvements to the Northwest store as "an aesthetic makeover," but also points out that the updated refrigeration they're installing will improve energy

efficiency. Several departments, including the deli, meat counter, beer, wine, cheese and produce, will be expanded.


"We'll have a meat department manager on site at the Northwest store who can provide customers with detailed information about the meats we sell, just as we do in Hillsdale," Miller explains. "We're really focusing on bringing in as much local meat and sustainable seafood as we can."

In the beer, wine, cheese and produce sections, customers will find even more local products, including a selection of kosher, biodynamic and organic wines, and a wider variety of items overall. To accommodate these expansions, the packaged grocery section will downsize.

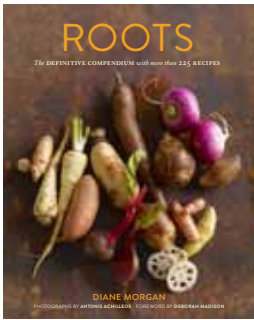
"Fresh is what we do best," Miller explains. "The way for us to stay competitive is to focus on our strengths." Packaged groceries will feature more local producers, something Food Front has been championing for years. "We particularly like to help newcomers get their foot in the door," says Miller. "We were the first store to do demos of Dave's Killer Bread; today he's a huge presence in local markets."

Along with producers of packaged foods, Food Front cultivates relationships with local farmers. Miller says this business approach has multiple advantages. "Supporting the local economy and supporting the community is the main reason why we do what we do," she explains. "Supporting local farms creates more local jobs. Organic farming is also better for the environment. Our farmers grow multiple crops, which is better for the soil and lowers carbon footprints. Also, when we buy farm-direct, we may pay a little more, but the quality is so much higher that it's worth it, and produce is of better quality when you buy it from local farmers." According to the National Cooperative Grocers Association, cooperative markets work with more than twice as many local farmers and food producers than do conventional grocery stores, and organic products account for almost 50% of total co-op sales, compared with only 2% in standard grocery stores. In addition, co-op employees earn an average of \$1/hour more in wages, and more than two-thirds of co-op employees receive health benefits, as compared with just over 50% of conventional grocery workers.

To help build relationships between their customers and producers, Food Front organizes an annual farm trip for their members; their most recent trip visited West Union Gardens, Phoenix Egg Farms, Sauvie Island Organics and Food Works. Food Front also supports local farmers' markets and CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture). "We don't see them as competition," says Miller. "Farmers' markets and CSAs promote the ability of people to buy local farm-direct food."

With Hanukkah beginning Dec. 8, Food Front is also a great place to stock up on latke ingredients, from the traditional onions and potatoes to alternative latke recipes, like carrot-parsnip or sweet potato-ginger. For non-traditional latke recipes, go to [blogs.forward.com/the-jew-and-the-carrot/133490/some-not-so-traditional-latkes-ideas/](http://blogs.forward.com/the-jew-and-the-carrot/133490/some-not-so-traditional-latkes-ideas/). 

Elizabeth Schwartz is a Portland freelance writer and founding member of Portland Tuv Ha'Aretz, Portland's Jewish connection to sustainable agriculture.



*Roots: The Definitive Compendium with More Than 225 Recipes*, by Diane Morgan, hardcover, 432 pages, Chronicle Books, \$40

## ROOTS: Both the edible and ancestral variety

by Kerry Politzer

Just in time for winter comes this delectable collection of root vegetable recipes from Portland cookbook author Diane Morgan. The award-winning writer has assembled a comprehensive guide to these hearty vegetables that nourish our bodies and souls. Inspired by the cooking of her Jewish grandparents, she forges connections between her heritage and the cuisines of Latin America and Asia.

Morgan's cookbook opens with a vignette about finding "scary-looking" roots at the Portland Farmers' Market. After coming away with a basket of celery root and burdock, she is compelled to demystify the "underworld of roots." Morgan then explores both sweet and savory presentations of over two dozen kinds of root vegetables. She showcases common specimens like potatoes, carrots, and beets as well as the more obscure galangal, malanga, crosne and scorzonera. The author also includes recipes for roots that are used as seasonings, such as ginger, turmeric, wasabi and horseradish. (Interestingly, Morgan's grandfather grew his own horseradish and prepared it for Passover.)

The book includes a glossary of basic botanical terms as well as a brief history of the consumption of roots. Recipes are

organized by vegetable. Each new section begins with information about the history, varieties, nutrition, availability, storage and basic preparation of the ingredient. Morgan concentrates on plants with edible underground parts that come from roots, stems or leaf bases. She excludes edible bulbs such as onions and garlic, as they would be outside the scope of her book.

For more information visit [www.dianemorgancooks.com](http://www.dianemorgancooks.com). 



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# Create A Jewish Legacy

*Where passion and estate planning meet*

by Julie Diamond

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation has been selected as one of seven pilot communities for the new Life & Legacy – a community partnership program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

OJCF will be eligible for match funds from the Grinspoon Foundation for two years along with the guidance and mentorship of the Grinspoon organization to support Oregon's Create A Jewish Legacy. With these added funds, the program will provide training, outreach and incentive grants for participating OJCF partner organizations to help them secure the future for themselves and, therefore, the community at large.

An often-cited 1998 study by Havens and Schervish, of the Boston College Center on Wealth and Philanthropy, documents an expected intergenerational transfer of wealth of \$41 trillion to \$136 trillion between 1998 and 2052. "After the economic downturn from 2000-2003, they revised the study and determined that the estimate was still valid and that at least \$6 trillion will benefit charities." ("Why You Should Promote Bequests," by Brian Sagrestano, JD, CFRE, *Planned Giving Mentor* journal, June 2009.)

Create A Jewish Legacy is an OJCF initiative to engage our Jewish community, individuals and organizations in more awareness, understanding and action in this critical area. Portland and Oregon are following a national trend in the emergence of this effort, with many Jewish communities embracing Create A Jewish Legacy at some level.

Why now? The largest charitable gifts most often are created through estates. We know this from the generous examples of the late Chuck Karsun, Arthur Krishevsky and the Tarshis sisters, whose tremendous endowments support Jewish education and other important needs (see related story pages 48-49). We are losing our elders and are unsure what the next generation's giving priorities and patterns will be. Surely, they will be different from those of their parents and grandparents. It's urgent to work with our caring and committed leadership now and engage the next generation at the same time.

The San Diego Jewish Community Foundation's Gail Littman, vice president of endowments and communications, introduced Create A Jewish Legacy in 2004 in San Diego. That community now has more than 800 individuals who have made bequests and other planned gifts of approximately \$200 million. Littman came to Portland last May to share the successful national model she has created.

At the June 2012 board of directors meeting, the foundation board voted to dedicate the majority of the annual distribution from the Community Endowment Fund (unrestricted) to support Create A Jewish Legacy, including funding trainings, outreach and incentive grants for participating organizations.

Currently, OJCF estimates the community endowments and legacy gifts at a combined value of between \$14 million and \$16

Gloria Bacharach is shown here with her family when she was named the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation's outstanding Legacy Society member.



million. We don't have good data on what our partner organizations may know in terms of other planned gifts. We are working in the community to understand this information and acknowledge these generous gifts of the future.


One exciting aspect of Create A Jewish Legacy is the development of an Endowment Book of Life, which would include personal statements and/or video stories of people such as Gloria Bacharach, who was honored as the foundation's outstanding Legacy Society member at its June Annual Dessert Reception.

Gloria was radiant that night; a beautiful corsage adorning her elegant cream-colored suit. She was surrounded by four generations of family and numerous friends. Gloria's children spoke of her lifelong example of kindness, generosity and caring for others. Rabbi Daniel Isaak of Congregation Neveh Shalom spoke with great affection of her steadfast presence at the synagogue. Gloria expressed her appreciation, shared family memories and wished that her beloved husband could have been there. "Any good that I may have done for our Jewish community has been a tribute to my late husband and my inspiration, Albrecht, who always reminded me that charity begins at home," she concluded.

Eric Rosenfeld, president of the foundation, noted that Gloria's generosity has been expressed through the establishment of a charitable trust, a charitable gift annuity and a donor advised fund with OJCF. These charitable financial vehicles will establish the Albrecht and Gloria Bacharach Memorial endowment when Gloria passes. This endowment will provide financial support in perpetuity to Congregation Neveh Shalom, Camp Solomon Schechter, Portland Jewish Academy, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Jewish Family & Child Service/TASK.

Planned giving combines a passion for Jewish life and values with an effective approach to charitable giving through estate planning. Gift vehicles include charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, endowments funded with appreciated stock in the present or through the estate, and simple bequests. The process is no different than leaving an estate gift to your alma mater, an arts organization or a hospital. Historically, those kinds of organizations have been more skilled than Jewish community organizations at asking donors to leave a bequest.

Legacy development is fundamental to our community's long-term future, and it's exciting to see it gaining support and momentum in our community.

For more information about Create A Jewish Legacy, contact OJCF, 503-248-9328, or visit [www.ojcf.org](http://www.ojcf.org) or [www.ojcfgift.org](http://www.ojcfgift.org). 

Julie Diamond is the executive director of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and is a certified gift planning associate.



*"Creating our legacy through OJCF has enabled us to support the organizations we care about well into the future, while setting an example for our children in the present."*

**Jonathan Glass and Sarah Kahn Glass**

## What will your legacy be?

The Hanukkah season is a time to exchange gifts with those we care most about. It is also a wonderful time to think about the significance of making a legacy gift to protect the future of your synagogue or favorite Jewish or secular organizations. Your will, estate plan or endowment gift make this possible.

Leaving a bequest to support our rich and thriving Jewish community is an ultimate example of Tzedakah and enables you to create a permanent legacy that can keep our community strong... forever.

Call Julie Diamond at 503.248.9328 to learn how you can help preserve Oregon's Jewish community for years to come.

## Create a Jewish legacy.



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## OREGON JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION LEGACY SOCIETY

OJCF's Legacy Society honors the following individuals who have made a legacy gift to the community through OJCF in their will or estate plans. Membership in OJCF's Legacy Society is a unique opportunity to create a lasting legacy for yourself, your family and our Jewish community.

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Asa & Adrienne Arnsberg  
Jeff & Sandy Axel  
Gloria Bacharach  
Max Birnbach  
Gerel & Henry\* Blauer  
Lynn Bonner  
Barbara Brown  
Eden Brown  
Milt Carl  
Margery Cohn  
Sid & Ruby Conroy\*  
Julie Diamond  
Stuart & Leah Durkheimer\*  
Jill & Richard Edelson  
Evelyn Findl

Marilyn Forse  
Josh Frankel  
Ruth Friedel  
Morris Galen  
Burton & Bernice Gevurtz  
William Gittelsohn  
Jonathan Glass & Sarah Kahn Glass  
Ben & Janice Isenberg  
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Mimi & Ze'ev\* Orzech  
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Carolyn Weinstein  
Bertha Woolach\*

# Family values guide multi-generational giving



Laurie Rogoway displays some of the simple tools she uses to help families discuss values rather than dollars when considering philanthropic goals. Photo by Deborah Moon

by Deborah Moon

In recognition of the unprecedented transfer of inherited wealth and responsibility for philanthropic funds, the Jewish Federations of North America picked 22 communities, including Portland, for a program to train professionals to engage the next generation of donors.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland selected Associate Executive Vice President Laurie Rogoway to participate in the training program presented by 21/64, a nonprofit division of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies. Rogoway says she will serve as a resource for all local Jewish organizations and synagogues who want assistance in engaging families in multi-generational philanthropy.

“One of the most important lessons I’ve learned is that if you can move the conversation away from dollars and engage family members in discussions of values, then commonalities quickly emerge,” says Rogoway. “Generations may act on their values differently, but when you remove the barrier of focusing on money, the similarities are amazing.”

Rogoway says the seemingly simple tools developed by 21/64 are effective vehicles that allow family members to articulate the guiding principles that matter to each of them. For instance, one deck of cards allows family members to choose a group of photos that reflect their values and another deck lists motivations such as tolerance, compassion, freedom and loyalty. When family members select cards from the decks, they provide openings for meaningful conversations, says Rogoway.

In October 21/64 consultant Rebecca Trobe met with representatives of about 20 synagogues and Jewish agencies to discuss the importance of identifying families who might be interested in exploring multi-generational philanthropy. Rogoway emphasizes that federation and its partner the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation are resources for donors and organizations.

“If a synagogue identifies a family, I help the family work on their philanthropic goals,” says Rogoway, emphasizing that meeting the family’s priorities is her primary goal.

“If a family has been supporting a synagogue and leaves money to children and grandchildren who might be in a different place, they may not support the synagogue,” explains Rogoway. “But if we sit down together and discuss values, then the children may come to the realization that this has been an important part of their family and want to continue the support. ... While grandparents might have supported the synagogue in general, the grandchildren might decide to support a specific area of the synagogue such as music or food. That satisfies the multi-generations and keeps the community healthy.”

Rogoway can be reached at 503-245-6473. 

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# Simply Generous

*Endowments keep names and legacies alive and help community thrive*

by Sura Rubenstein « Photos courtesy of Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

Julie Diamond often thinks of people she's never met, shares reminiscences about them and reflects on King Solomon's observations that "charity saves from death."

The people – Rebecca and Sada Tarshis, Art Krichevsky and Chuck Karsun among them – left most of their money to charity, aiding a host of institutions and causes close to their hearts.

"It's a thrill to have a role in honoring the legacies of these generous people," says Diamond, executive director of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, which oversees distribution of some of the funds. "Every year, we remember their lives, their families and what made them special."

The Tarshis sisters, Karsun and Krichevsky were all people who lived modest lives and worked at regular jobs during their lifetimes – but whose generosity of spirit continues to have an important impact.

Their gifts have been used to establish scholarships, support Jewish education and outreach, and aid their synagogues and the larger Portland community.

"Their endowments keep their names and their legacies alive," Diamond adds. Though none of the four married or had children, their generosity is their bridge to future generations.



Rebecca and Sada Tarshis were born in Berelov, Russia, and came to Portland with their family in 1921. The last of five siblings who grew up here, they died just 10 days apart in 2001. Rebecca was 95 and Sada was 90.

Rebecca, or "Becky," went to work at the age of 16 as a medical



Rebecca and Sada Tarshis

stenographer and saved up for a college education. After graduating from the University of Oregon with a degree in journalism, she returned to Portland. She worked for the Portland Clinic, where she became director of the Department of Publications and Medical Research, and edited the clinic's bulletin for 30 years.

She was one of the founding members of Oregon Press Women in 1951 and a leader in the Association for Women in Communications (originally Theta Sigma Phi, a national honorary group for women in journalism). She frequently wrote freelance articles for local and national publications, and co-authored a biography of Col. Edward D. Baker, an Oregon senator and friend of Abraham Lincoln, published by the Oregon Historical Society in 1960.

She also had served on the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women for both Govs. Mark Hatfield and Tom McCall.

"She was a wonderfully friendly, outgoing person," said Barbara Peeples, who knew Tarshis through Women in Communications. "She was just so vital."

Sada Tarshis worked as an executive secretary for John A. Roebling and Son, bridge designers whose work includes the Brooklyn and Golden Gate bridges. She retired in the mid-1970s.

Both Tarshis sisters enjoyed traveling. Rebecca toured the Soviet Union with a group of journalists in 1963, and went to China in 1977 with the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association. In later years, they shared a penthouse at the Ione Plaza, now the Vue Apartments, near Portland State University.

When the sisters died, they left about \$2.7 million to 14 organizations. The largest single gift, about \$1.2 million, funded an endowed professorship at Doernbecher Children's Hospital; the \$430,000 left to the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation created the Rebecca and Sada Tarshis Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides about \$20,000 annually for college or postgraduate scholarships.

Other recipients included Jewish Family and Child Service, Portland Jewish Academy, Congregation Shaarie Torah, the Hevra Kadisha of Portland, 9-1-1 (Emergency Dispatch), the Portland Chapter of Hadassah and Multnomah County Library. Smaller amounts went to groups ranging from Loaves and Fishes to Oregon Press Women.



Chuck Karsun and Art Krichevsky were friends and lifelong bachelors who took care of their mothers. Both worked for the State of Oregon. They lived simply and cared very much about the community in which they lived.



Marv Nepom, the attorney for both men, drafted their wills and knew of their interest in making a charitable bequest. But even he was surprised at the scope.

Karsun, who died in 2007, left \$3.5 million to the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. Krichevsky, who died in 1995, left \$2.5 million.

“These were two unusually successful, thrifty men,” Nepom said. “I hope their names live on forever.”

Karsun was best known as a musician and entertainer. His Chuck Karsun Orchestra played big band and swing music at venues including McMenamans Grand Lodge, other local clubs and fraternal lodges, and the Rose Schnitzer Manor, as well as at wedding receptions. Karsun was the drummer and the booking agent.

His day job was with the State of Oregon, where he was a fraud investigator for the Oregon Employment Division for 31 years. He was a member of Congregation Shaarie Torah, the Eastside Jewish Community of Portland and the Jewish Senior Citizens Club.

Born in Portland in 1930, he grew up an only child in Old South Portland, living with his mother and grandmother. After urban renewal cleared the neighborhood, they moved to a house near Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard, where Karsun lived the rest of his life.

He attended Portland Hebrew School at the Neighborhood House, Failing School, Lincoln High School and the University of Oregon. Friends remember that he had a collection of 15,000 records.

He started a short-lived investment club at Shaarie Torah, which disbanded because of Karsun’s insistence that the group – which pooled its money – just buy stocks and never sell. “In hindsight, he was right,” says Mike Imlah, Shaarie Torah’s office administrator and a member of the group.

Karsun suffered throughout his life from a condition called ichthyosis, a genetic disorder that caused his skin to flake off in clumps. He always looked as if he were sunburned, but he kept away from the sun.

“I always had special admiration for Chuck because of how he overcame his physical handicap,” Nepom said. “He didn’t let it get him down.”

Krichevsky, too, worked for the State of Oregon. He spent 31 years as a caseworker in the Children’s Services Division. Born in Portland in 1926, he had an abiding interest in children and education.

But where Karsun was very specific about his bequests, his friend, Krichevsky, had a different approach.

“Both of them knew what they wanted,” Nepom said. “Art wanted someone else to make the decisions after he was gone.”

Aside from some small gifts to relatives, Krichevsky wanted his estate to be used for Jewish education. Today, the Arthur P. Krichevsky Scholarship provides grants for tuition to Jewish day schools (for grades 1 and up), for the Oregon Board of Rabbis Teen Israel Experience and for some post-high school study.



Chuck Karsun | Art Krichevsky

Karsun wanted his legacy to have a broader sweep – to support the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Jewish Family & Child Service, Portland Jewish Academy, Shaarie Torah, the Jewish National Fund in New York and OJCF’s Community Endowment Fund.

“Their generosity and their impact are inspiring,” Diamond said, adding that a donor doesn’t have to be a mogul or even a millionaire. Everyone can make a difference by giving what he or she can.

After all, as King David noted in Psalm 112, “Charity endures forever.” 

Sura Rubenstein is a freelance writer in Portland.

A vertical advertisement for Mama Mia Trattoria. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with faint, repeating Star of David symbols. The text is centered and reads: "Happy Chanukah from our house to yours! The Mama Mia Family hopes to see you this holiday season." Below this is a dark red oval logo with "Mama Mia" in white script and "TRATTORIA" in white block letters below it. At the bottom, in yellow text, are the details: "LUNCH - TAKEOUT - DINNER", "HAPPY HOUR - HOLIDAY PARTIES", "DOWNTOWN PORTLAND", "SW 2ND AND WASHINGTON OFF THE MORRISON BRIDGE", "439 SW 2ND AVE 503.295.6464 www.MamaMiaTrattoria.com".

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Oregon 2-year-old Noam O'Glasser decorates one of the more than 70,000 tzedakah boxes sent out by PJ Library to children enrolled in the monthly free book program. "I think that it is important to introduce children to Jewish mitzvot at a young age. I love how excited Noam now gets to celebrate Shabbat rituals, and I hope that tzedakah

is another tradition that he will steadily learn to understand," said Avital O'Glasser after her son received his tzedakah box and stickers. For PJ Library founder Harold Grinspoon, tzedakah has very personal significance. "Jews consider it an act of justice to give charity to those in need," he says. "It is not something we do just because it feels good; we do it because our tradition obligates us to give." For information on PJ Library, visit [pjlibrary.org](http://pjlibrary.org).

## BB Camp a pioneer in planned giving

B'nai B'rith Camp was both the first Jewish camp in the Northwest to participate in a planned-giving program and one of the first Oregon organizations to launch a Create a Jewish Legacy program. BB Camp joined the Create A Jewish Camp Legacy Program of the West Springfield, Mass.-based Grinspoon Institute for Jewish Philanthropy, in 2009.

"We have 85 members, mostly couples," says Michele Koplan, executive director of the Jewish residence camp on the Oregon coast. The camp is owned by the B'nai B'rith Men's Camp Association.

One of the earliest to sign up for BB Camp's planned giving program was Steve "Sudsy" Friedman, who got his nickname at camp working as a dishwasher in the camp kitchen. "I went to camp all my life - family camp and then as a camper, counselor, dishwasher, men's camp counselor and now a men's camper."

"Men's camp president Irv Potter asked myself and Jamie Harper to co-chair the launch of the Etz Chaim Legacy Society," says Friedman. "We spent three years laying the groundwork and building the base. I am proud to say we are over 80 members strong and the membership continues to grow as people realize how important BB Camp is to the success of Jewish children in their self-confidence and spirituality. These children are the future leaders of our community."

For more information, contact Koplan at 503-452-3444. 

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# Ask Helen

*Cancer scare makes senior consider giving to charity*

Dear Helen:

*I'm in my 70s and reasonably well off. I don't have family whom I feel a need to subsidize with my assets after my demise. I'm not a grinch, but the mishpoche are already well off. I've begun thinking about death more lately, after a brush with cancer. I am in remission and according to my doctor I could have a long life. But I could also die a lot sooner, and all the money I have saved could be doing the needy some good. I want to put my money where my mouth and votes have been going for the last 50 years. I know that once I raise this issue with everyone from my synagogue to nonprofits, I will have to fend off the planned giving managers. Do you have any pointers about how to open the door without inviting a stampede?*

Future Donor

**A Nosh of Jewish Wisdom: A wise man understands a hint; a donkey needs a fist. Moroccan Jewish saying**

Dear Donor:

This is a great time to talk to your attorney. That's the only way your wishes can be legally protected. You can call, ask, get information and indicate your wishes. But a legal document is your best protection that they'll be observed. Even then, unless someone cares enough to monitor and enforce, you have to assume you're giving a gift to an organization you trust.

Choosing wisely is an important first step. In a preliminary call to every group you'd consider giving money to, ask for a meeting with a planned giving rep. Ask what minimum makes it worth their time to talk to you regarding possible conditions attached to bequests. Explain you're thinking of a donation in the \$10-50K range. (I just made up those numbers; adjust as needed.) Say you have specific opinions about uses – e.g., direct assistance to those in need, a library fund, social justice policy, whatever matters to you. Explain you still need your money now, but that you're happy to share once you're gone. Ask what guarantees they will give that your wishes will be honored and a bequest will not disappear into a general use fund. Ask if they have specific language for you to put into your will. Then narrow the targets to ensure the money is used most effectively. Kudos to you for putting your assets where your heart is.

A resident of Eugene since 1981, Helen is a member of Temple Beth Israel, where she studies and speaks on Torah. She claims to have black belts in schmoozing, problem-solving and chutzpah. She's a writer and an artist ([www.kabbalahglass.com](http://www.kabbalahglass.com)).

Please email your questions to [helen@yourjewishfairygoddmother.com](mailto:helen@yourjewishfairygoddmother.com).



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Janet Kennedy  
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# When I grow up, I want to be a ...

by Liz Rabiner Lippoff

Ask 10 children – ask 50 – what they want to be when they grow up, and not one of them would pick Janet Kennedy Unitan's profession. The flip side: ask 10 parents what job they wouldn't take if you paid them, and I bet Janet's job would be on the list. Yet, in Janet's words, "I absolutely love my job."

Janet removes people's head lice for a living.

Janet runs Lice Knowing You in Beaverton. It's part clinic, part salon. People – lots of people – go there to get checked for lice. If they have them, they can purchase the company's all-natural proprietary treatments or they can make an appointment for Janet and her staff to laboriously comb every single critter from their hair. Results are guaranteed. The rest of the family gets checked for free.

Sherri Paru of Beaverton is a fan. She and her daughter had lice last summer, and it took them two months to get rid of them using over-the-counter treatments. "It was the longest summer of my life." This year, when her daughter started itching, Sherri went right to Lice Knowing You.

"It's warm and friendly and we were lice free in one treatment," says Sherri. Now they go in once a month to be checked.

That's one big source of Janet's job satisfaction. "Our clients are living with archaic parasites on their heads. Of course it creeps them out. Lice are actually harmless, but almost every single person, whether a CEO or a small child, is anxious and stressed. When they leave here, it's like a huge burden has been lifted."

Lice Knowing You is owned by Nancy Gordon, a Seattle-based businesswoman who launched four successful clinics there before dipping her toe in Oregon waters. The Beaverton office was first; Eugene was next, featuring mobile units. Janet handles the day-to-day operations in Beaverton, hires and trains staff, and does community outreach.

She visits pediatrician offices and she gives talks to medical staff, teachers and parents. She brings her team to do free lice checks for organizations like the Portland Jewish Academy and B'nai B'rith Camp. "I get to share accurate information and answer their questions," she says. "Everybody who gets treated can be an advocate for safe, effective prevention and treatment."

Janet graduated with a degree in environmental science and moved to Oregon to be with her sister, Sandy Nemer. She landed a job educating people about environmentally friendly building supplies and was in charge of the national distribution

of a German line of nontoxic paints. She then took time off to have her two children, and her time hanging out at the MJCC with other young families is a memory she treasures.


Last year, though, as a single mother with two grade-school children, work again became a priority. Janet hoped for something consumer-based but health-related. Educating people to remove stigma about lice appealed to Janet, and the natural products are another key factor. The businesswoman, the scientist, the mom and the Jew in Janet all told her Lice Knowing You was perfect.

The CDC estimates there are up to 6 million reported cases of head lice a year in the United States, and that's just in children. "If every person used just one bottle of drugstore lice product, that's a lot of chemical," Janet says. "The reality is most people have to treat over and over because they don't do it right the first time. As a biologist, I can't help but be troubled." Janet would like to see some responsible research on exactly how over-the-counter chemicals like drugstore lice products are impacting the urban environment. Meanwhile, she's treating people naturally, one at a time.

"I believe in tikkun olam," Janet says. "How wonderful that it's part of my job."

\*\*\*

Final note: I know you wanted me to ask this question, and of course I did.

No, Janet has never caught lice from a client. 

Liz Rabiner Lippoff is a Portland freelance writer and a medical marketing specialist at Liz, ink: [www.LizInk.biz](http://www.LizInk.biz).

## LICE IN YOUR LIFE? Advice from Janet Kennedy Unitan

If you think you may have lice, do a "wet check" to confirm it. Eyeballing isn't good enough. Lice are small and the nits are even tinier. Using a fine lice comb (available in the health/beauty section), comb through carefully from scalp to the ends of the hair.

If you do have lice, you must remove them manually using a product and a lice comb until there is nothing there. For a little girl with long hair, this can take a few hours. Lice Knowing You's professionals estimate 45 minutes for short hair, up to two hours for long hair.

If you don't have lice, don't treat them proactively. The drugstore products are strong chemicals and won't keep lice away once they are rinsed out. You may want to consider LKY's prevention spray that uses natural oils, but there are other things you can do.

### To avoid lice:

- Keep long hair tied back.
- Teach your child not to share scarves, hats and brushes.

### Janet's last piece of advice:

- Don't get scared, curtail play dates, or otherwise let lice take over your life.

Lice Knowing You • 503-874-4824 • [www.LiceKnowingYou.com](http://www.LiceKnowingYou.com)

## Portland law firm purchases historic building


A group of shareholders of the family law firm Gevurtz Menashe has purchased the historic Fleischner-Mayer Building, 115 NW First Ave., from the Bill Naito Company. The purchase includes the adjoining parking lot. Once renovations are complete in early 2013, the law firm will move its offices from the U.S. Bancorp Building to the new building, with plans to occupy two floors. One of the largest firms in the United States with a practice limited to family law, Gevurtz Menashe has 22 attorneys and 21 support employees.

"This is not only a strategic business move for us, it's a reflection of our love of this community and those who have helped build it," said Albert Menashe, a founding shareholder of Gevurtz Menashe. "We are pleased to have acquired this wonderful historic building from the Bill Naito family. They were a pleasure to work together with on this transaction, one which involved two of Portland's iconic immigrant families."

The building will receive a substantial modernization, including the build-out of the firm's office space on the fourth and fifth floors, along with common area improvements.

Designed by noted Portland architect Edgar Lazarus, the 38,000-square-foot Fleischner-Mayer Building was completed



in 1906 as an office and warehouse relating to the waterfront commerce located just blocks away. As shipping by water gave way to other shipping models, the vitality of the Old Town commercial district sagged and the building stock deteriorated. In the 1920s, the dry goods firm of Fleischner-Mayer Company occupied the building. In the following decade, it served as the Armory Annex and housed Field Artillery manual drills. In the 1950s and '60s, the building housed Norcrest China Company, a wholesale chinaware importer. In the late 1970s, the interior was renovated and adapted for ground floor restaurant use and upper story offices. 

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# Surrogacy puts Portland on the map



A gay Israeli couple, in Portland to pick up their twins born to a surrogate mother in October, are joined by one of the new babies' grandmothers. Rabbi Michael Cahana notes that at least one grandparent came to Portland with each of three gay Israeli couples who had children via surrogate births this year. "It was so beautiful to see the grandparents accepting them as a couple and parents. I know for many gays and lesbians, that is a dream."

by Deborah Moon

Portland is on the map for gay couples in Israel who turn to surrogacy to fulfill their desire to become parents in a society where parenthood is the ultimate goal.

That sentiment, backed up by a recent article published in the *Journal of Family Psychology*, was voiced by two gay couples who came to Portland in October for the birth of their children to surrogate mothers. The rabbi who helped them through the process echoed that sentiment.

"To become a family and a parent is the ultimate goal for everyone," says one couple, who asked that neither their first nor last names be used.

The second couple agrees. "In Israel, it's mandatory – if you are Jewish, you have to have kids. Being gay is no excuse for not having kids," says Gal. His partner Mickey adds, "A Jewish mom is not about to let her gay son stay without kids anymore."

Congregation Beth Israel Rabbi Michael Cahana, who has now helped three couples navigate Israel's religious requirements involved in surrogacy, agrees that Israel is a "child-centered culture." As an example, he says that when he and his wife had triplets, American friends would lament how difficult that must be, yet when the new family was in Israel, people would say, "You are so lucky."

"It was so heartwarming," says Cahana of Israelis' view of children as a blessing.

The JFP article published online Aug. 13, 2012, cites numerous studies on the importance of parenthood in Israel.

(Editor's note: To protect their own privacy, and that of their children and their surrogates, the couples interviewed here asked not to have their full names used.)

The article by Geva Shenkman references 2011 and 2007 studies to conclude that gay men identify with "the dominant cultural norms that strongly encourage marriage and children. . . . These familistic values are magnified by the fact that being a parent is the primary path toward acceptance in Israeli society."

Yet there is a gap between the cultural reality and Orthodox-based Israeli law.

Though Israeli law is very progressive in some areas, such as legal rights for cohabitating same-sex couples and paid parental leave for fathers (gay or straight), domestic adoption and surrogacy are largely closed to the gay community, according to both couples.

In this nation largely founded by Holocaust survivors, where Jewish tradition emphasizes the importance of family, the drive to be parents is complicated for gays. One couple notes, "Israel is a country that relies on biblical law," and it has a pervasive military culture in which "manhood is macho. That does not leave much room for gay men to become parents."

Many gay couples have turned to surrogates in either the United States or India to resolve the conflict between wanting to be parents and the stumbling blocks in Israel that hinder that desire. Portland has become a popular destination through word of mouth among the gay community centered in Tel Aviv. Though surrogacy is cheaper in India, there are restrictions – such as an inability to know the surrogate and a requirement that only one man can be a biological parent even in the case of implanted twins. Both of the couples who came to Oregon in October had twins, with each man the biological father of one twin. In Israel, gay men are legally able to adopt their partners' biological children.

"In India you can't have two fathers," says Gal. "That was very important to us," adds Mickey, noting that is why they chose the United States.

And Portland was at the top of their list for several other reasons, including the success gay friends had had here.

"Portland is on the map – at least for Israeli gay Jews," says one. "The social climate is very liberal in Portland. The gay community and diversity are accepted here."

He adds, "Portland has a good (surrogacy) agency and a very good (fertility) clinic – among the top five in the U.S. with high rates of success; and the (egg) donors and surrogates are here."

Oregon Reproductive Medicine and the Northwest Surrogacy Center have worked with numerous Israelis over the past few years.

A gay couple who now have a 4-year-old born to a surrogate in Portland started an agency in Israel and work with the Portland agency.

"We've worked with many, many families from Israel," says John Chally, who in 1994 cofounded the Northwest Surrogacy Center with his wife Sandy to help prospective parents navigate surrogacy logistics including finding appropriate surrogates.

Surrogacy has become increasingly popular as success rates have risen over the past five years. The success rate was only about 20% in 1994; Oregon Reproductive Medicine now has a success rate of around 85% to 90%, says Chally.

The Challys have visited Israel twice and say they have helped one heterosexual couple, several individuals and “a bunch of gay couples.”

Gal and Mickey say the Challoys “left a great impression” during one of their Israel visits.

So after the Challys found a potential surrogate for them, Gal and Mickey came to Portland to meet her and her family and to visit Oregon Reproductive Medicine. “That’s where the magic happens,” says Mickey. “They have good statistics (with success) and amazing people.”

Both Israeli couples say they hope to stay in contact with the women who carried their children.

“She needs to feel comfortable we are from Israel and gay,” notes one couple. “It was important for us that she choose us ... not just a financial motive.”

“She gave us an amazing gift to fulfill our biggest dreams. We are so grateful,” they say, noting they want to “maintain a balanced connection” in the future.

The other couple is already planning a return trip.

“We are like family now,” says Mickey. “When the kids are older we’ll come back. We’d like them to know their carrier because she is a major part of their story.”



Daniel, now home in Israel, was the first surrogate birth for a gay Israeli couple this year in Portland.

Their surrogate, Michele, shares that hope. “I felt very comfortable carrying their children and now they are part of our family,” she says, noting she put a lot of thought into it before agreeing to be a surrogate for a gay couple from Israel.

As the mother of three children, Michele says she and her husband decided “it was time to bless someone else with their dreams of having a family.” Since one of her children weighed more than 10 pounds at birth, she says she felt she could comfortably carry twins. “You are helping make their dreams come true. That’s (twins) what they really wanted and I was able to do that for them.”

Both couples say they felt very welcomed and accepted during their time in Portland.

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“Beth Israel is amazing ... a very welcoming community,” says the one couple who spent Simchat Torah at the Reform synagogue. “We had an amazing experience ... (that) helped us be more spiritual.”

In Israel, gays have to fight to be recognized as a family, according to Mickey and Gal. The acceptance they found as a family was “so touching, so easy” at Beth Israel. “As gays in Israel, you are used to confrontations with religious institutions. Here it is so liberal and so kind.”

One area where Cahana helps the couples is with the children’s conversion. Since the mother is not listed on the birth certificate and Jewish status is traditionally conferred by the mother’s status, children must undergo conversion to be accepted as Jews under Israeli law. Though Cahana has performed numerous conversions, he says the documentation required by Israel is very specific and detailed. Reform conversions from other countries are accepted in Israel.

Cahana was eager to help: “Here is a couple committed to each other who want to create a family. How wonderful is that?”

Noting that many gays in Israel are secular and seldom attend synagogue, Cahana says he hopes the warmth they found at Beth Israel encourages them to seek a similar setting in Israel.

“I hope they will find synagogues in Israel that are welcoming so they can raise their children not just in an Israeli but also a Jewish religious environment.” 

## Volunteers, donors help meet holiday needs

Jewish Family & Child Service, in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Portland Jewish Academy, Gan Israel Day Camp, Mittleman Jewish Community Center and more than 100 dedicated volunteers gathered at the MJCC on Nov. 18 for Super Sunday – Community Action Day to assemble and deliver 140 Thanksgiving Food Boxes to families that may have otherwise gone without a holiday meal.

Committed volunteers are an essential part of our Thanksgiving Food Box delivery event each year as many people who receive food from us experience barriers including transportation or physical mobility limitations. With the help of our volunteers, JFCS was able to feed a record number of 483 individuals this year!

JFCS still needs holiday help.


Each year, JFCS organizes the “Mitzvah Menorah Adopt-A-Family” campaign to provide some relief and hope for individuals and families during the holiday season. Donate your time, a gift, or a financial contribution to a family in need – we’ve made it easier than ever for you to make a big impact in the community. Go to [jfcs-portland.mydagsite.com](http://jfcs-portland.mydagsite.com) to sign up to help with “Mitzvah Menorah Adopt-A-Family” campaign.

How you can help: Shop personally for a Wished-For Gift purchase it and drop it off at one of the three participating sites; Make a financial contribution of your choice on the registry and we will do the shopping for you; or Volunteer to shop for and/or deliver gifts to families on Dec. 5 or 6.

\*\*\*

Sunshine Pantry, founded 31 years ago by Sharon Straus, is one of the very few food banks that provides kosher food and gluten-free foods for those with specific dietary needs.

“Our needs this year are great we are asking the community to bring new toys for all ages for our wishes and gifts program,” says Straus. Diapers, toiletries and all varieties of meats are especially needed. Straus said the pantry also needs financial donations to help pay for the extra needs during the holidays.

Donations can be dropped off or sent to 7795 SW Cirrus, Bldg. 26, Beaverton 97005. (Parkside Development). To volunteer, contact Straus at 971-506-7827 or [sunshinepantrydir@gmail.com](mailto:sunshinepantrydir@gmail.com) or visit [www.Sunshinepantry.org](http://www.Sunshinepantry.org). 



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PHOTO COURTESY OF CIRCUIT BOULDERING GYM



# Climb your way to fitness

PHOTO COURTESY OF PORTLAND ROCK GYM

A happy camper takes her turn at the King Swing during Portland Rock Gym's Youth Summer Camp.

The Circuit Bouldering Gym is dedicated to bouldering, a style of climbing that does not require ropes or harnesses. The gym features shorter walls with thick padded floors to protect the climbers. Many people find it easier to get into bouldering than traditional roped climbing since no technical knowledge is required, according to gym manager Quinn Dannies.

## by Deborah Moon

Indoor rock climbing offers a fun fitness option for people from all walks of life. Portland offers several options for indoor climbing, including the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, which in the late 1990s installed the first rock wall at a JCC in the country.

Key staff at three gyms agree that climbing offers physical and mental benefits.

“Climbing is a great full body workout; besides building base strength and overall fitness it also develops flexibility, balance and agility,” says Quinn Dannies, Circuit Bouldering Gym manager. “The benefits aren’t all physical either, learning to climb will also improve your problem solving skills and ability to focus.”

Portland Rock Gym Assistant Manager Anna Rymill agrees: “Climbing is a full body workout! You will work your arms, your legs, back and core all at once. Mentally, climbing forces most people to go outside of their comfort zone. Staying focused and present in the moment is essential when climbing. The confidence I personally have gained through climbing, and pushing my limits, has been unmatched by any other activity. As with any physical activity, climbing is a great stress reliever.”



OOLITE PHOTOGRAPHY/ELIE BULKA

Rock climbing instructor Laura Hixon climbs the rock wall at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

At the MJCC, the rock wall is just one portion of the center's fitness facility.

"People who use the rock wall at the MJCC use it for a variety of reasons," says Katie Brown, MJCC sports and recreation coordinator. "Some want to improve their overall strength, others just want to challenge themselves to see if they can get to the top. It's also used as a component of a full fitness program with our weight room and pool."

The Portland Rock Gym also has a weight room and cardio equipment. Rymill says some gym customers are long-time outdoor climbers who use the gym to train and stay in shape. Others have never climbed outside but enjoy the novel alternative to mainstream gyms as a way to work out, build strength or lose weight. Customers range in age from 3 to mid-70s, though parents must belay their children younger than 6.


Circuit Gym offers kid-specific areas, as well as a full range of adult terrain at both gym locations. Dannies notes

that climbing appeals to a broad range of ages and fitness levels because it is a very versatile activity.

All three facilities offer a range of classes and open climbing opportunities (see box for locations and contact information).

Portland Rock Gym offers classes for every stage of climbing, including an introductory lesson, which comes with a free week of climbing that includes the gear rental. The gym is open daily and offers a bouldering area and four auto-belay systems for climbers who come without a partner.

In addition to youth classes, the MJCC rock wall has drop-in times with an instructor available to help climbers of various levels. Drop-in hours are 2-4 pm, Sundays and 5-6 pm, Wednesdays.

Circuit Gyms are open daily for drop-in climbing, with no orientation or reservations required. Classes range from intro to bouldering to more advanced technique and strength-training classes. After-school clubs, youth teams and summer camps are available for youth. 

## INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING

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Portland Rock Gym • 21 NE 12th Ave., Portland • 503-232-8310 • portlandrockgym.com

The Circuit Bouldering Gym • 6050 SW Macadam Ave., Portland • 503-246-5111 • 410 NE 17th Ave., Portland  
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Left: Jennifer Felberg is the dealer for a card game at Robison. Above: Life Enrichment Director Jennifer Felberg leads a session of "Latin Moves with Jen" in the Robison Jewish Health Center Living Room.

## Life Enrichment is more than activities


Story by Liz Rabiner Lippoff; photos by Peter Korchnak

Life Enrichment is the new name for the Robison Jewish Health Center's activity program, and Cedar Sinai Park has appointed Jennifer Felberg to be in charge.

"We are focused on person-centered care, and we are here to enhance all aspects of our residents' lives," says Kimberly Fuson, CSP's chief program officer. "The new name is a better fit."

Born and raised in Portland, Jennifer served as an activities assistant for Cedar Sinai Park's Adult Day Services before taking on her new responsibilities. She has been a professional singer, a cruise ship entertainment coordinator and a personal trainer at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Naturally creative, she enjoys putting together a fun and interesting schedule for the residents.

But, she says, well-being is much more than activities. This fall, for example, Life Enrichment helped make sure residents were registered to vote, that their ballots would get to them at Robison, and that they would get help with the voting process if they needed it.

"I love working with seniors," she says. "This is my calling." 



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# Ageless advice

Ageing Age Spots by Elizabeth VanderVeer, M.D.

Brown spots, also known as age spots or liver spots, are just one type of the lesions that can occur on skin. Even though most people think their brown spots have suddenly “appeared overnight,” what finally comes to the surface of the skin as a brown spot is really the result of decades of sun damage. Even if you were not a “sun worshipper” like I was – using baby oil, iodine and tin foil – you can still get brown spots.

While these spots can occur on the face, chest, hands and body at any time, they often start to appear around age 40.

Unfortunately, skin cancer is one of the fastest-growing types of cancers in men and women of all ages. The incidence of melanoma – the deadliest type of skin cancer – is rising at alarming rates.

Adequate precautions against unnecessary sun exposure are essential for the prevention of skin cancer, but most of us have gotten enough sun exposure in our youth to make us vulnerable to all types of skin lesions, including skin cancer. Sun also causes the vast majority of other lesions on the skin, including harmless brown spots known by many different names.

It is essential that any new skin lesion that does not go away and any spot that changes size, shape or color be evaluated by a physician. Regarding lesions on the skin, there is a saying in medicine, “If it grows, it goes,” meaning, it at least requires an assessment and possibly a biopsy, or complete removal with evaluation by a pathologist.

Once the spots have been determined to be benign, there are a few effective ways to mitigate or erase them. Most effective treatments require a visit to a physician’s office, and few treatments for brown spots are covered by insurance. But that does not mean that their removal has to be expensive or unsightly.


Chemical peels – performed in a medical office – can be very effective. Peels work by removing skin layers at a deeper level and faster pace than normal skin sheds. Peels can be used on the face, chest, arms, hands and more. Usually, when the right peel is used, a significant reduction in discoloration of the skin can be eradicated with minimal to no downtime.

Another common way to remove brown spots is liquid nitrogen, or what most patients think of as “The Spray Gun at a Doctor’s Office.” Liquid nitrogen works by temporarily freezing a brown spot, thus causing it to crust and fall off over time – hopefully taking away the brown spot that was treated.

In the cosmetic physician’s office, there are often some more advanced techniques available for the removal of brown spots. Lasers and Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) treatments have really become the gold standard for removal of these lesions. It is essential that you receive a consultation before you sign up for a laser or light treatment as there are numerous things to take into account when getting these treatments. Medications, sun exposure, baseline skin color and medical conditions can all play a role when choosing a laser or light treatment for your skin.

Lasers and light treatments can be used for “spot treatment” of your spots, or if the spots are numerous or confluent, a full face, neck, chest, hand and/or other extremity can be treated.

IPL treatment is one of the most popular treatments in my office. It can remove brown spots and help with overall skin rejuvenation. But, not all IPL machines are created alike. In order to be effective, and IPL machine must be medical grade (meaning it requires a physician to own this type of machine,) well-maintained and operated safely and effectively by an experienced laser technician. You should never receive an IPL treatment if you have had recent sun exposure!

The biggest reason I see for patients not receiving treatment for their brown spots is simply a lack of knowledge that anything could be done! So, whether you have one brown spot or too many to count, if you would like to have them removed, seek the attention of a medical professional for proper diagnosis and removal of any spots that bother you. It is truly amazing how removing just a single spot or two can make you look and feel significantly better about your appearance. 

Elizabeth VanderVeer, M.D., is a board-certified internist and president/medical director at VanderVeer Center. A native Oregonian, she is a fourth-generation doctor who has dedicated her practice exclusively to aesthetics for many years and specializes in nonsurgical cosmetic medicine. Dr. VanderVeer is a published author and a sought-after international lecturer as well as a national trainer for numerous industry leaders.





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# Life on the Other Side

## Farewell to the King

by Anne Kleinberg



On Nov. 4 Israel bid farewell to a king. His name was Shaul Evron, and he was the undisputed king of the Israeli culinary scene. He was also a man very dear to my heart.

I was a newcomer in the foodie world in 1998 when I interviewed him for the *Jerusalem Post*. Actually, the whole concept of foodie hardly existed then, and when it did start to emerge, it was because of Shaul's influence. He was a man without children, yet many of the country's top chefs thought of him as "Abba." The eulogies at his funeral, the comments in the news and the looks on people's faces all point to the sense of great loss.

If you are lucky, you will have a few mentors or muses in your life. People who have touched you, made you feel good about yourself, people who have left an indelible impression. Shaul did that for many, including me.

He would have been embarrassed to hear all the things being said about him. As people joked at his funeral, he would have told everyone to stop it and get on with their lives. He might have said, "Oh, just go eat a good steak somewhere and forget all this nonsense." Or, more likely, he would have poured you a glass of wine and asked your opinion about something.

Shaul grew up in Tel Aviv with a Russian mother who excelled in French and Belgian cooking. He traveled extensively and ate his way through myriad cuisines. A career in journalism led to writing about food, which led to co-authoring several cookbooks. He wrote about meat and kosher Italian food, he introduced food photos in the newspapers, he served up the topic of cuisine to the Israeli public and it has been expanding ever since. At last he found his place at Yoezer Wine Bar, which he opened in Yaffo in 1995


with his childhood friend Tzippie Asaf. It was at Yoezer that everyone gathered the night his death was announced. The chair at the end of the bar was Shaul's, and his presence will always be felt there.

I had my first glass of Beaujolais with Shaul, and I did not care for it. He understood. I also had the most delicious glass of Chablis with him, and I loved it. He smiled at my reaction and sent me home with a bottle. He fed me plate after plate of food during our interview, and I could see his enjoyment as I sampled salmon tartare in a soy, wasabi and saki sauce; gravlax with a sweet dill sauce; country paté slathered on chunks of warm bread; foie gras; Salade Nicoise with fresh tuna and anchovies; slow-cooked lamb stew; cold sliced lamb with a pepper crust; corned beef as they make it in New York. I'm not a demure eater – and he loved that.

He was not a man of many words; he could easily sit silently. Perhaps that is why, when he spoke, you drank up every word.

It looked as if he did not take care of himself – he was a large, barrel-chested man who smoke and drank and coughed a lot. In recent years he forfeited the smoking but the drinking? Never! I always wanted to caution him, to ask him to please take care of himself, but I couldn't; no one could.

We once made a date to tool around Jaffa so that he could introduce me to the little hole-in-the-wall places known for their Bulgarian food on Jerusalem Street. I picked him up at Yoezer in my car, and he refused to put on the seat belt. You think I could argue with him? He kindly asked me what I would like to eat, and spoke to me about how the different courses were made. I felt like the luckiest woman in the world – Shaul Evron was taking me out to lunch! Shaul Evron was talking to me about Bulgarian food! Shaul Evron was spending time with me, a nice Jewish girl from New York whose Hebrew was pretty broken and whose knowledge of food left much to be desired.

I've taken the opportunity here to memorialize this extraordinary man. I hope that when you come to Israel, you'll visit Yoezer and drink a toast to Shaul's memory. L'chaim! 



Anne Kleinberg, author of *Menopause in Manhattan* and several cookbooks, left a cushy life in Manhattan to begin a new one in Israel. Now she's opened a boutique bed and breakfast in her home on the golf course in Caesarea. For details, visit [www.annekleinberg.com](http://www.annekleinberg.com) and [www.casacaesarea.com](http://www.casacaesarea.com).

# TEL AVIV: The city that never stops



The Octopus Club opened in Tel Aviv in December of 2010. A typical dance bar with all the latest music and lots of remixes, the club is very popular with young adults.

At any time of the day or night you can find people out on the streets, in one of the city's many bars or sipping quality coffee at the 24-hour cafes.

Tips for going out in Tel Aviv:


**When:** People in Tel Aviv head out for a night on the town anywhere between 8 pm and 4 am. Most restaurants are open until at least midnight, with special night menus beginning at 11 pm. Local bars start hopping around 9 pm; if you arrive at a popular bar later, it might take you a while to get in. Dance bars and clubs are packed by 1 am and stay that way all night long.

**During the weekend** (Thursdays-Saturdays), out-of-towners join the local and tourist crowd, so be sure to arrive early or have reservations.

**Age:** Bars, clubs and dance bars usually check for ID. The entrance age varies according to the specific place or party, so check in advance.

**Tipping:** Since most waiters and bartenders live off tips only, it's customary to tip them generously. The official tipping rate is 12%.

**Alcohol:** Most bars and clubs offer a wide selection of alcohol, draft beers, vodka, whiskey and cocktails.

**Where:** Tel Aviv has several entertainment areas, each with its own atmosphere, people and customs. Each area will offer you the local bar, the local successful restaurant and usually a good place to listen to live music. 

by Natalie Nahome

Tel Aviv is a perfect city for tourists and people who love having fun. Its passion for life gives rise to every possible type of evening entertainment. Called the city that never stops, Tel Aviv lives up to this description every day of the week from dawn to dusk and from dusk to dawn.

Tel Aviv's nickname means that the nightlife goes on until morning. Bars are the trendy choice as the main nightlife outing; pubs and music clubs also are in. Restaurants and cafés are open at least until midnight. In the summer you can find bars located on the beach. In Tel Aviv you can find a club to match any type of music you like, from mainstream to dub step and reggae.

Many of the clubs offer different kinds of music each night of the week to attract all kinds of audiences. But you know what you will find at some of the clubs. The very popular Octopus is a typical dance bar with all the latest music. The Reading 3 is a spacious venue for live concerts and parties that features top Israeli and international bands. The Cheaser Bar

features music ranging from rock to heavy metal.

If you are a jazz fan, be sure to check out the Shablul Jazz Club. Shablul is unrivaled as the home of contemporary Israeli jazz and the place to experience the best of jazz in Tel Aviv.

Over the years Tel Aviv has become Israel's cultural center with a vibrant night life that is as open for tourists as it is for Israelis. The city offers an amazing variety of cultural venues that goes well beyond the music clubs and dance parties. Movie theaters screen current and classic movies, while theaters present classic and modern plays or stand-up comedians. Other venues feature dance companies from Israel and around the world, music, cinema and performing arts festivals. Street shows provide free entertainment for passersby. People come from all over the world to enjoy all Tel Aviv has to offer.

Many events and festivals dot the calendar all year long but especially during the summer.

Natalie Nahome is the Israeli Shlichah (emissary) to the Jewish community of Portland.



# BIBI'S GAMBLE

*Despite Netanyahu's support for Romney, Obama supports Israel's right to defense*

by Mylan Tanzer

The recent U.S. presidential elections were the eighth I have witnessed as an Israeli. Going back to Ronald Reagan's 1984 re-election, the special and somewhat complex relationship between the United States and Israel has given each campaign an interesting angle in both the Israeli media and the daily street corner or coffee shop discourse. This dynamic fascinates me personally as it provides me with new insights as to how my fellow Israelis view my native America. But none of the past elections came close to the interest and anxious excitement that the Obama-Romney race created.

This can be attributed to the well-publicized divide between the two countries' leaders that has characterized Obama's first term. His Cairo and Istanbul speeches and the detached manner in which he related to Israel exacerbated the lack of personal chemistry between the president and Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu. The result has become known here as "the Gamble." Netanyahu's support for his longtime friend Romney (with whom he shares a common benefactor, Sheldon Adelson) and his confrontation with the administration on its approach to Iran as the elections approached, convinced many that Netanyahu was meddling and had laid his bet on a Republican victory.

While no one has offered any hard evidence of interference by Netanyahu, there is no doubt that Netanyahu wanted a Romney victory. Several polls during the campaign indicated a majority of Israelis agreed, even though during Obama's first term, security cooperation and coordination had reached unprecedented levels. American financial aid to develop and manufacture the Iron Dome missile batteries (which had an amazing success rate of intercepting Hamas rockets before they hit our cities and saving Israeli lives in the recent Gaza conflict), and a significant increase of the U.S.-led sanctions against Iran did little to sway Israeli public opinion.

In a recent Channel 2 news talk show, media consultant and IDF former chief spokesman Avi B'nayahu commented that the "American-Israeli relationship is based on a strategic relationship and a special relationship." The strategic relationship under Obama is as robust as it has ever been. The special relationship, which Israelis have become accustomed to in almost all administrations since the Nixon years, is nonexistent with Obama.

For Israelis the special relationship is the president's acknowledgment of what the Jewish people have been through, what we have achieved, how we have suffered and continue to suffer from Arab terror, what Israel has achieved and an appreciation for the unwavering loyalty that Israel has shown America.

While Obama has acknowledged some of this, he has done it in a manner that illustrates a world view vastly different from those of his predecessors. While it is important for the president to appear even-handed and objective to play a crucial mediating role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, many of his statements sadly indicate he views Jewish history and Palestinian history as similar narratives.

That the Palestinian leadership embraced Hitler, aligned itself with the Soviet Union and the most notorious anti-American regimes, redefined terror, and continues to incite violence against Israel, Jews and the West in schools and other institutions seems completely lost on Obama.

At least he does seem to internalize the intolerable situation reached in the south of Israel shown by his support for Israel's "Pillar of Defense" operation in Gaza, but this can be attributed to the "strategic relationship."

Many understand that decisions in a Romney presidency probably would have been similar to those Obama will make in his second term. Yet this was overlooked due to the tone of the Obama presidency.

Netanyahu knew what a Romney victory would do for his status at home and abroad. Also, a case can be made to justify Netanyahu's confrontational approach with Obama on the Iranian issue. It also can be argued that Romney would not have pressured Israel against a ground assault in Gaza, a tactic which proved a psychological hindrance to Israel during the conflict and boosted Hamas. Nonetheless, Netanyahu's actions were clearly a serious gamble that could have severe consequences now that Obama has won a second term.

There is probably some culpability on the part of Netanyahu's American political guru, Arthur Finkelstein, who projected a Romney victory. But Bibi is smart enough to know the famous saying that "gambling by taking sides in politics is the best way to get nothing for something." The burning question now amongst Israelis is will Obama somehow punish Netanyahu by trying to influence the Jan. 22 elections in Israel? Judging by Obama's public support for Israel in Gaza less than two weeks after he defeated Romney, if Obama held a grudge against Netanyahu, then he remembered what Oscar Wilde once said: "Forgive your enemies, nothing annoys them so much."

Writing in *Ha'aretz* Aluf Ben offered the best analysis: "Relationships between nations depend on interests and not on the hostility or hatred between the two leaders. With all of the loathing between the President and the current Prime Minister, there is no need to expect or hope that Obama will punish



Netanyahu because of the latter's meddling in the campaign and his support for Romney. ... Clearly all of this speculation is ridiculous and outrageous."


Ben goes on to write that in his heart, Obama probably wants to stick it to Bibi but this isn't a personal matter. "Obama leads a superpower and doesn't need unnecessary diplomatic fiascos. He knows that Netanyahu is secure in his chair without any serious challengers, and there are too many pressing mutual interests on the agenda such as Iran, Egypt and Gaza, as well as Syria."

I wonder where the U.S.-Israel relationship is going. I am sure Obama does not have any deep-rooted or traditional anti-Israel bias. However, as someone who grew up and went to college in the states during more or less the same period as Obama, I understand the liberal, humanist orientation Obama represents and how it has shaped his opinion on Israel. I, too, was raised and educated in this ilk. It remains a part of me. But in today's one-dimensional portrayal of global issues, Israel is hypocritically villainized for an unending list of exaggerated or fabricated transgressions. There is no doubt in the minds of many Israelis, myself included, that this is how Israel is viewed by growing numbers in liberal America.

The recent elections show the overwhelming backing Obama received from the growing number of minorities and immigrants. America seems to be shifting to the left.

While the growing numbers of minorities and immigrants in Israel also support the current leadership here, this is where the parallel ends. Israel's religious and ultra-religious minorities are quickly becoming a demographic force to be reckoned with, and Russian immigrants are now the largest ethnic group. The one common denominator among these groups is their unwavering support for the ruling right-wing coalition and its policies.

It seems that America is going one way and Israel the opposite. Plenty of Americans are not naïve about the reality that Israel faces, and plenty of Israelis understand that without a mutually negotiated settlement with the Palestinians, the situation is untenable. But the influence and power of these groups are diminishing. I fear that the day may arrive when Israel will sorely miss Obama, and conversely, America will one day remember that Netanyahu's warnings should have been heeded.

Amidst this pessimism, Israelis always find some optimism. Therefore, let us not forget that a close second place in the mutual-loathing-between-leaders competition is held by Jimmy Carter and Menachem Begin, and look what they achieved. 

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.



**(Obama) does seem to internalize the intolerable situation reached in the south of Israel, as shown by his support for Israel's "Pillar of Defense" operation in Gaza.**

## Call for Nominations

### Harry Glickman Scholar Athletes of the Year

The Oregon Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center are seeking nominations for a male and a female high school student as its **Harry Glickman Scholar Athletes of the Year**. Any Jewish scholar-athlete who lives in Oregon and is a junior or senior in high school is eligible. Nominees will be judged on academic and athletic achievements as well as his or her commitment to community service. **Winners will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the "Celebrating Champions" Friends of the Center Dinner on February 21, 2013.**



**All nominations must be submitted by January 15, 2013. To submit an application visit [www.oregonjcc.org/hsathlete](http://www.oregonjcc.org/hsathlete).**

For additional information, please contact Jennifer Baldwin 503.535.3594, [jbaldwin@oregonjcc.org](mailto:jbaldwin@oregonjcc.org).

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# ROOM REDO

by Jan Behrs

With visitors headed to town for Hanukkah, winter break or New Year's, a little extra space is a blessing.

If your grown son or daughter has moved on leaving you with an underused room in your home, consider a quick redo. Using what Barb Friedman, owner of Oswego Design & Remodeling, calls flexible furnishings, a room can serve multiple uses.

"Even in newly constructed homes, we're seeing smaller rooms with flexible uses, rather than one room dedicated to a sole activity," Friedman said. "An extra bedroom can be a home office, craft room, exercise room or library that turns into a guest room with a Murphy bed or a desk bed – a drawerless, bed-size desk that flips over into a bed when needed."

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**If guests are rare, get a fold-away bed so the room can do double or triple duty.**

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## GUEST ROOM

The first step in upscaling a bedroom for guest use is to de-personalize it. Box up the posters, stuffed animals and trophies and remove any furniture that screams "girl's room" or "boy's room." Guest rooms should be gender-neutral.

Neutralize the wall color and carpeting. If the guest is likely to be a son or daughter and family, take into account their color preferences but use an almost-white version of the color they like.

If guests are rare, get a fold-away bed so the room can do double or triple duty. Otherwise, choose two twin beds and put a good-sized, rectangular table between them, with two small lamps. Add another table with a chair and mirror to serve as a vanity or desk, plenty of sturdy pillows for a reading backrest on the bed and a place to set a suitcase.

Niceties include an alarm clock (that doesn't tick), reading material, tissues, water bottle, notepad, pens and pencils, and plenty of extra blankets (folks visiting the Northwest in winter often feel the damp weather as colder than those who are accustomed to it). A TV and channel guide are thoughtful additions, and fresh flowers say "I'm so glad you came!"

## HOME OFFICE

Remove any bedroom furniture or turn a single bed into a sofa by pushing it against a wall and adding lots of colorful pillows. Adding a sofa bed or a daybed equips the office to serve as a guest room, too.

Choose a desk big enough to accommodate your computer, printer and so on, as well as give you open space to work. Placement will depend on where the electrical outlets and phone jacks are. For the sake of your back, get an office chair; don't be tempted to use just any old chair. You'll also need bookshelves and a file cabinet, but you don't need to think utilitarian here. Furniture-style cabinets and shelving will fit better with the rest of your home décor. Place them near the desk so you can reach your work easily. Install new shelving in the closet to store office supplies and hide clutter.


Rethink the lighting. A bedroom usually has a ceiling fixture smack in the middle of the room, but that's not optimal for desk work. Use desk lamps, floor lamps and task lighting to optimize your workspace.

"Think about changing the flooring, too," Friedman said. "A water-resistant floor is easy to clean, especially good for a craft room, and you can soften it with area rugs."

## MEDIA ROOM

Those huge entertainment armoires so popular a decade ago are up for grabs on Craigslist now that thin, wall-mounted TVs and smaller and smaller media components are available. That's a welcome gift of space for turning a bedroom into a media room for two to four people. For a more elaborate home theater, you would need a room larger than most bedrooms, one located away from the other bedrooms because of the noise.

For a bedroom-turned-media room, figure out how to totally block out light (blackout curtains), dampen noise volume (carpeting or area rugs) and provide seating (recliners are great; some come with cupholders). A rectangular room is best, one with the fewest windows, closets and vents. Use the closet to store games, movies and music.

Install a dimmer switch so you can control light levels for different activities. Place the TV on a short wall for maximum depth of the seating area and line up the seating four across or two-by-two. Place seating a distance double the width of the TV screen, directly across from the screen. If you have space, add a small table for snacks. 

Portland freelance writer Jan Behrs specializes in stories about remodeling, gardens and real estate. She moved to Oregon from Wisconsin in 1980. Her work appears in *The Oregonian*, *Better Homes and Gardens* and online.



Rob and Mara Shlachter | Photo by Donna Kleinman

# Rob and Mara Shlachter to receive Sussman Award Dec. 13

by Deborah Moon

Rob and Mara Shlachter will receive the Oregon Area Jewish Committee's 2012 Maurice D. Sussman Award at a dinner in their honor Dec. 13 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

OAJC presents the award annually in memory of the late Maurice Sussman to honor individuals whose personal lives and community contributions exemplify the high standards set by Sussman and the OAJC.

The Shlachters moved from Los Angeles to Portland in 1991 "because we thought it would be a better place to raise our kids, and we have not been disappointed," says Rob.

A trial lawyer, Rob is a partner at Stoll Berne Lokting & Shlachter in Portland. Rob served as a board member of the

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland for almost 20 years and was president from 2001-03. He was on the board of the MJCC during its renovation. He also helped establish Hillel in Portland in 2008, and presently is a member of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and Greater Portland Hillel boards.

Formerly a nurse who has been active in women's reproductive rights since 1969, Mara is now a Judaic artist and active volunteer.

"Some of my earliest experiences in Portland were with OAJC," says Mara. "Judy Kahn (area director of what was then known as American Jewish Committee-Oregon Chapter) and Wendy Liebreich both kind of took me under their wings." One of those early experiences was to work on the group's Anne Frank Exhibit, which was organized by Liebreich.

"The organization embodies so many of my own core beliefs: encouraging human rights, religious freedom and respect for all people, separation of church and state, strong public education for all children, dialogue to foster mutual understanding and working against hate crimes," says Mara.

Mara also established a Portland team to compete in the Maccabi Games, a weeklong sporting event for Jewish athletes ages 13-16 held each year in North America. She served as the delegation head for nine years, recruiting Rob to serve as a coach during those years. Their son David and daughter Jenna both competed each year they were eligible. The couple has also co-coached Mock Trial for 15 years, starting when David and Jenna were on the teams at Catlin Gabel and later at Lincoln High School. Their teams won the state championship three years in a row.


The family have also taken two extended stays in other countries. In 1998 they moved to Israel for three months, and in 2003 they moved to Montevideo, Uruguay, to volunteer as a family in the Jewish community there. All four taught English at the Jewish day school and also volunteered at the Hillel in Montevideo.

The experience with a community-wide Hillel not confined to one campus inspired the couple to work for the establishment of the Greater Portland Hillel, which serves Jewish students on all Portland area campuses.

Both Rob and Mara say they are somewhat embarrassed to be honored for doing what they feel they should be doing.

"It's embarrassing to be honored for doing what I love," says Mara. "This is such a wonderful community to raise our children with so many role models who give so much of themselves ... I'm honored to be among them."

Co-chairs for the Sussman Award Dinner are: Marge Cohn and Marvin Richmond; David Lokting and Alysia Duckler; Bob and Rita Philip; and John and Rosemary Schwimmer.

The event begins with a cocktail reception at 6 pm, followed by dinner and program at 7 pm at the MJCC, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy. in Portland. For tickets, go to [www.oajconline.org](http://www.oajconline.org) or call the OAJC office at 503-295-6761. 



**1** **Ida Rae & Friends:** Cantor Ida Rae Cahana (center) was joined by Storm Large (left) and China Forbes (right) plus Thomas Lauderdale and the Pink Martini orchestra on Nov. 4 for an evening of music and fundraising at Congregation Beth Israel. More than 600 people came together under the Temple dome for a concert featuring the voices of Wendy Westerwelle, Kevin Walsh, the NW Community Gospel Choir and the Pacific Youth Choir, under the direction of Mia Hall Savage. Guest accompanists included Michael Barnes, John Strege, Bill Crane, Abby Mages, Peter Zisa, Courtney Von Drehle, Ben Sandler and Arthur Steinhorn. Board members Linda Georges and Ted Nelson introduced the Tzedakah Time paddle raise, which – combined with ticket sales and sponsorships – generated \$150,000 for the congregation. Development Director Jen Feldman is now planning the next big fundraiser, Taste of Temple, on Feb. 10, 2013. Photo by Steve Bilow



**2** Fiscal Cliffs and Crystal Balls was the topic addressed the day after the election by Roy Abramowitz, CPA, left, and Stephen Kantor, J.D., CPA, at a lunch hosted by the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation's Professional Advisors Group, which is cochaired by Brian Suher, left, and Mark Rosenbaum, shown here flanking OJCF Executive Director Julie Diamond. The two presenters discussed options financial advisors can use to assist their individual and organizational clients in dealing with the different economic scenarios in the wake of the election. Handouts and slides from the presentation can be viewed at [ojcf.org/news-events/videos-photos-and-podcasts/](http://ojcf.org/news-events/videos-photos-and-podcasts/).



**3** The Oregon Area Jewish Committee honored Senator Jeff Merkley with its 2012 Human Relations Award at a dinner in his honor on Oct. 25 at the Benson Hotel. The OAJC Human Relations Award is presented to business leaders and corporations who, with their skills, influence and dedication, have demonstrated their profound commitment to our community. Sen. Merkley is the fourth U.S. senator to receive this prestigious award. OAJC President John L. Moss (left) presented the award to the senator (center). OAJC Board member Kenneth Lewis (right) was cochair of the event and was the event emcee.



**4** The Portland NCSY Jump team won the first round of a nationwide competition at an October conference competing in areas of community service, Israel advocacy and Jewish education. Oregon Teen Programming Director Meira Spivak took two local Jump leaders, Raizel O'Brien, left, and Allya Yourish, right, to a kickoff conference in New York. Throughout the 36-hour event, groups competed in a multitude of areas including "creating an original organization" and pitching a new concept. The Portland NCSY Jump team came in first place and won \$360 in seed money to be used toward three major projects; two projects plus a fundraiser and plans for the final program must be completed by mid-December. Four teams picked for the finals must then complete their final project and will fly to New York to compete in the beginning of March.



**5** Rabbi Joshua Boettiger, center, is installed as the spiritual leader of Temple Emek Shalom in Ashland Nov. 4. Leading the installation ceremony, left, is Rabbi Benjamin Barnett of Corvallis. On right is Dick Heimann, Emek Shalom's first president. Three hundred attended the ceremony at which 20 elected officials, clergy, business leaders and educators spoke to welcome Rabbi Boettiger to the community.



Outgoing WRJ Pacific District President Lindie Henderson, left, installs and pins incoming President Ellen Bick.

## *Ellen Bick installed as Pacific District president for Women of Reform Judaism*

by Polina Olsen

Ellen Bick didn't know anyone when she arrived in Portland. That was 1997, and much has changed. After joining Congregation Beth Israel and enrolling her daughter in religious school, she discovered a world of friends and fulfillment at Women of Reform Judaism/ Beth Israel Sisterhood. Now, as the newly installed WRJ Pacific District president, she looks forward to helping others become involved with the organization that has meant so much to her.


WRJ North America includes eight districts, 500 sisterhoods and 54,000 members. Bick's diverse area runs from Texas to Hawaii to Vancouver, BC, and includes 12 states and two Canadian provinces. "The number one reason women join WRJ is to connect with their communities," she said. "Then, they learn what sisterhood does. In addition to making wonderful friends, they are part of something much bigger."

The big picture includes 100 years of history. Founded in 1913 and originally called the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, WRJ first focused on providing scholarships for rabbinical students. "In 1913, we were a young movement, and if we wanted Reform rabbis, we needed to educate them ourselves," Bick said. "We built a dormitory on the campus of the Hebrew Union College. It's still called the Sisterhood Dorm."

Yearlong WRJ centennial celebrations fall within Bick's term, including the major convention in San Diego. "When I was asked to be president, I thought, 'Wow, not only is this an honor but I'll be president of the host district during the convention,'" Bick said. Her job will include recruiting volunteers and planning a special Shabbat service for the occasion.

Bick also hopes to connect geographically isolated sisterhoods, facilitate continuing education for new leaders and emphasize the social action programs CBI's sisterhood does so well. Here, members support fund-raisers for the religious school and camp, provide regular dinners at a nearby homeless shelter and even have led an award-winning anti-bullying seminar for parents.

"There are a variety of ways women can get involved in WRJ," Bick said. "And, something many don't realize is that sisterhood is for women of all ages. In our synagogue, members range from their 20s to their 80s. I love working with younger and older women. Each brings their own perspective, and they have totally enriched my life."

Read more on Women in Reform Judaism Pacific District at [www.wrjpacific.org](http://www.wrjpacific.org). 

## *Young adults, college students – It's time to party!*

by Vanessa Van Edwards

This Hanukkah 20- and 30-somethings can join fellow Jews at a variety of fun events including the Portland Trailblazers Hanukkah celebration. Young adults are also welcome to join family events around the community. Check the calendar on the next page for more holiday fun.

Be sure to check Portland Young Adult Shabbat and Jews Next Dor's Facebook pages for a community-wide Hanukkah celebration that will be posted shortly. Visit Moishe House on Facebook or at [moishehouse.org](http://moishehouse.org) for details on their annual Hanukkah celebration.

### HERE ARE SOME EVENTS THAT ARE HAPPENING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

#### TRAIL BLAZERS HANUKKAH JEWISH CELEBRATION

7-8:30 pm, Dec. 10 at the Rose Quarter

Contact: 503-977-9947, [info@ChabadOregon.com](mailto:info@ChabadOregon.com), ChabadOregon.com. Tickets available online at [tickets.trailblazers.com/deals](http://tickets.trailblazers.com/deals), use promotion code "CHANUKAH"; or visit Everything Jewish Gift Shop at 6684 SW Capitol Hwy.

#### HINENU/YOUNG ADULTS SUPPORT ISRAEL MOVIE NIGHT

7 pm, Dec. 24 at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. For details: YASI's Facebook Page: YASI Portland Oregon

#### JEWS NEXT DOR VOLUNTEERING

JND is volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House Holiday Store 6-8:15 pm, Dec. 13; 6-9 pm, Dec. 19; and 6-8:15 pm, Dec. 23 at Ronald McDonald East House, 2620 N Commercial, Portland. To sign up, email [Mandolyn.Koberstein@gmail.com](mailto:Mandolyn.Koberstein@gmail.com).


#### HANUKKAH EVENTS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

There are special events happening for college students on the following campuses:

##### *University of Oregon Pre-Hanukkah Pizza Party*

7 pm, Sunday, Dec. 2 at Chabad House, 1330 E. 20th Ave. Eugene, OR 97403. They will be distributing menorahs, candles, and dreidels. Details: Rabbi Chezky, [rabbi@chabadofeugene.org](mailto:rabbi@chabadofeugene.org)

##### *Hanukkah Shabbat Party at Lewis & Clark College*

The Hanukkah Shabbat will start at 5:30 pm. Shabbat services followed by dinner and Hanukkah activities including making a menorah out of VooDoo doughnuts. 5:30 pm, Dec. 14 at Lewis and Clark College, Odell Main Lounge. Contact: [hillel@lclark.edu](mailto:hillel@lclark.edu). 

# DECEMBER CALENDAR



## HANUKKAH AND THE POWER OF LIGHT

Actors Darrell Salk and Sara Fay Goldman star in Eric Kimmel and Patricia Polacco's intergenerational classics *When Mindy Saved Hanukkah* and *The Trees of the Dancing Goats*.

4- 4:30 pm, Sundays, Dec. 2 & 9, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland. Fun for all generations, this engaging performance celebrates the human qualities that bring light into the darkness of winter. Open to everyone. Appropriate for ages 5+. Adults: \$10. Children 6 and under: free. Ages 7-17 & seniors: \$5. Family pack: (2 adults & up to 4 kids in household): \$18. Space is limited. RSVP: [www.oregonjcc.org/light](http://www.oregonjcc.org/light), 503-244-0111

## Dec. 2

**Portland Jewish Academy Auction: Spotlight on Portland.** 4:30 pm at the MJCC. Tickets: 503-244-0126

**Hanukkah Craft Bazaar/Sisterhood Sunday Café.** Holiday gift shopping, baked goods. 9 am-1 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E. 29th Ave., Eugene, 541-485-7218

**Matan program.** Mothers and daughters study in preparation for the girl's bat mitzvah. 6-8 pm, Sundays (10 sessions Dec. 2 to Feb. 24) at the Portland Kollel (6688 SW Capitol Hwy.). Register: [portlandncsy.com](http://portlandncsy.com)

## Dec. 4

**Dare I Call You Cousin,** preview of a work-in-progress about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Poetry by Frances Payne Adler. Photographs by Michal Fattal. Videos by Yossi Yacov. 7 pm at OJM. Free. [fpayneadler@csumb.edu](mailto:fpayneadler@csumb.edu)

**Latkefest.** 5 pm at Congregation Kol Ami, 7800 NE 119th Street, Vancouver, WA. 360-896-8088

## Dec. 6

**Opening Reception for Exhibition Opening – L'Dor V'dor 5:30-7:30 pm at OJM.** Exhibit continues through Feb. 13. L'Dor V'Dor features the works of grandfather, father and daughter – highlighting photography as a vital means of connection, an artful process of guidance and learning, and a true expression of love. [ojm.org](http://ojm.org)

## Dec. 7

**Hanukkah celebration and dinner.** 6 pm at Beit Haverim, 1111 Country Club Road, Lake Oswego. RSVP 503-344-4839

## Dec. 8

**Community Hanukkah Latke Dinner & Dance.** 6 pm Menorah lighting and latke dinner; 8 pm dance at at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E. 29th Ave., Eugene. 541-485-7218

**Hanukkah celebration.** 4:30 pm at P'nai Or, 9750 SW Terwilliger, Portland. 503-248-4500

**Hanukkah party and latke dinner.** 5 pm at Shaarai Torah, 920 NW 25th Ave., Portland. RSVP 503-226-6131

## Dec. 9

**OJM Sunday Music presents internationally acclaimed Jewish musicians Margie Rosenthal and Ilene Safyan,** 2-3 pm at OJM. General, \$10, Member, \$5. RSVP 503-226-3600

**Community Hanukkah Celebration.** Grand Menorah Lighting in Esther Short park (downtown Vancouver) followed by Holiday Festivities in the Hilton Vancouver, 601 Washington St., Vancouver, WA, 4:30-6 pm. 360-993-5222

**Hanukkah Extravaganza: Dinner/concert with Mazel Tov Orchestra.** 6-9 pm at Ivories Jazz Lounge, 1435 NW Flanders St., Portland. Traditional Hanukkah songs and klezmer concert. Specify dinner choice of lamb, chicken or vegetarian with reservation: 503-241-6514

**Children's Hanukkah Celebration and Sisterhood Sunday Café.** Crafts and activities. 9 am-1 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E. 29th Ave., Eugene. 541-485-7218

**The Hanukkah Wonderland.** 1:30-4:30 pm at Beverly Cleary School, 1915 NE 33rd Ave., Portland. Hanukkah fun, food, storytime, playzone, crafts and gift shop. Hosted by Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Chabad. Contact: [Chaim@Chabadoregon.com](mailto:Chaim@Chabadoregon.com)

## Dec. 10

**Portland Trail Blazers Hanukkah Jewish Celebration Night.** 6 pm pre-game activities, 7 pm tipoff at the Rose Quarter. Tickets available online at [tickets.trailblazers.com/deals](http://tickets.trailblazers.com/deals) and use the promotion code "CHANUKAH" or visit Everything Jewish Gift Shop at 6684 SW Capitol Hwy.

## Dec. 11

**My Sweet Canary,** part of the Sephardic Winter Film Series. Three young musicians explore the story of the first and most famous Greek Rebetiko singer, Roza Eskenazi. 7 pm at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 3225 SW Barbur Blvd., Portland. Free. David, 503-892-6634

## Dec. 12

OJM Cinema presents **Grace Paley: Selected Shorts.** Lilly Rivlin's intimate documentary of writer, activist and New York icon Grace Paley (1922-2007). Noon and 7 pm. Public: \$10; Members: \$8. RSVP 503-226-3600

## Dec 13

**OAJC Sussman Award Dinner.** See page 67

## Dec. 14

**Celebrate Hanukkah at Beth Israel.** 6 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1972 NW Flanders St., Portland. Shabbat/Hanukkah service will segue into a rockin' holiday party. RSVP 503-222-1069

## Dec. 15

**Dreidels, Dine & Dance.** 5:45 pm at Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. Havdalah followed by dinner, dancing for the adults, youth activities and childcare. 503-246-8831

## ONGOING EXHIBITS:

### Through Jan. 21, 2013

**Chagall for Children at the Portland Children's Museum,** 4015 SW Canyon Road. Marc Chagall's vivid artwork combined with unique, playful, hands-on activities. 503-223-6500

### Through Feb. 17, 2013

**Graphic Details: Confessional Comics** by Jewish Women at OJM (see page 15). 503-226-3600

**MJCC** is the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland.

**OJM** is the Oregon Jewish Museum, 1953 NW Kearney, Portland.



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