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### A FAMILY CELEBRATION –

The wedding of Sadie Schnitzer and Ben Singer, circa 1890, was celebrated with family and close friends at Gevurtz Hall on Southwest Front Avenue and Gibbs Street, a popular location for weddings and other community gatherings. Photo courtesy of Oregon Jewish Museum

## CORRECTIONS

A January article (“Helping others shows Portland teen how much Judaism means to him”) about Roberta Kaplan’s son, Josh Israel had his last name incorrect.

A January story on multi-cultural adoption mislabeled a photograph on page 55. The caption should have read Anna Lee and her birth mom. At right is a photo of Anna and Dori Rosenblum. Courtesy Dori Rosenblum.



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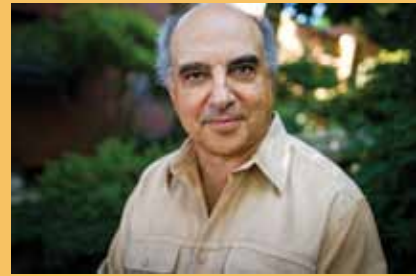
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## Editor's Letter



Oregon Jewish Life is 1 year old. And what a wonderful year it's been. We've introduced you to newcomers and fresh talents as well as established Oregonians. New Oregon artist Aithan Shapira and activist Debra Rosenthal graced our first cover, while the final cover in our first year focused on iconic philanthropists Jordan Schnitzer, Arlene Schnitzer and the late Harold Schnitzer.

The coming year will feature some exciting developments here at Oregon Jewish Life; enhancements we believe will make our second year even better than the first.

We recently hired an online content editor, Kira Brown, who we believe will enhance our online presence dramatically. In

addition to updating ojlife.com, she will manage our Twitter and Facebook presence. Check out our revamped website, and sign up for our new weekly email newsletter. While you're on the website, if you don't already receive OJL in the mail, sign up for your complimentary subscription to OJL's print edition.

And if you're single, take a moment to fill out our new singles survey. You'll get a free ebook on relationships developed exclusively for our Jewish Life readers just for taking the survey. Single or married, we want your feedback and suggestions.

Speaking of relationships, be sure to check out our beautiful special section on weddings in this issue. In addition to tips for the happy couple, we have suggestions for the perfect wedding gift and a look back at some of Oregon's earliest Jewish weddings. Our resident chef has even offered suggestions for an easy romantic dinner to brighten your sweetheart's smile.

The rest of the magazine is packed with stories that I hope you enjoy reading as much as we enjoyed creating. From health care reformer and medical innovators at PSU to musical mavens and hands-on family fun, we have something that should appeal to all our readers. Of course, you'll find family fun and fashion too!

We have a wonderful team who are committed to making Oregon Jewish Life more engaging with each coming issue.

*Deborah*

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## Letters to the Editor



DEAR EDITOR,

Thank you for highlighting the Schnitzer family legacy in the January 2013 issue. I'd like to share some additional information that might be of interest to your readers.

The Portland Housing Bureau partnered with Cedar Sinai Park to acquire and renovate Park Tower and preserve the building's federal Section 8 subsidy. The city is investing nearly \$4.6 million in local dollars and federal grants to renovate the apartments and preserve their affordability.

The Park Tower is part of the city's "11x13" campaign to preserve 11 buildings with expiring federal subsidies by the end of 2013. We are proud of our partnership with CSP. They have been our primary partner on three 11x13 projects.

You mention the invaluable role played by Jim Winkler. He was the driving force behind a waiver we obtained from HUD to keep "residual receipts" in the projects.

Thanks to the generosity and vision of the Schnitzers, the tenacity of Jim Winkler, a great team, and substantial public and private investment, we've ensured that almost 540 homes in Portland's vibrant downtown will remain affordable to low-income seniors.

*Commissioner Nick Fish, City of Portland*

---

I just received an email from a woman telling me she had read about *Salt in Our Blood* in *Oregon Jewish Life* ("Author Recounts Gripping Narrative of Fishing Family," by Paul Haist, January 2013). Your article told our story better than I could. The sense of family resonated throughout. Thank you ever so much.

I also received a call from a coastal resident who had read the review in OJL and was struck by the similarities in our family story with his wife's entry into Jewish life. It's been very interesting to see how Reform Judaism has dealt directly with the challenges of keeping a religion and culture vibrant in the face of so many intermarriages. The Jewish Review, and now Oregon Jewish Life, have spread the word about how much support and inclusion there is for intermarried couples.

I think you'd like to know that the book is going to be taught as part of the high school English curriculum in the Lincoln County School District next year.

*Michele Longo Eder, author of Salt in Our Blood  
The Memoir of a Fisherman's Wife, Newport, OR*

---

Your recent article - "It's About Time" (December 2012) - made a real impression on me. I hadn't been aware of the initiative to create a World War II memorial in Oregon. I recently returned from Washington, D.C., where I took my children (ages 9 and 11) and spent a lot of time on a sweltering day at that city's WWII memorial. In the center of the sweeping memorial in our nation's capital, is a reflecting pool. Despite the fact a posted sign says "no wading," we and the other tourists did so anyway. We cooled our heels and told our children about my grandfather-in-law's WWII service, including his prisoner-of-war status and that the movie, "The Great Escape," was partially based on George Lewis' time imprisoned abroad. I hope the Salem-based WWII monument will offer just such moments for Oregon's families forever more. Best of luck to Lou Jaffe and Jack Heims.

*Jenn Director Knudsen, Portland*

---

It is with deep sorrow that we offer our condolences to the parents and families of the children mercilessly killed while attending Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut. Our condolences also go out to the professionals who died while protecting the children in their care.

*The residents of Robison Jewish Health Center  
(submitted by the Robison Resident Council)*

---

Thank you so much for including me and our work and that picture I love so much of the youth ("Why do they hate us?" by Liz Rabiner Lippoff January 2013).

It is rare that one feels "gotten" by people we have never actually spent time with (and sometimes not even by those closest to us), but I totally feel like you "got" me and our organization, Liz. Thank you.

The others mentioned in it will be so proud and we will keep this kind of support with us in the good days and the hard. Makes me proud to be a Jew in Oregon.

Keep up your amazing and important work!

*Rebecca Shine, Student Alliance Project and Momentum Alliance Portland*

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# Health Care



# REFORMER

*Doctor spurred to action when relative's life simultaneously saved and shattered by surgery*

Dr. Sam Metz addresses a conference on Health Care Reform and Oregon held in Portland April 27, 2012.

By Deborah Moon

Local anesthesiologist Dr. Sam Metz has long supported the concept of universal health care. But when a relative lost his home about three years ago as the result of large medical bills, Metz became very active in the push to put Oregon on the front lines of health care reform.

Metz says he awakened to the need after his relative's life was both saved and shattered by surgery. "That's when I realized what our country needs is to stop the juggernaut before more people lose their homes."

"Medical bankruptcies are specifically an American phenomenon," according to Metz. "This is an aberration in the civilized world. Citizens of other industrialized countries don't lose their homes if they get treatable diseases."

In 2010 alone, Metz says about 34,000 Oregonians lost their homes due to medical crises. He bases that number on a study reported in a June 2009 article of the American Journal of Medicine that determined the proportion of personal bankruptcies (62.1%) due to medical reasons. He then applied that percentage to 2010 state figures.

"We have an extraordinary amount of family devastation because our health care system has rolled right over people," says Metz. "Most of us are one hospitalization away from catastrophe."

The Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, is good insofar as it "for the first time made health care for all Americans a

matter of concern for the U.S. Congress," says Metz.

His quest for health care reform is also rooted in Jewish tradition. "I find the cries to heal a family's medical afflictions as wrenching as those to relieve pain, hunger, injustice, poverty, cold and despair. Tikkun olam (repair of the world) does not stop at disease."

Metz also agrees with a quote from humanitarian Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

Metz believes true health care reform should provide better care to more people for less money.

Health care reform is controversial in large part because the issues are complex. Yet Metz believes there is a solution.

"We can repair our health care system with a few simple efforts," he says. "We know this because universal, cost-effective health care exists in every other civilized country in the world, including Israel. In fact, if Jews advocated for the universal health care system used successfully in Israel, our health and that of our community would improve and our health care costs would plummet."

Creation of a single-payer system is a public relations nightmare because it would likely be funded by taxes. Metz, however, notes that individuals, businesses and state government already spend enough to provide comprehensive coverage to every Oregon resident. If people and businesses paid taxes to cover

**“Citizens of other industrialized countries don’t lose their homes if they get treatable diseases.”**

– Dr. Sam Metz

health care instead of premiums and co-pays, most would actually spend less money, he says.

He says people need to understand that a single-payer system is simply financing, not a delivery plan. Any delivery system can fit into the single-payer model, which is simply a brokerage that transfers money from the patient to the provider.

“Most Americans know something needs to be done, but so few have experience with anything other than employer-sponsored insurance, and they fear they will lose that if we do anything.”

Metz is a member of the 18,000-member Physicians for a National Health Program, which advocates for single-payer, universal health care. He serves as the Portland chapter’s representative to Health Care for All Oregon, a consortium of more than 60 organizations that support publicly funded universal care. During Oregon’s last regular legislative session, he testified before the Oregon House Health Care Committee during a hearing on HB 3510, Oregon’s single-payer health care bill. That bill’s sponsor, Rep. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), has announced his intent to re-introduce that legislation in the next session, which begins Feb. 4.


Metz says the bill, combined with Oregon’s use of coordinated-care organizations, would make Oregon “the model for health care delivery around the country.” CCOs cover care including physical care, mental health, addictions, dental health and public health outreach. Most people covered by the Oregon Health Plan receive care through a CCO. Unfortunately, says Metz, that accounts for only 15% of all Oregonians.

“If Oregon had a statewide single-payer system, you and your family would be entitled to health care no matter how old, disabled or sick you become, and everyone would be encouraged to seek health care early before they are so sick they need very expensive treatment,” says Metz.

Metz encourages Oregonians to write their state legislators a short letter. He suggests the letter writers should tell legislators: “How our health care system has failed me and my family; two, I want to have publicly funded universal care; and last, I want you to make it happen.”

It will be a difficult marketing challenge, he says.

“Some voters will refuse to have their (health care) money relabeled as taxes even if it makes their health care cheaper and guarantees their family access no matter what happens,” says Metz.

Metz and his wife, Margaret Jennings, have one daughter, Hannah Metz, who is an eighth-grader at Portland Jewish Academy. For several years Metz chaired PJA’s used book sale. He is co-chairing this year’s event and predicts with the Mittleman Jewish Community Center as a co-sponsor, the March 18-20 sale will be the best yet. 



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- Agreeing to set, apply, and enforce rules about merchant fees (called *default interchange fees*);
- Limiting what merchants could do to encourage their customers to use other forms of payment through, for example, charging customers an extra fee or offering discounts; and
- Continuing that conduct after Visa and MasterCard changed their corporate structures.

The defendants say they have done nothing wrong. They say that their business practices are legal and the result of competition, and have benefitted merchants and consumers. The Court has not decided who is right because the parties agreed to a settlement. On November 27, 2012, the Court gave preliminary approval to this settlement.

## THE SETTLEMENT

Under the settlement, Visa, MasterCard, and the bank defendants have agreed to make payments to two settlement funds:

- The first is a “Cash Fund” – a \$6.05 billion fund that will pay valid claims of merchants that accepted Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards at any time between January 1, 2004 and November 28, 2012.
- The second is an “Interchange Fund” – estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion – that will be based on a portion of the interchange fees attributable to certain merchants that accept Visa or MasterCard credit cards for an eight-month “Interchange Period.”

Additionally, the settlement changes some of the Visa and MasterCard rules applicable to merchants who accept their cards.

This settlement creates two classes:

- A *Cash Settlement Class* (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class), which includes all persons, businesses, and other entities that accepted any Visa or MasterCard cards in the U.S. at any time from January 1, 2004 to November 28, 2012, and
- A *Rule Changes Settlement Class* (Rule 23(b)(2) Settlement Class), which includes all persons, businesses, and entities that as of November 28, 2012 or in the future accept any Visa or MasterCard cards in the U.S.

## WHAT MERCHANTS WILL GET FROM THE SETTLEMENT

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- The deduction described above not to exceed 25% of the Cash Settlement Fund, and
- The cost of settlement administration and notice, money awarded to the class representatives, and attorneys’ fees and expenses all as approved by the Court.

In addition, merchants in the Cash Settlement Class that accept Visa and MasterCard during the eight-month Interchange Period and file a valid claim will get money from the separate Interchange Fund, estimated to be approximately \$1.2 billion. The value of each claim, where possible, will be based on an estimate of one-tenth of 1% of the merchant’s Visa and MasterCard credit card dollar sales volume during that period. Payments to merchants who file valid claims for a portion of the Interchange Fund will be based on:

- The money available to pay all claims,
- The total dollar value of all valid claims filed, and
- The cost of settlement administration and notice, and any attorneys’ fees and expenses that may be approved by the Court.

Attorneys’ fees and expenses and money awarded to the class representatives: For work done through final approval of the settlement by the district court, Class Counsel will ask the Court for attorneys’ fees in an amount that is a reasonable proportion of the Cash Settlement Fund, not to exceed 11.5% of the Cash Settlement Fund of \$6.05 billion and 11.5% of the Interchange Fund estimated to be \$1.2 billion to compensate all of the lawyers and their law firms that have worked on the class case. For additional work to administer the settlement, distribute both funds, and through any appeals, Class Counsel may seek reimbursement at their normal hourly rates, not to exceed an additional 1% of the Cash Settlement Fund of \$6.05 billion and an additional 1% of the Interchange Fund estimated to be \$1.2 billion. Class Counsel will also request reimbursement of their expenses (not including

the administrative costs of settlement or notice), not to exceed \$40 million and up to \$200,000 per Class Plaintiff in service awards for their efforts on behalf of the classes.

## HOW TO ASK FOR PAYMENT

To receive payment, merchants must fill out a claim form. If the Court finally approves the settlement, and you do not exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement Class, you will receive a claim form in the mail or by email. Or you may ask for one at: [www.PaymentCardSettlement.com](http://www.PaymentCardSettlement.com), or call: 1-800-625-6440.

## OTHER BENEFITS FOR MERCHANTS

Merchants will benefit from changes to certain MasterCard and Visa rules, which will allow merchants to, among other things:

- Charge customers an extra fee if they pay with Visa or MasterCard credit cards,
- Offer discounts to customers who do not pay with Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards, and
- Form buying groups that meet certain criteria to negotiate with Visa and MasterCard.

Merchants that operate multiple businesses under different trade names or banners will also be able to accept Visa or MasterCard at fewer than all of the merchant's trade names and banners.

## LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

Merchants who are included in this lawsuit have the legal rights and options explained below. You may:

- **File a claim to ask for payment.** You will receive a claim form in the mail or email or file online at: [www.PaymentCardSettlement.com](http://www.PaymentCardSettlement.com).
- **Exclude yourself** from the Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class). If you exclude yourself, you can sue the Defendants for damages based on alleged conduct occurring on or before November 27, 2012 on your own at your own expense, if you want to. If you exclude yourself, you will not get any money from this settlement. If you are a merchant and wish to exclude yourself, you must make a written request, place it in an envelope, and mail it with postage prepaid and postmarked no later than **May 28, 2013** to Class Administrator, Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement, P.O. Box 2530, Portland, OR 97208-2530. The written request must be signed by a person authorized to do so and provide all of the following information: (1) the words "In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation," (2) your full name, address, telephone number, and taxpayer identification number, (3) the merchant that wishes to be excluded from the Cash Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(3) Settlement Class), and what position or authority you have to exclude the merchant, and (4) the business names, brand names, and addresses of any stores or sales locations whose sales the merchant desires to be excluded.

**Note: You cannot be excluded from the Rule Changes Settlement Class (Rule 23(b)(2) Settlement Class).**

- **Object to the settlement.** The deadline to object is: **May 28, 2013**. To learn how to object, see: [www.PaymentCardSettlement.com](http://www.PaymentCardSettlement.com) or call 1-800-625-6440. Note: If you exclude yourself from the Cash Settlement

Class you cannot object to the terms of that portion of the settlement.

For more information about these rights and options, visit: [www.PaymentCardSettlement.com](http://www.PaymentCardSettlement.com).

## IF THE COURT APPROVES THE FINAL SETTLEMENT

Members of the Rule Changes Settlement Class are bound by the terms of this settlement. Members of the Cash Settlement Class, who do not exclude themselves by the deadline, are bound by the terms of this settlement whether or not they file a claim for payment. Members of both classes release all claims against all released parties listed in the Settlement Agreement. The settlement will resolve and release any claims by merchants against Visa, MasterCard or other defendants that were or could have been alleged in the lawsuit, including any claims based on interchange or other fees, no-surcharge rules, no-discounting rules, honor-all-cards rules and other rules. The settlement will also resolve any merchant claims based upon the future effect of any Visa or MasterCard rules, as of November 27, 2012 and not to be modified pursuant to the settlement, the modified rules provided for in the settlement, or any other rules substantially similar to any such rules. The releases will not bar claims involving certain specified standard commercial disputes arising in the ordinary course of business.

For more information on the release, see the settlement agreement at: [www.PaymentCardSettlement.com](http://www.PaymentCardSettlement.com).

## THE COURT HEARING ABOUT THIS SETTLEMENT

On September 12, 2013, there will be a Court hearing to decide whether to approve the proposed settlement, class counsels' requests for attorneys' fees and expenses, and awards for the class representatives. The hearing will take place at:

United States District Court for the  
Eastern District of New York  
225 Cadman Plaza  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

You do not have to go to the court hearing or hire an attorney. But you can if you want to, at your own cost. The Court has appointed the law firms of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP, Berger & Montague, PC, and Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP to represent the Class ("Class Counsel").

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this case (*In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 1720), you may:

Call toll-free: 1-800-625-6440

Visit: [www.PaymentCardSettlement.com](http://www.PaymentCardSettlement.com)

Write to the Class Administrator:

Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement  
P.O. Box 2530  
Portland, OR 97208-2530

Email: [info@PaymentCardSettlement.com](mailto:info@PaymentCardSettlement.com)

Please check [www.PaymentCardSettlement.com](http://www.PaymentCardSettlement.com) for any updates relating to the settlement or the settlement approval process.

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# Planning Notes for Brides

By Masada Siegel | Photos by Harrison Hurwitz

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Mazel tov to you, new bride! You may have been waiting for this day for a long time, and finally it has arrived. Get ready for your entire world to change because with the word “yes,” the whirlwind of happy, excited energy has just begun. There are a million and one things to think about, and it’s impossible to know where to start. Here are a few helpful hints to organize your special day so it will be as stress-free as possible.

**1. BUY A CUTE WEDDING NOTEBOOK OR DAILY PLANNER TYPE OF BOOK.** Take it to all meetings and keep all your notes in it. Use it to hold business cards and informational papers. This way all your vendors’ information is in one place. Weddings get out of control, and somehow you will find yourself on email lists and will receive invitations to bridal expos. These can be helpful, provided you remember when to go and where they are. The key to the perfect wedding is being organized.

**2. TRY TO BE REALISTIC.** Is that somewhat possible? I know it’s your special day and you want everything perfect. Make a list of the most important aspects of your wedding and decide where you want the money to be spent.

**3. COME UP WITH TWO WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOUR WEDDING.** For example: Elegant and Fun. Perhaps you want the ceremony to be *elegant*. When you speak to your rabbi and hazzan, this word will help them come up with meaningful ways to organize the ceremony. The word *fun* could be used to describe how you want the reception. Picking descriptive words will assist your vendors in helping you create your dream wedding.

**4. PICK YOUR KETUBAH.** Check the Jewish stores in your area and also look at the many websites. If you plan way in advance, you can even create a ketubah using your own designs or photos. Make sure to talk to your rabbi and see exactly what kind of ketubah you need. For instance, some rabbis might ask you to find one that includes the Lieberman Clause. There are so many options, it helps to narrow down what you need from the start.

**5. CONSULT YOUR JEWISH CALENDAR WHEN YOU PLAN YOUR WEDDING.** Many rabbis will not perform a wedding during Jewish holidays such as Sukkot and Shavuot or during the counting of the Omer. So before you pick the date, be sure to check the Jewish holidays.

**6. MAKE IT PERSONAL.** So what does that mean? The best weddings have elements of your personality in them, so be creative. For example, if you are a world traveler, instead of having an arrangement of flowers where your seating cards are, use a globe. You don’t have to follow traditions that are not meaningful to you – it’s your special day to design what feels right.



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**7. DANCE CLASSES.** It is never too early to take a dance class for your wedding. Try Arthur Murray's dance studio. The teachers are fantastic and they have a wide variety of group or individual classes. Dancing with your soon-to-be life partner is a window into working together and trusting one another in a unique way. Not only will it be fun, but you will be able to wow your guests with a fun first dance or some snazzy moves.

**8. KETUBAH SIGNING.** Most people sign their ketubah in a small room with a few family members and friends. Perhaps incorporate the signing into part of your ceremony and turn everyone attending your wedding into your witnesses.

**9. UNDER THE CHUPPAH.** One of the most meaningful and best ways to include all of your family and friends in your wedding ceremony is to face the crowd. Have the rabbi stand to the side of you so everyone can watch your emotions. Perhaps friends and family have come from all over the world to be at your wedding; allow them a front row view of your most intimate moments. Not only will you make the wedding more personal, but your photos will be even more magnificent.

**10. TURN ON THE CAMERA IN YOUR HEAD.** You will have spent months, maybe years, planning your special day, and it goes by in a whirlwind. Try to focus your mind and notice as much as you can. Pretend you have a video camera in your head and try to record the magic so you can replay it. Many people forgo a wedding video, and often it is a huge regret. See if your budget allows for someone to record your special day. If not, find a good friend who is talented with the camera, and ask him or her to record at least your ceremony.

**11. DON'T START THE CEREMONY UNTIL YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO YOURSELF TO FOCUS AND RELAX.** It is your day and you are the boss. Give yourself a few minutes to concentrate and be able to enjoy the moment – it will be over before you know it. Make sure to drink in the energy and remember it, as all these people have come out to be with you. Feel the love that surrounds you, whether it is 10 people on a beach or a ballroom of people cheering you. Savor the magic and the love.

Your wedding day should be one of the most fantastic, beautiful, meaningful days of your life. If you don't want the added expense of a wedding planner, then plan it yourself, but choose

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The truth is no one will ever know if the flower arrangements were not as perfect as you imagined. If the music was not as planned, it is doubtful that it will make a difference. Your guests are there to celebrate you and your love. So enjoy every single minute and have as much fun as possible!

Mazel tov! 

Masada Siegel can be reached at [fungirlcorrespondent@gmail.com](mailto:fungirlcorrespondent@gmail.com)



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# TEN TIPS for a Smoother Wedding Day



Vanessa and Scott Edwards marry in an outdoor ceremony complete with chuppah, vineyard and Mount Hood backdrop.

By Vanessa Van Edwards

When I got engaged, I thought reading a few books and skimming wedding blogs would adequately prepare me to plan my wedding. Despite all the research, there were still a few things I wish someone had told me before my big day:

## 1. GIVE YOUR PHONE AWAY

I should have coordinated with someone to take my phone away from me the moment I woke up on the day of my wedding. You would be surprised how many people text the bride with questions like, “Is there kosher food?” Or even worse, “I’m running late!” or “I’m lost.” Have a designated bridesmaid who is in charge of your phone and can respond for you.

## 2. SCHEDULE ALONE TIME WITH SPECIAL GUESTS (AND THE RABBI)

If you have people flying in for the wedding and you want to be able to talk to them for more than 15 seconds, schedule time with them. Especially if your rabbi is flying in to perform the ceremony, make sure to have time to meet with him or her to go over ceremony plans and the script.

## 3. GET CHAIRS FOR DANCE

Hopefully you got to practice being lifted and catapulted into the air for the hora during your bar or bat mitzvah. Be sure to get sturdy chairs for this tradition of lifting the bride and groom

on chairs for a dance. We had white folding chairs at our outdoor wedding and had to scramble to find chairs that would hold us.

## 4. DESIGNATE “HORA MEN”

Be sure to designate a few strong men to lift you and your husband during the hora. You don’t want your Uncle Arnold to hurt his back because not enough people volunteered. Also appoint someone to hand you and your husband napkins tied together. My mom and aunt were chasing us both around, trying to get us to hold the napkins at the same time.

## 5. PRACTICE BUSTLING AND GETTING INTO YOUR DRESS

We scheduled 15 minutes for me to get my dress bustled after the ceremony so I could move around without people (including me) stepping on my gown’s train. I thought this was plenty of time – wrong! Bustles are different on every dress, and unless you have a wedding-dress seamstress as a bridesmaid, you should try to have someone practice bustling your dress before the wedding.

## 6. PREPARE YOUR FAMILY FOR PHOTOS

Most people take family photos between the ceremony and the reception. We did most of our photos before the ceremony. But after the ceremony we still wanted to take about 10 photos



PHOTO BY DAVID BARSS

# Antoinette

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with extended family. It was incredibly challenging to try to track down all of the required people during cocktail hour. Send a little note ahead of time to people you want in photos kindly telling them where to wait for photos immediately after the ceremony.

**7. MAKE A SHOT LIST FOR YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER**

Make sure to tell your photographer and videographer the list of all shots you want. We made the mistake of only giving our photographer a list of the family photos we wanted, so some of our decorations were not captured.

**8. EAT AFTER SIGNING THE KETUBAH**

Tell your caterer to prepare a dish of appetizers and nibbles and have it sent up to the room where you and your husband will sign the ketubah and/or marriage license. We were not very hungry at this point, but later we were glad we had eaten because otherwise we would not have had time to try the food.

**9 LABELED TIP ENVELOPES**

Most of your vendors will expect tips and you and your husband will not have time to give them out that night. Put tips in labeled envelopes and give them to your father or wedding planner to hand out at the end of the night. This will ensure that no one is forgotten.

**10. PREPARE YOUR ESCAPE**

We had a town car pick us up and take us to our hotel and I had my bridesmaids put my overnight bag in the back of the car. My husband left his wallet, phone, shoes and toiletries in the groom's dressing room. We had to frantically call our parents to drop everything off at our hotel after the wedding – funny, but not very romantic!

Hopefully these tips will help you, but even if something goes wrong – and something always does – it will be the best day of your life. Our wedding, despite some of the little hiccups, was truly the most magical day of my life.

Vanessa Van Edwards is a freelance writer and speaker in Portland.

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*As you plan for your big day, don't forget...*

# MONEY MATTERS

By Gretchen Stangier

*Planning your wedding is an exciting and, at times, stress-inducing experience. In the midst of the many wedding details a couple must plan, it's easy to overlook practical considerations such as your future finances.*

## **First-time Newlyweds:**

### **WHEN AND HOW SHOULD WE START BUDGETING AND COMBINING FINANCES?**

Discussion about finances is a process best started when you commit to marry and should continue indefinitely. A good way to start is by sharing each of your specific short-, mid- and long-term goals. Then, together, prioritize the goals, giving relevant details like cost and time frames. Next, determine the strategy for achieving these goals; to do this you'll need to create a detailed budget.

Budgets are easy to create but often hard to follow; you'll be more successful meeting your goals if you have a detailed spending plan. Finances are a leading cause of marital stress, and it's important that both parties agree and take responsibility for knowing and understanding the plan. Review your plan periodically to stay on track.

Start by listing all of your expenses; include amount, frequency and due date. Be sure to include all expenses, no matter how big or small – include rent or mortgage, debt payments, groceries, medical, repairs and gifts, and be sure to include “fun” money, as this will help you stay on track and not feel deprived. Then add a section for savings. This includes emergency reserves and funding your goals. Next, categorize each item by due date and allocate your income for the same period. This is a good time to discuss and devise a plan to eliminate debt.

## **Second-time Newlyweds:**


### **I'M REMARRYING; HOW AND WHEN SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT OUR FINANCES?**

Start the discussion once you've decided to remarry. Most likely, you both have established goals, and sharing these is a good place to start. Include goals that you see accomplishing together and separately. Discuss retirement plans or, if already retired, review the existing plan and whether it is sufficient to accomplish new retirement goals. Decide where you'll live, and agree on whether you'll manage expenses together or separately and how much each is expected to contribute. Even if you decide to manage expenses separately, it's good to discuss any debt and whether debt is still being created. Keeping this a secret often leads to mistrust and marital issues down the line.

Last, it's important to understand how much money the surviving spouse will need and can expect to receive in the event of death. It may make sense to have a financial planner help, as this can

be difficult to determine and is especially important if children from a prior marriage are involved.

### **SHOULD WE INVOLVE OUR ADULT CHILDREN IN THE CONVERSATION? HOW?**

Yes. Once you agree on how the estate will be divided upon either spouse's death, schedule a family meeting and explain the plan in specific detail so that everyone knows what to expect when the time comes. Make sure you tell the family who the executors are, who has power of attorney and who can make medical decisions. Be sure they know that things could change and if they do, you'll let them know. It's OK if the kids get upset about your decisions; just be confident that you have made the right decision. Know that having these important conversations teaches your kids that it's OK to talk about money and will help minimize resentments when a parent dies. 

Gretchen Stangier, CFP and founder of Stangier Wealth Management, has worked in the financial services industry since 1998. She is a recipient of the 2011 and 2012 Five Star Wealth Manager Award in Portland Monthly Magazine and is ranked as a top wealth producer at LPL Financial, the largest independent broker in the nation. Recently, she was selected by LPL Financial to attend the prestigious 2012 Seventh Annual Barron's Top Women Advisors Summit. [www.StangierWealthManagement.com](http://www.StangierWealthManagement.com); 1-877-257-0057.



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# Wedding Gifts

*Think outside the box*

By Masada Siegel



Weddings are always a joy, and when it comes to buying gifts to celebrate that joy, the options are endless. A great present is one selected with a great deal of thought for the happy couple. It is always good to check out the registry and perhaps think of giving cash. But if you would like to give something unique and special, here are some options that are sure to make any bride and groom smile with delight.

**SOMETHING MEANINGFUL:**

Take the time to think about the happy couple and do some investigation on how they enjoy spending their time. Do they enjoy shows, symphonies, art museums? If so buy them a membership to a museum or tickets to a show. It's an out-of-the-box idea, but it will be appreciated, and it creates meaningful memories.

**SOMETHING POSITIVE:**

Help the happy couple make a difference and perform tikkun olam (repair the world) in honor of their union. There are many great Jewish organizations – including Birthday Angels, Friends of the IDF, Jewish National Fund and Jewish Braille International. Making a donation in a couple's name and making the world a better place is a win-win. It's also a great way to send positive vibes to the world about the upcoming happy event. (check out [jbilibrary.org](http://jbilibrary.org) or [birthday-angels.org](http://birthday-angels.org))

**SOMETHING TRAVEL-RELATED:**

Purchase a Rosetta Stone software package so the newlyweds can brush up on their Hebrew before a honeymoon in Israel. Or they might want to learn the language of love if they are headed to Italy. It's a fun way to help the newlyweds haggle at the markets and travel more safely. ([rosettastone.com](http://rosettastone.com))


**SOMETHING USEFUL:**

A fantastic option for a wedding gift is cutlery – it's useful and long lasting. For a modern look with an elegant feel, check out Knork's designs. Also look into Robert Welch knives, which are both useful and stylish. Most people go for the glamour gifts, but these selections are sure to please. ([robertwelch.com](http://robertwelch.com) and [knork.net](http://knork.net))

**SOMETHING JEWISH AND PRETTY:**

The South African designer Carrol Boyes has spectacular kiddush cups and challah boards. Her items are artistic, unique and of excellent quality. One of her best-sellers is a "water jug" with a man on the side as the pitcher handle. It is a perfect gift, because it's both useful and beautiful. It looks like a work of art in the middle of a table. ([carrollboyes.com](http://carrollboyes.com))

**SOMETHING RELAXING:**

Weddings are extremely stressful to plan. Give the gift of relaxation to the happy couple. It can be an experiential soothing gift. A spa treatment at a local resort is an excellent option. Also, a getaway weekend to the coast (check out [cannonbechspa.com](http://cannonbechspa.com)) or one of the ski resorts (at Mount Hood or in Central Oregon) make nice options. Spending time at a spa or resort will simply melt the stress away. What more could a couple ask for to feel refreshed after stress, albeit fun stress, of planning a wedding? 

Masada Siegel is the author of *Window Dressings*.



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# Sacred Unions

*Weddings celebrate creation of Jewish homes in early Oregon* By Sura Rubenstein

*And Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother; he married Rebekah, she became his wife, and he loved her; and thus was Isaac consoled after his mother. ~ Genesis 24:67*

*A good wife who can find? Her price is above rubies.*  
~ Proverbs 31:10

Jewish weddings have always been a community priority.

The patriarch Abraham went to great lengths to arrange the marriage of his son, Isaac, to Rebekah. And the great medieval sage Maimonides included marriage in his listing of the 613 commandments incumbent upon Jews.

Closer to home, no sooner had the first Jewish young men arrived in the Oregon Territory than a widow came to Portland in 1854 to open a boardinghouse for bachelors – and encourage them to find Jewish wives.

“We understand that she came because she wanted to keep an eye on the young men,” says Judith Margles, director of the Oregon Jewish Museum. “There was an awareness that the young men would want to start families once they became established.”

Caroline Weinschank, the widow, was herself among the first Jewish marriages in Oregon – she married Elias Stille of Independence on Sept. 19, 1858.

Although the wedding of Marjana Bettman and Simon Baum, also held on Sept. 19, 1858, is often counted as the first Jewish wedding in Oregon, Eliezer Froehlich, a professional genealogist in Corvallis, found evidence of others in Multnomah County’s earliest handwritten marriage records.

“The first recorded Oregon Jewish marriage was of Peter Funkinstine (or Funkenstein) to Sarah L. Levy on July 25, 1858,” he says. “They were married by William Beck, a Justice of the Peace, with L. Walters and Leopold Mayer as witnesses.”

Mayer was the first president of Congregation Beth Israel, which was formally organized on June 13, 1858.

A few months later, according to Froehlich’s research in county records, the Stilles and the Baums were both married by the Rev. Samuel M. Laski, who by then had been appointed “minister of the Synagogue Beth Israel in Portland.” Witnesses included Mayer, the Beth Israel president, and Jacob Mayer, another charter member of the congregation.

The Funkensteins and the Stilles soon moved on from Oregon, but the Baums stayed, and both the Bettman and Baum families were



“A BRILLIANT WEDDING” – The wedding of Congregation Beth Israel’s dynamic rabbi, Jonah B. Wise, and Helen Rosenfeld of Portland in 1909 was an important community event that filled Beth Israel’s sanctuary to overflowing. The bima or altar in the second Beth Israel was bedecked with flowers for the occasion. Also pictured is Rabbi Wise in a 1906 photo and Rosenfeld in a 1908 engagement photo. Photo of Beth Israel interior courtesy of Oregon Jewish Museum; photos of Wise and Rosenfeld from *Jonah Bondi Wise* by Sam Cauman, Crown Publishers, NY 1966 (Photos 12 and 13)

active in Portland's Jewish community. In fact, Froehlich lists the marriage of Marjana Bettman's sister, to Sigmund Rosenblatt in 1859, as the fourth Jewish wedding in Oregon.

No doubt these first weddings were comparatively simple celebrations – the Bettman-Baum invitation notes that the “wedding party” will be in the home of “L. Baum,” and other early weddings were often held in homes.

Some later weddings were held in local halls – Gevurtz Hall on Southwest Front and Gibbs Street in Portland was a popular spot, as well as synagogues and their social halls.

One of the grandest weddings of its time was the marriage of Rabbi Jonah Wise of Congregation Beth Israel and Helen Rosenfeld, “a Portland girl,” on June 23, 1909.

Wise, the son of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the “father” of American Reform Judaism, came to Portland in 1906 as the first

American-born rabbi to lead Beth Israel. Just 25 years old, he was described by friends as dynamic, a witty conversationalist and a good companion.

He courted Helen Rosenfeld for two years, and their wedding was – according to *The Oregonian* – the first ever celebrated in the second Temple Beth Israel, an ornate “semi-Gothic and Mooresque” structure completed in 1890 at a cost of \$70,000.

The building, which could seat 750, was “taxed to its capacity” for the nuptials, *The Oregonian* reported. The new Mrs. Wise, an accomplished pianist, equestrienne and athlete, had attended the old Portland Academy and the Benjamin Deane School, a finishing school in New York.

The couple had three children, but left Portland in 1925 after Rabbi Wise took the pulpit of the Central Synagogue in New York.

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Although they weren't married in Portland, Susie and the late Ted Gerson had their own remarkable wedding story – and Susie Gerson still has the glass-plate negatives documenting it.

The Gersons, both Holocaust refugees who had found their way to Shanghai, China, during World War II, were “fixed

ENROUTE TO A WEDDING – Susie Segalowicz and Ted Gerson, both Holocaust refugees who met in Shanghai during World War II, hired a rickshaw to get them to the temple for their wedding when a taxicab failed to show up. The Gersons moved to Portland after the war with their infant daughter.

up” by a mutual acquaintance, though Susie Segalowicz at first wasn't sure she wanted to go out with the dashing older man from Hamburg, Germany.

Susie – by then long since on her own in Berlin after her parents and brother were taken by the Nazis – made her way through Italy to Shanghai, where her uncle and aunt had taken refuge and finally were able to send for her. She was 17 when she arrived, and found work among Shanghai's estimated 20,000 Jewish refugees.

Ted Gerson fled Germany with his brother after a co-worker warned him that the Gestapo was planning to arrest him. By 1938 the brothers made their way to Shanghai, an “open city” that didn't require visas or passports for entry.

Susie and Ted met in 1942 and married on Nov. 17, 1944. They came to Portland three years later, after the war's end. Ted died in 1995.

“The temple was overflowing,” Susie recalls. “It wasn't like you were invited to the wedding – people just came. Everyone wanted to see what we looked like.”

In photos of the wedding day, Susie is wearing an elegant floor-length gown and carrying a large bouquet. Her husband-to-be sits next to her – and both are being transported through Shanghai by a rickshaw driver.

Gasoline was scarce during the war, Susie explains. And even though her groom had ordered a taxi well in advance, when it didn't show up, he decided they should just take the rickshaw to the temple.


That evening, after a dinner in a local restaurant, they began married life in the crowded 8x10-foot utility room at her aunt and uncle's home.

“We had a reception with brandy and cake, and maybe 35 people,” she says. “That was our wedding party. But everything was OK.”



Whether a simple ceremony in a home or garden, an elaborate simcha in a wedding hall, hotel or synagogue, Jewish weddings celebrate the establishment of a Jewish home and a family – and strengthen the bonds of community.

The Talmud says, “A man's home is his wife,” and the Zohar, a book of mystical teachings, notes that “God creates new worlds constantly. In what way? By causing marriages to take place.”

On the Western frontier, whether 150 years ago or today, Jewish couples create new homes and new worlds through sacred unions, with joy and with blessing. 

Sura Rubenstein is a freelance writer in Portland.



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As couples turn from creating a perfect wedding to creating households together, Oregon Jewish Life asked some rabbis to reflect on: *What makes a house a Jewish home?*



Rabbi Kenneth Brodtkin | Kesser Israel | [kesserisrael.org](http://kesserisrael.org) | Portland

A significant misunderstanding in the Jewish world during recent generations is the notion that Judaism is a “synagogue-centered religion,” much as other religions of the world are church-centered faiths. While it is true that the synagogue is a vital centralizing institution of Jewish life, the most fundamental sphere of Jewish expression is not the synagogue. That eminent position belongs solely to the Jewish home.

Our sages teach us that when a person comes to convert to Judaism, he or she enters into a covenant with G-d. To create that relationship, individuals accept upon themselves devotion to G-d through

the mitzvot. How telling it is that the mitzvot cited at the time of a conversion are intrinsically connected to the Jewish home: Shabbat, kashrut and mikveh.

Each of these commands finds its basic expression in the Jewish home. On Shabbat we learn to use time to connect to a deeper part of ourselves and our world by uplifting our homes with festive Shabbat meals. Kosher eating, which defines the Jewish kitchen, is an opportunity to remember G-d through the basic act of eating. Finally, mikvah observance is an opportunity to raise sexual expression into an eternal bond between husband, wife and Creator.

This is instructive in understanding “when a house becomes a Jewish home.” The house becomes “Jewish” when it is infused with the spirit of passionate Jewish individuals and families, devoted to the timeless ethos of our sacred heritage: the mitzvot of the Torah.



Rabbi Laurie Rutenberg and Rabbi Gary Schoenberg | Gesher: A Bridge Home | [ourjewishhome.net](http://ourjewishhome.net) | Portland

A Jewish home kindles flames to celebrate Shabbat and holidays.

A Jewish home provides nourishment and joy, shares laughter and tears, and encourages all family members to hone and passionately share their gifts. A Jewish home welcomes strangers and makes them friends, brings singles together in search of their life’s partner and helps further the search for life’s work.

A Jewish home makes rest and replenishment holy; it makes eating a source of delight, replenishment and source of experiencing values.

A Jewish home honors learning and explores the deep wisdom of Torah; the resilience, vision and humor of our people; and the struggles of the day.

A Jewish home celebrates a birth with community, shares the burden of loss and is the center of comfort during mourning. It is the glue of neighborhood, the building block of community, and shares its delight with all faiths.

A Jewish home is “secured” by a mezuzah on its doorposts that proclaims a relationship to holiness and holy work in this world.

A Jewish home shares its blessings, envisions a more perfect future and sees its mission as bringing that future into reality.

So many of us who have wandered from our Jewish homes must intentionally recreate them in our lives. Gesher’s mission is to reseed the vibrance of Jewish homes.



Rabbi Joseph Wolf | Havurah Shalom | [havurahshalom.org](http://havurahshalom.org) | Portland

Books, lots of conversation, guests, ideas ... more books. And don’t forget a mezuzah to wedge a little bit of what’s outside inside and vice versa. Why these things? Think about it – what distinguishes us is how much we let the world impinge upon us, and to what extent we’ll insinuate ourselves out there, as well. We live in a society that pushes entertainment and profanity – shouldn’t we insist that ardent political conversation warm up the living room? Oh, the dining room: Add to the list whatever it takes to set

a colorful Shabbat table – candlesticks, kiddush cups, tableware you adore and, most of all, strangers and newcomers. This is because it will not suffice to host the friends you feel safest with – you’ll need the “angels” who bring news that’s unexpected and even upsetting at times, so you can be motivated to do the world’s work. A Jewish home should be expansive, in the sense that it’s a safe haven and a tablet on which to write one’s emerging life story. It’s going to take some thought about how to provide quiet, set up teacups, reading lights – and cozy chairs for those guests who talk about books ... the Jewish titles and today’s writers of the world. Your Jewish home affords a window: It’s equal parts solace and commotion.



Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana | Senior Rabbi | Congregation Beth Israel (Reform) | [bethisrael-pdx.org](http://bethisrael-pdx.org) | Portland

Marriage is sacred in Judaism as the creation or “birth” of a new unit – the family. Two individuals join their lives, their experiences and their dreams into one. These experiences include the traditions they each grew up with and the customs they choose to adapt.

In Judaism, a Jewish home is defined less by objects or beliefs (although both help!) than by actions. What do we DO in this new home that makes it “Jewish”? Are there sacred moments where Shabbat and holidays are recognized?

Do we ensure that in this home the divine spark within each other is honored, treasured and encouraged to grow? Do we practice tzedakah by giving to others? Are we proud of the history and customs we reflect?

The Jewish home is referred to as a mikdash ma’at – a miniature sanctuary – based on the prophet Ezekiel (11:16) who spoke of G-d as being wherever the people are: not just in houses of worship. Jewish life happens in Jewish homes. A house becomes a Jewish home when the people inside create this mikdash ma’at – this small and intimate sanctuary where the image of G-d dwells within the people who live there.

# HIGH Notes



**“Jewish music should simply speak to an aspect of a Jew’s life that touches upon their commonality with other people as much as their experience of difference through being Jewish.” - Beth Hamon**

IMAGES BY FLOOM

To learn more about Beth Hamon and hear her music, go to [reverbnation.com/bethhamon](http://reverbnation.com/bethhamon). For more information about Shalshélet, go to [shalshélet.org](http://shalshélet.org).

# *Beth Hamon is just the latest Portland Jewish composer to step onto a world stage*

By Elizabeth Schwartz

Thanks to the TV show “Portlandia,” Oregonians west of the Cascades are now famous for their highly developed food sensibilities, militant bike activism, flowing long gray hair and ever-intensifying addictions to locally produced artisan coffees, oh-so-perfect pinots and craft beers.

What “Portlandia hasn’t touched on – yet (hint) – is the amount of buzz generated by a number of Oregon’s Jewish composers above and beyond the boundaries of our community. What’s that, you say? Portland *has* Jewish composers? Most emphatically yes, we do. From classical music to singer/songwriters, original Jewish liturgical melodies, kids’ music and the genesis of the klezmer music revival of the past 40 some years, Oregon boasts a number of composer/musicians who are making Jews and non-Jews alike sit up and listen, all over the world. Here are a few:

## **Beth Hamon**

These days, Beth Hamon (pronounced HAM-on) tends to walk around with a delighted and slightly bewildered smile on her face. Delighted because she’s a finalist at the Fifth International Shalsholet Foundation for New Jewish Liturgical Music Festival. The Shalsholet Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was founded in 2003 by Cantor Ramón Tasat for the purpose of enhancing spirituality and building community through the creation and dissemination of Jewish sacred music. Since 2004, Shalsholet has hosted four international festivals to showcase more than 150 Jewish composers from around the world. Submissions to Shalsholet are open to everyone, which gives all Jewish composers – professional musicians, clergy, students or private citizens – a unique opportunity to reach a worldwide audience. This year’s festival, the fifth, will take place in Miami Feb. 13-17.

Hamon is also bewildered because it’s all so sudden. Less than six months ago, she was a co-owner of a local bike shop and taught religious school as a sideline at Congregation Beth Israel. Although she had been writing original music since 1999 and released her first CD in 2003, Hamon had always thought of herself as a bike mechanic who wrote music. Last fall, after almost 20 years in the bike industry, Hamon left the world of wrenches and spokes behind. Now she’s making her living teaching Hebrew and other religious school classes, as well as leading family services and working with preschoolers at CBI. Hamon is also putting the finishing touches on songs for her second album, “Ten Miles,” which she hopes to begin recording later this year.

Hamon’s relationship to Judaism has not followed a typical path. Born in Brooklyn, Hamon moved frequently as a child before arriving in Gresham in 1975, at the age of 12. “As a kid,

I never went to camp, wasn’t a member of a synagogue and was therefore never exposed to the liturgy,” Hamon recalls. “The only prayers I ever learned were the motzi and the first line of the shema.” When Hamon began working at CBI, over a decade ago, she experienced Jewish communal life for the first time. “I had to scramble to learn a lot in a short time, so I could be of use in that community; there was a steep learning curve,” she says.

Because Jews are a minority in America, most Jews grow up with a sense of “otherness” as a core part of their identity. By virtue of her peripatetic childhood, Hamon feels that sense of separateness not only as a Jew in America, but as a Jew among other Jews; being a lesbian gives Hamon added insights and perspectives on difference. “In my music, I’ve felt a need to sift through my personal roots, to explore Jewish otherness and hold it up against my own otherness within the Jewish community,” she says. “There’s a lot of overlap between my otherness and the otherness of Jews in the world; discovering that has helped me feel more at home in the Jewish community and more comfortable in my skin as a Jew.”

Hamon’s music is an idiosyncratic blend of folk, roots, old-time string band music (“the kind you’d hear at contra dances”), pop and an irrepressible energy left over from her previous life as a marching band instructor for Portland Public Schools. Hamon grew up surrounded by music; both her parents were nightclub performers, and she trained as a percussionist, playing both orchestral and jazz gigs around town. An injury to her right hand in 1997 ended her percussion career, so Hamon turned to guitar. An autodidact with unerring rhythmic and melodic timing, she quickly figured out how to accompany herself with a combination of singable melodies and driving rhythms. “There’s something deep and pure about an acoustic guitar that I just love.”

“Some of my songs wouldn’t automatically be considered Jewish music by some people, because they’re not liturgically based,” says Hamon, who wrestles with the definition of “Jewish” music. “I was having an online discussion recently with other Jewish musicians about what makes music Jewish. Some people insisted it has to have a liturgical context and at least some of it needs to be in Hebrew. I think those are hallmarks of a lot of contemporary Jewish music today, but I don’t think they’re absolutely necessary. Jewish music should simply speak to an aspect of a Jew’s life that touches upon their commonality with other people as much as their experience of difference through being Jewish.”

Hamon chose “City of Love,” the title song from her first CD, as her entry for the Shalsholet Festival. “I wrote it in the fall of 2001, while I was taking graduate courses in Jewish education in Philadelphia,” Hamon recalls. “I was very homesick; I felt lost and in need of some kind of personal compass.” In the

song, that compass is the prayer Ahavat Olam, which speaks of God's love for the Jewish people. "God has given us Torah and mitzvot as guidelines; that is a compass I can access no matter where I am in the world," says Hamon. "The English lyrics of 'City of Love' reflect the homesick feelings. I was inspired to call it 'City of Love' because of the Love sculpture in JFK Plaza in Center City, Philadelphia." (The artist who created the Love sculpture, Robert Indiana, also made a similar sculpture with the word Ahava, Hebrew for Love, for the Israel Museum Art Garden in Jerusalem.)

As the Shalsholet Festival draws near, Hamon can barely contain her excitement. "I'm blessed to live in Portland with some extraordinary talent in the Jewish community, but the Jewish music scene here is small, and as a composer I've been working in isolation," she explains. "I hope being at Shalsholet, meeting all kinds of new Jewish composers and performing my song, will get my music more exposure and garner more interest in the kind of Jewish music that I'm writing, and perhaps lead to appearances at other Jewish events."



### DAVID SCHIFF

Within Portland's Jewish community, David Schiff is perhaps better known as retired cantor Judith Schiff's husband.

Elsewhere, he's known as an accomplished classical composer whose music has been commissioned and performed by ensembles around the world. Two years ago, the Seattle Symphony commissioned Schiff to write a farewell tribute for outgoing music director Gerard Schwarz. "I featured the trumpet section in 'Canzonetta,' because Schwarz is a trumpet player," Schiff explains. "'Canzonetta' is a successor to a longer, earlier work I wrote, 'Canzona.'" Schwarz is now working on a new series about classical music, which will air on PBS; the series will include a performance of "Canzonetta." The Seattle Symphony has also presented Schiff's "Fanfare for Israel" and excerpts from his opera "Gimpel the Fool," "Solus Rex" and "Sacred Service."

Schiff's music reaches beyond the Pacific Northwest; both the Minnesota Orchestra and the Virginia Symphony have commissioned works (concertos for timpani and clarinet, respectively). Schiff's best-known orchestral work, "Stomp," was performed by the chamber orchestra Concordia, led by Marin Alsop, in New York City in 1990; Alsop later conducted the work with the Baltimore Symphony. The American

Composers' Orchestra presented Schiff's reworked version, "Stomp Relit," at Carnegie Hall in 2009. "I've also been fortunate to have a number of performances of my work by the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center," Schiff adds.

Two years ago, Portland's Third Angle Ensemble took Schiff's "Scenes from Adolescence" to Beijing. "When my music gets performed in Paris and Beijing, I'm very happy, even if the local reception is mixed," says Schiff, recalling that faculty members at Beijing University were less than enthusiastic about his music, "but the students liked it." Another of Schiff's chamber pieces, the "Divertimento" from his opera "Gimpel the Fool," has been performed in many locales, including the Palais du Luxembourg in Paris.

"I think the music of mine that has traveled most is my 'Sim Shalom,' which is sung by cantors all over the world," says Schiff. "Because of Judy's 32 years as cantor, I've written a lot of synagogue music. The cantorial world is very networked, so when a tune makes the rounds and people like it, it gets sung everywhere. That's as good as it gets."

### STEPHANIE SCHNEIDERMAN

Portland singer/songwriter Stephanie Schneiderman has been making waves since 1999, when she released the first of her seven solo albums. Over the last decade, Schneiderman has steadily built a regional audience, and her music is played on contemporary adult radio stations all over the country.



Stephanie Schneiderman (right) with sisters Lisa Schneiderman (left) and Kim Palumbis

Within the Jewish community, Schneiderman has achieved fame of another sort: she's the producer of the music for the popular OyBaby series of DVDs and CDs.

Schneiderman, along with her sisters Lisa Schneiderman and Kim Palumbis, sang the three-part harmonies heard on OyBaby's arrangements of classic Jewish melodies. "There's a nice warmth about singing with your siblings," says Schneiderman. "We grew up singing together, and there's a blend that happens naturally because we are influenced by similar things."

OyBaby creators Rob and Lisi Wolf launched their first DVD for Jewish babies and toddlers in 2002. After the unexpected success of their first DVD, the Wolfs made a companion CD, a second OyBaby DVD/CD, and most recently a third CD, "We Sang That at Camp," which features Jewish



summer camp melodies. Ten years in, OyBaby has sold more than 100,000 products across all 50 states and in more than 20 countries, including Canada, Israel, Brazil and France. Co-creator Rob Wolf reports that sales continue to grow.

OyBaby videos are designed to teach very young children basic Jewish melodies for Shabbat blessings and songs for various holidays. Schneiderman was determined to create arrangements that parents would enjoy as much as their children. "I created arrangements which reflected what I grew up singing, because I thought, 'Instead of making it kids' music that parents would listen to, let's make it parents' music that kids will listen to.'"

Wolf agrees. "So much of Jewish music sounded very liturgical, like something a cantor would sing," he explains. "I think there is a desire and a need for something more like what we heard at Jewish summer camp. Also, it was very important to us that we not dumb down Jewish music."

OyBaby is a marked departure from Schneiderman's solo work, and she has reveled in the unexpected opportunities it's brought to her creative life. "Before OyBaby, I never thought of myself as a producer of children's music or Jewish children's music," she explains. "It was also fun to work with my sisters in the studio. These are the songs I grew up with at Neveh Shalom and at Jewish summer camp; making OyBaby felt like coming back to my roots."

#### LEV LIBERMAN

Klezmer music has been enjoying a revival since the mid-1970s. Players and audiences alike, all over the world, continue to fall in love with this swinging, swaggering, virtuosic, improvisatory and deeply emotional instrumental music. All these elements have combined, like gypsum and clinker, to cement klezmer solidly and permanently into the firmament of world music.



Lev Liberman isn't a bit surprised. The man who co-founded The Klezmerim, the first band to bring

klezmer music out of its former obscurity, knew from the beginning that klezmer was here to stay. "I thought the music was so fascinating. It was clear to me that klezmer was a musician's music; it would attract players because of its complexity and challenge," he says. "We could take it anywhere and play for anybody. Whether we were busking in the streets of Berkeley or playing Carnegie Hall, we were always successful in attracting audiences and intriguing musicians."



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Lieberman, a saxophone specialist who's been a Portlander since 1986, always saw klezmer's potential to reach beyond the Jewish community. "We never thought of it as limited to the Jewish community; our audiences were mainstream from the beginning," he explains. "Before we brought it back, klezmer had been underground for 40 years, so there was no such thing as an audience base."

With the band, Lieberman took klezmer to the world. The Klezmorim sold out Carnegie Hall twice in one day, played at L'Olympia and the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, and headlined at major jazz festivals across Europe.

Today there are more klezmer or klezmer-influenced bands than ever, including Portland's own Klezmocracy, Vagabond Opera and 3 Leg Torso. They cover a diverse spectrum of sound from traditional to jazz/fusion to rock, avant-garde and beyond. Although Lieberman is sanguine about klezmer's popularity, he was taken aback to realize he'd helped create a genuine cultural phenomenon. "In 1979 or 1980, somebody came up to me in Berkeley and said, 'Do you realize you guys have made Jewish hip again?' The idea that someone would ascribe something bigger than the music to klezmer was astounding to us."

#### ILENE SAFYAN



Ilene Safyan, music coordinator at Havurah Shalom and a noted cantorial soloist at both Havurah and Neveh Shalom in Portland, has been a beloved part of Portland's synagogue music scene for decades. In addition to her congregational work, Safyan is an award-winning recording artist, with fellow Havurahnik Margie Rosenthal. Their six CDs of Jewish music have been recognized by Entertainment Weekly, the American Library

Association and The PBS Parents Guide to Children & Media. Safyan's music has also been featured on XM Radio's Hanukkah station, Children's Media Network, WQXR and NPR.

Safyan is professional and assured in her established roles as a cantorial soloist and music leader. "I love music and it's my passion, but other than studying voice, I have no classical training," she says. "I'm hesitant to call myself a composer because I wasn't a music major."

While Safyan may not have thought herself a composer, that didn't stop her from writing music. "Writing, composing and arranging melodies has been an integral part of my life for all of my life," she explains.

In 2010 Safyan's setting of "Petach Lanu Sha'ar," whose text, "Keep open the gates for us," comes from the Yom Kippur Neilah service, was selected by the Shalsholet Foundation for its

Fourth International Festival, held in New York City.

Safyan almost missed the deadline for submitting her music. "I was debating whether to take myself seriously as a composer; I sent in my piece on the last day," she admits. "Entering Shalsholet's contest meant taking my music to the next level. I had no expectations about it, although I thought it would be wonderful to have outside acknowledgment that this was a special piece."

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## Through the Shalsholet Foundation, both Ilene Safyan's and Beth Hamon's compositions will reach beyond Portland to find Jewish musicians in communities throughout North America, Israel and the world.


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Little did she know. "Since I submitted 'Petach Lanu Sha'ar,' it's been performed all over the country, possibly even the world; because of the Internet and Youtube, things go viral," Safyan explains. "It's in a compilation published by Shalsholet, which they send to their supporters before High Holidays." Being a Shalsholet finalist has also given Safyan a more visible presence outside Oregon. Several college friends, some of whom are now cantors themselves in different areas of the country, have contacted her about performing "Petach Lanu Sha'ar" in their synagogues.

"A friend wrote to tell me that he found himself humming the song during Neilah," says Safyan. "At Hebrew College in Massachusetts, one of the rabbis received the song. He sent it to all the students, alumni and faculty, saying this was truly a melody that reflected the intentionality of the prayer and was consistent with the nusach (traditional prayer melody) of Neilah. That was a wonderful compliment and incredibly meaningful to me."

Today, Safyan is happily engrossed in writing several new original compositions. "Shalsholet was an absolute delight and joy; it's connected me to a lot of people who love the things I love, and it sparked all sorts of creative places inside me. I'll definitely submit my work again."

\*\*\*

Through the Shalsholet Foundation and its ongoing mission to disseminate contemporary Jewish music, both Safyan's and Hamon's compositions will reach beyond Portland to find Jewish musicians in communities throughout North America, Israel and the world. The fact that Portland, with its relatively small Jewish community (as compared to New York or Los Angeles), can boast two Shalsholet finalists, speaks to the ruach, depth and skill of our city's Jewish composers. Yasher koach! 

Elizabeth Schwartz is the program annotator for the Oregon Symphony and a freelance writer living in Portland. She has been married to Beth Hamon for 11 years.

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# FASHIONISTA



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By Kira Brown | Photos courtesy of kendrascott.com

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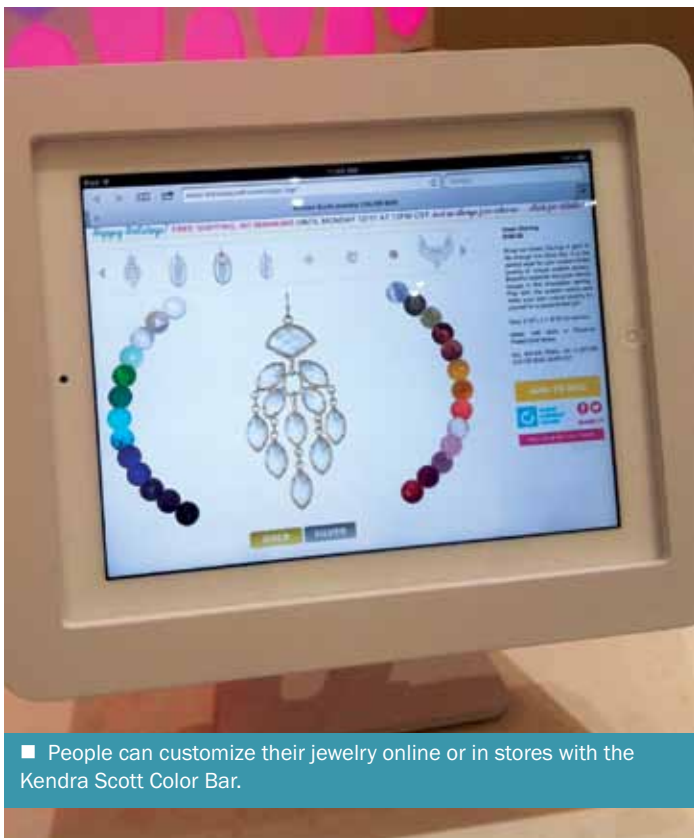
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Kira Brown is a certified personal stylist and fashion writer. Kira has interviewed many fashion icons including Tim Gunn, Jeweler Neil Lane, International Makeup Artist Jemma Kidd, Ken Downing of Neiman Marcus and more. In addition to writing, Kira offers virtual style consultations for women and men. email: [kira@fashionphoenix.com](mailto:kira@fashionphoenix.com)

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# Restoring **history** takes **vision** and **patience**



Story and photo by Polina Olsen

When Myra Beetle bought her 1892 Victorian, the two-story home barely hinted at its glorious past. Decades of remodels covered the home's original gingerbread, bay windows and trim. Built in the Portsmouth neighborhood of North Portland as a wedding gift to Mary Jardine, the house once served as a gambling den, according to neighborhood lore. Lucy Pearl Love married "prosperous young farmer" Raleigh R. Massey here, according to a May 1908 Oregonian society page. The house still shakes when freight trains move through the tunnel built below the street in 1927.

Myra and her husband, Buzz, fell in love with the home's possibilities. That was 1977, and throughout careers and two children, they painstakingly restored. As the most expensive and extensive remodel, the kitchen came last. The thrown-together room without a foundation had clearly been added on. After much research, they settled on an Edwardian design that

involved a complete teardown. They put a hot plate, microwave and mini-fridge into the dining room, which shares a sink with a bathroom, and got to work.

"It was a two-year project," Beetle said as she sipped tea in her new kitchen's cozy bay window. Finished at last, she enjoys talking about the process and sharing tips. Finding the right contractors was key. "We talked to a lot, but they didn't understand we wanted the kitchen to reflect the period of the house." They sought personal recommendations, checked Angie's List ([www.angieslist.com](http://www.angieslist.com)) and chose mid-range bids.

First came Allen Tankersley of Cornerstone Builders, Inc. ([cornerstonebuilders.org](http://cornerstonebuilders.org)). He chose old wood to match existing siding. The high-ceilinged oval-shaped room he built begins with a back entrance and small, covered porch. A tiled mudroom leads to the laundry sealed off with pocket doors. A butler's pantry, common to the era, includes pass-through


shelves to the adjoining dining room and a period copper sink.

Cabinets by Bear Woodworks (503-730-6906) blended three styles and incorporated antique leaded glass. "I wanted a cherry wood, but Buzz likes old-growth fir that was original to the house," Beetle said. "We compromised and used old-growth fir stained cherry." This is the one decision she in some ways regrets. "I wish it weren't a soft wood. It's vertical grain and looks beautiful, but it does scratch."

They chose soapstone counters – "granite is too modern" – and a Marmoleum floor. The light fixtures once hung in a turn-of-the-century hotel, and they found antique hardware at Old Portland Hardware & Architectural (oldportlandhardware.com). Buzz Beetle and a friend installed the tin ceiling and reproduction moldings.

WHEN THE KITCHEN WAS READY FOR FINAL TOUCHES, BEETLE INCORPORATED HER OWN FAMILY HISTORY. THE OLD BOBOER YESHIVA PUSHKE (CHARITY BOX) FROM HER GRANDMOTHER'S BROOKLYN HOME TAKES PRIDE OF PLACE ON THE SHELF.

Emulating the Pittock Mansion kitchen, subway tiles line the walls. Expert Dirk Sullivan of Hawthorne Tile (www.hawthornetile.com) understood 1/16-inch grout lines and corner pieces created the period look. The couple complemented their antique gas range with a refrigerator and wall oven from Heartland Reproduction appliances (reproduction-stoves.com), saving money by purchasing floor models. Heartland is sold locally at Kelly's Home Center in Salem and Standard TV & Appliance in Beaverton.

When the kitchen was ready for final touches, Beetle incorporated her own family history. The old Boboer Yeshiva pushke (charity box) from her grandmother's Brooklyn home takes pride of place on the shelf. An antique menorah rests among brightly colored vases, hand-knit towels and potholders. When asked about historic preservation, Beetle advised, "Research and figure out the kitchen you want. Be prepared for inconvenience and know that things take longer than you expect." 

Polina Olsen is a Portland freelance writer. She is the author of several books, including *Stories from Jewish Portland* published by The History Press.



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# LET THE PLANTING COMMENCE

*February is a good time to start bare-root berries, leafy greens and, if you have patience, asparagus*

By Jan Behrs

For the food gardener, winter ends in February. While it'll be months yet – long, cold, soggy months – before tender annuals such as tomatoes, peppers and squash can go into the ground, now's the time to plant perennial fruiting plants such as grapes, raspberries and strawberries.

Shrubs, too, can be planted in the Northwest anytime the ground is not so soggy it can't be worked. So avail yourself of some blueberries, huckleberries and lingonberries, wait for a dry stretch and plant away.

I usually do my first sowing of lettuce and spinach in February during the one warm week we customarily get. Seeds

of arugula, chard, kale and other greens can go into raised beds or containers then, too. The lighter soil mix in containers (any three-way or four-way commercial mix or your own blend of half potting soil and half manure-based compost) warms up much quicker than the surrounding soil and drains faster, too, allowing earlier planting.


Caneberries are available at nurseries by mid-February, usually in bare-root form, packed in sawdust. They look like little more than dried-up sticks with a cluster of roots at one end, but, planted now, their buds will soon swell and berries will be in the offing. Besides raspberries, consider loganberries, marionberries and currants. Although grapes won't fruit the first year, most caneberries will yield at least a few late fruits and provide a bumper crop the second and third year. They can go into well-amended, well-drained garden soil; they don't need to be put into raised beds.

Strawberry plants also are available bare-root this month. Though tiny, they, too, will provide a few berries the first summer. Good advice is to pinch off the first blooms to let the plants concentrate their energy on forming roots, but later blooms can be left to grow into berries.

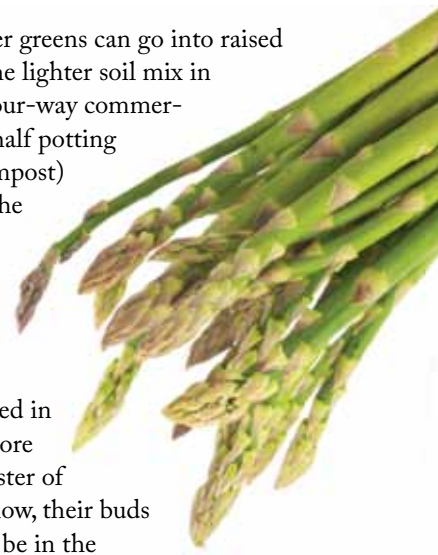
Naked crowns of asparagus look like wizened spiders, but they'll grow into healthy plants by summer, given an early start. Asparagus takes patience, though. The first year, allow asparagus to put forth spikes and grow without harvesting any. In late fall, cut down the yellowed "ferns" and mulch the plants with rich compost. In the second year, you can harvest a couple of spears from each plant, but, again, let the rest mature into fern form. The third year, the plants should be well established, and asparagus can be harvested at will.

Rhubarb, artichokes, cardoon and horseradish also can go into the garden now, as can peas. If put into saturated ground, though, peas may rot, so save half the pack for a later planting. Again, while planting into cold, wet soil is risky, planting into raised beds of prepared mix usually yields superior results.

While it's often too cold to plant annual herbs such as basil outdoors until June, perennial herbs such as parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, mint, chives, oregano and so on will thrive if planted now in well-drained soil. Some, such as parsley and chives, can be planted from seed; others do better from transplants.

Now don't get carried away. It's a bit too early for carrots, for example. Wait till March to seed those. Planting time for potatoes is mid-March, too, around St. Patrick's Day. 

Portland freelance writer Jan Behrs specializes in stories about gardeners, gardens, remodeling and real estate. A master gardener, her work appears in The Oregonian, Better Homes and Gardens and online.



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# CHARITABLE GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE PROVIDE MANY BENEFITS

By Julie Diamond

Most of us dream of acquiring real estate, our first home, a commercial building for a family business, or a downtown condominium when it's time to downsize. But did you know that giving away real estate can also be exciting?

Real property donated to a qualified charitable organization can benefit the donor and the community. If you're thinking of selling a property or have acquired a property through a family or business transaction, you may want to learn more about donating property to a charitable organization.


At the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, we have seen generous gifts of real estate including the Park Tower Apartments, a downtown senior apartment building recently gifted by Harold (of blessed memory) and Arlene Schnitzer, and Jordan Schnitzer; and farmland along the Tualatin River donated by Barry and Susan Menashe. OJCF has sold condominiums, houses, lots and shares in real estate limited partnerships. These gifts can provide tax benefits for the donors and create new resources for charitable funds.

"Real estate gifts to nonprofits give sophisticated investors and donors one more approach to consider when reviewing their assets and charitable giving plans," commented Carolyn Weinstein, a broker with the Hasson Company Realtors who has sold charitable gift property for the foundation.

Charitable gifts of real property can be structured in a variety of ways to meet the donor's goals. For example, property gifts can be used to provide retirement income to the donor or someone else through a charitable remainder trust, while creating a charitable gift that can provide a tax deduction in the year the trust is established. A "life estate reserved" allows an individual to donate his or her personal residence through the transfer of the deed to the charitable organization, receive a tax deduction in the year of the transfer and continue to live in the residence for his or her lifetime or for a fixed period of time determined by the donor.

Once accepted by the nonprofit and sold, a gift of real estate can be used to establish a named permanent endowment, a donor advised fund or charitable remainder trust. These funds can be directed to benefit any qualified Jewish or secular nonprofit organization.

Complex IRS rules govern areas such as what is a qualified charitable organization, substantiating gift value through a qualified appraisal and allowable charitable tax deductions. A donor should always seek professional guidance from a CPA, estate attorney, or financial advisor in considering such a gift.

Charitable gifts of real estate are definitely worth exploring. For more information, visit OJCF's website at [ojcfcgift.org](http://ojcfcgift.org), or the IRS at [irs.gov/publications/p526/ar02.html](http://irs.gov/publications/p526/ar02.html). 

Julie Diamond is the executive director of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, Oregon and SW Washington's community resource for Jewish legacy giving and family philanthropy. The OJCF does not provide tax or legal advice. For more information on foundation services, visit [ojcf.org](http://ojcf.org) or call 503-248-9328.

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# Ageless advice

*You can't put time in a bottle, but you can find it in a garden*

By Elizabeth VanderVeer, MD

The topic of gardening is a different subject now than it was some 40 years ago when my family and I tilled and maintained an acre of land for fruit and vegetable gardening (with a few chickens thrown in).

Time seemed so simple then: no personal electronics, no microwave oven, no rush – or so it seemed. I planted the garden every spring with my father, tilling the soil and carefully hand-planting every seed. Then, the real work began. My mother and I harvested and canned/froze/blanched/pickled/peeled anything and everything from that garden to carry us through the winter months, when fresh fruit and vegetables were scarce at the stores. I helped both parents pick daily fruit and vegetables for dinner all summer long. Our meals were supplemented by “organic” beef and chicken (the term didn't need to exist back then), and plain rice or a baked potato. Gastronomic treats included seasonal walnuts and hazelnuts from our own backyard. Life was simple, or at least different, than it is today.


My two sons, ages 15 and 18, have no concept of my upbringing and the kind of life we all had prior to the Internet and personal electronics. I am sure their dad and I contributed to this “gap” in their lives, choosing to live in an urban neighborhood where the lot sizes were measured in fractions of the numbers of my childhood garden. Although we tried to have a little garden, I have the distinction of being the only person I know who cannot grow zucchini! We also became a modern family in other ways, filling our time with travel, after-school sports, music lessons and more. Food became a matter of sustenance, with little thought to where the food we purchased came from. Around 1995, a throwback fad – the farmer's market – became a viable option for three months a year. My children and I loved to go to the markets, where we could talk to the farmer and select fruits and vegetables that had the familiar nicks, dents and bruises characteristic of unaltered, pesticide-free food. Fortunately farmer's markets now provide bounty almost year-round for those willing to forgo the allure of the supermarket.

Although I no longer even attempt to grow zucchini, I do find gardening an art worth pursuing – despite the seemingly low yield for my time. Planting seeds in rich soil is quietly healing and meditative, whether you are planting

in the ground of an estate or in a window garden. You can't force plants to grow faster. Gardening requires forethought, foresight, patience and even getting a little dirty and messing up my nails. It also requires prolonged attention in the form of watering, pruning, harvesting and preparing for “winter.” The art of gardening is in sharp contrast to our fast-paced, disposable, electronic world. “FarmVille” is no substitute for real gardening! As I slowly grow into “middle age,” I think the greatest thing a garden can provide is a sense of appreciation for the value of time.

Gardening *requires* that we slow down and focus on the earth – fitting for the celebration of Purim. As we celebrate our ancestors' deliverance from Haman, I suggest we add planting a garden (or any plant) to our allegorical festivities. Gardening is a wonderful way to celebrate the liberation of our people – by creating our own new life. Make an afternoon or a day out of it; buy a lovely new pot, soil, garden tool and plantings; and give yourself permission to make a mess. Mess up your manicure and smell the earth! I like to do this ritual alone, while listening to my favorite music on my iPod (I can't take the modern era out of it entirely). Make it part of an annual ritual – take some much needed time and literally “smell the roses.” Make a mental list of everything you have to be grateful for. Bless the ability to be able to perform such a simple task – in complete religious freedom and in this great country.

So, why is a cosmetic medical doctor talking about home gardening in the '60s and '70s and the modern substitute? Because they all require *time* – the one commodity we cannot buy, sell, barter or bargain for. *Time* is worthy of our attention and celebration. I believe gardening is an excellent way to slow down and check in. And, as you watch your garden grow, you will have a reminder of the time you took to create something beautiful and fruitful. In this way, you really can have it all: basil in the windowsill and a bountiful harvest at the farmer's market or nearby grocery store.

Even if your modern-day gardening is limited to directing the landscapers or instructing your gardener of the plan to execute, you can still take the time for a little “inner gardening.” It is always a good time to plant the seeds of new ideas in your life; to make simple, but profound, dietary changes in your life; and allow yourself the gift of time to do just about anything – or nothing – if only for an hour. I promise you will reap the rewards of a bountiful harvest as you free yourself from the slavery of the modern world, one moment or change at a time. 

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.





## Want New York's famous Murray's Cheese?

*West of the Mississippi, Portland is the only place to find it*

By Kerry Politzer

Portland's cheese scene recently got a lot more sophisticated with the addition of three Murray's Cheese mini-stores. These satellite shops, which are the first to open west of the Mississippi, are located inside selected Fred Meyer supermarkets. The first Murray's Cheese shop in Oregon opened at the Burlingame Fred Meyer in May of 2012 and is now also at the Hollywood and Hawthorne Fred Meyers.

For those who might be unfamiliar with Murray's Cheese, it is New York City's oldest, and arguably most famous, cheese shop. Founded in 1940 by Jewish businessman Murray Greenberg, the store was originally a small establishment that served the local Italian community in Greenwich Village. In 1991 Jewish entrepreneur Robert Kaufelt bought the store and greatly expanded its offerings. Today, Murray's Cheese sells more than 175 different kinds of cheese as well as accompaniments like nuts, crackers, dried fruit and olives. The business, which has now partnered with grocery giant Kroger, is fulfilling its mission of bringing the best cheese selection to America. In keeping with the spirit of mitzvah, Murray's Cheese continues to donate to charitable organizations that enrich the health, social, educational and cultural life of the country.

New visitors to Murray's Cheese need not be overwhelmed by the colossal array of washed-rind, cave-aged, blue-veined and soft-ripened cheese. They can start out with tried-and-true favorites like cheddar. Murray's Cheese offers traditional Irish and English cheddars as well as a special-edition clothbound Cabot version made from a single varietal of Vermont cows.

Lovers of the local will want to sample the increasingly well-known Rogue River Blue, which is wrapped in grape leaves and then soaked in pear eau de vie from a neighboring vineyard. Rogue River Blue is an ongoing favorite of the American Cheese Society, which has bestowed numerous awards upon the cheese. Other local favorites carried by Murray's Cheese include Tumalo Farms' Pondhopper and Cascadia Creamery's Sleeping Beauty.

Those who keep kosher will be glad to know that Murray's Cheese offers a wide variety of cheese made with rennet from non-animal sources. Cabot, in particular, is certified kosher.

Every Murray's Cheese shop employs an expert cheese master who can answer any cheese-related question, including how to pair a specific cheese with wine. The store also aims to forge links between customers and producers with "Meet the Cheesemaker" events.

Murray's Cheese has plans to open three more Oregon locations this year.

Food and travel writer and jazz pianist Kerry Politzer is a transplant from New York who greatly enjoys the Portland food scene. She publishes a blog on the Portland-NYC culinary scene, *The Rose and the Apple*.

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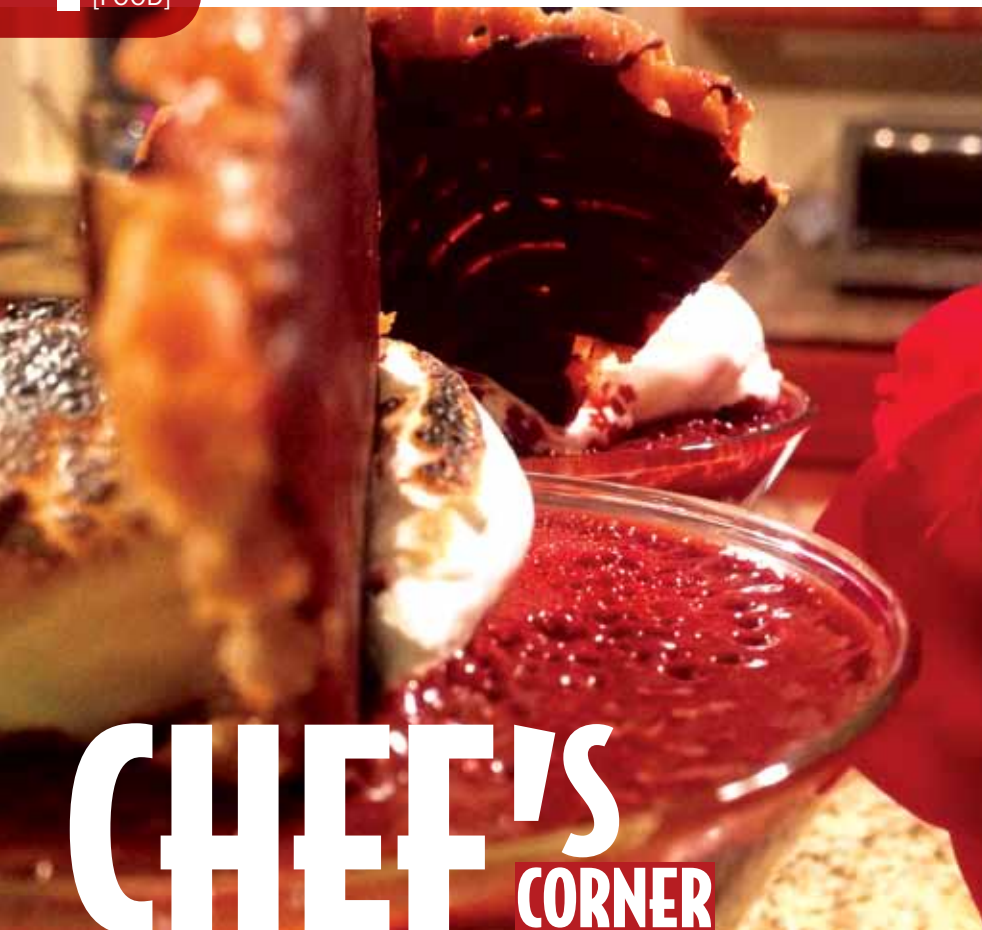
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# CHEF'S CORNER

## CHOCOLATE POTS DE CRÈME

Makes four demitasse cups

- 2/3 cup whole milk
  - 1 egg
  - 1 tablespoon sugar
  - Pinch salt
  - 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips (substitute dark or bittersweet chocolate if you like)
  - 2 tablespoons flavored liqueur (such as Cofia, Frangelico, Kahlua or Grand Marnier)
  - 4 demitasse cups
- Sweetened whipped cream or marshmallow fluff for garnish
- Heat milk in a small pan over moderate heat until it just comes to a boil. In blender combine egg, sugar, pinch of salt, chocolate and liqueur. Turn blender on to slow setting. Pour in hot milk in a slow steady stream (this will “cook” the egg). Blend until smooth. Pour into demitasse cups and chill. Garnish Pots de Crème with sweetened whipped cream or marshmallow topping and a bakery cookie.

## COOK YOUR WAY INTO YOUR VALENTINE'S HEART

Story and photos by Lisa Glickman


Most of us remember Valentine's Days in elementary school when we decorated our personal delivery boxes and waited for them to be filled with flimsy paper “Be My Valentine” cards from all our schoolmates. As we grew older, valentines hopes turned to a more specific choice, like a steady boyfriend or another hopeful suitor delivering us a heart-shaped box of chocolates or the perfect single red rose. Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written valentines didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

Now, as we find ourselves leading busy lives with families to tend to, just the act of picking up that dirty pair of socks off the floor may suffice as a gesture of love, but as we think of Valentine's Day, we should remember that it is a day to show someone how much you truly care and appreciate them. For me, cooking has always been an act of love. When asked what my favorite food is, the answer is always: Anything someone cooks for me!

You might expect that a table at a fine restaurant would be my idea of the perfect valentine, but actually, I suggest that you skip the fancy restaurant reservation. Why spend Valentine's Day with other couples going through the motions, when you could prepare something nice for the love of your life? When planning

your menu, try to think of your valentine's favorite dish. Maybe it's a favorite food from childhood, or the meal you shared on your first date. A pinch of thoughtful makes up for a whole bunch of clumsy in the kitchen! Just remember to keep it special, keep it simple and keep it romantic!

Seafood lovers will appreciate this delicious halibut recipe. Pacific halibut is a firm, dense and sweet white fish that requires little seasoning to enhance its fresh flavor. Serve bathed in this beautiful sauce made with port wine and sour cherries, which adds a beautiful rich red color to the plate, then sprinkle with toasted macadamia nuts for an exotic crunch.

For dessert, a melt-in-your-mouth chocolate pot de crème is not only quick to prepare, but so simple that even the most challenged cook will master it easily. For flavoring I used a hazelnut espresso liqueur from Bend Distillery called “Cofia,” but you can vary the liqueur by adding Frangelico, Kahlua, Casis or even Grand Marnier. Only you know which one is your valentine's favorite! Serve topped with whipped cream and a bakery cookie or use your crème brulee torch to make this caramelized marshmallow topping for your sweetheart! 

Lisa Glickman is a private chef and teacher, and she recently made a TV appearance on the Cooking Channel's “The Perfect Three.” She can be reached via email at [lisa@lisaglickman.com](mailto:lisa@lisaglickman.com).



**FILLET OF HALIBUT IN PORT WINE AND SOUR CHERRY SAUCE  
WITH TOASTED MACADAMIA NUTS**

- 2 six- to eight-ounce portions halibut fillet
  - 1 cup port wine
  - ¼ cup dried sour cherries
  - ¼ cup all purpose flour
  - 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, margarine or extra virgin olive oil
  - Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
  - 1 cup vegetable stock
  - 1 medium shallot, minced
  - 2 tablespoon chopped and toasted macadamia nuts
- In a small saucepan place port and cherries and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer about 10 to 12 minutes to allow wine to reduce by a third. Strain and reserve wine and cherries in separate bowls. Heat a 12-inch non-stick skillet over medium high heat. Add butter or olive oil and heat till hot but not smoking. Season fish with salt and pepper and dredge in flour. Shake off excess. Brown fish on all sides until evenly cooked through, about 2 to 3 minutes per side. Set fish aside and cover with foil to keep warm. Add shallot to pan and sautee until soft. Add reduced port wine and deglaze pan. Add vegetable stock, bring to a boil and reduce by half. Strain sauce into a smaller saucepan and add cherries. Taste and adjust seasonings. Place halibut fillets on warm plate and spoon sauce over. Sprinkle with toasted Macadamia nuts and serve immediately.



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# Music Ambassadors

*Music Director David Hattner guides youth to musical excellence*



PHOTO BY PETE STONE

David Hattner conducts the Portland Youth Philharmonic.

By Elizabeth Schwartz

“There’s nothing you can read about the Portland Youth Philharmonic that will prepare you for an experience when you come to a concert,” declares David Hattner, music director of the PYP, which is the oldest and one of the best youth orchestras in the United States. “You have to experience them because they’re that good.”

This may sound like the kind of boasting you might expect from a conductor, since conductors are stereotypically egotistical, but Hattner isn’t bragging about himself. He considers himself fortunate to work with these kids, not the other way around. And he’s right.

Hattner, who grew up playing clarinet in an assimilated Jewish household in Toledo, OH, knows firsthand what it’s like to be part of a premier youth music ensemble. As a youth, he spent several summers at the prestigious music program at Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, in northwestern Michigan.

“Those were defining musical experiences for me,” Hattner remembers. “The impressions you form as a teenager are the strongest and never go away.” Today, as a conductor, Hattner continues to be inspired by Interlochen’s mission to achieve

maximum results from its students in a short, concentrated period of time. “That’s what I give to our players. I tell them to work hard, because the more excitement and emotion you put in, the more you’ll enjoy it.”

Opportunities to play clarinet professionally at the elite level are few, and, as Hattner points out, those who hold principal positions in the top orchestras typically stay in them for decades. For Hattner, conducting was a way to continue working within the classical music world.

“Orchestras aren’t growing, and there are fewer opportunities to work professionally as an orchestral player, so I either had to expand outside music or do something else within music,” Hattner explains. “Conducting is a means to an end – somebody has to do it – and for me it’s a way to be connected to the music.”

Finding a paid conducting gig is not much easier than landing a principal clarinetist’s job. Hattner’s somewhat laconic description of his trajectory from the wind section to the conductor’s podium fails to mention his intense work as a conducting student over three summers at the world-renowned Aspen Music Festival, where he studied with Murry Sidlin, former

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by Michael Hollinger

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associate conductor of the Oregon Symphony. “Conducting was initially an alternate career path for me,” Hattner acknowledges. “I didn’t know whether it would be feasible, but it turned out I had some natural abilities, and through my studies at Aspen it became clear that it would be possible; that’s how I got the job here.”

Hattner, who was selected from a pool of over 100 candidates, became the conductor and music director of the PYP in 2008. He is only the fifth conductor/music director in the orchestra’s 88-year history.

Hattner may have found his way into conducting through a side door, but he’s firmly ensconced on the podium now. “The orchestral repertoire interests me more than anything else, and I like that conducting is orchestral performance, but in a different form from playing a single instrument,” he says. As conductor, Hattner determines how works will sound: he decides what tempo to take and how to negotiate transitions from one section to another. He’s also the orchestra’s motivator, providing the players with the constructive feedback they need to play their parts as well as possible.

A conductor must have intimate knowledge of each instrumental part in any given work, unlike a principal clarinetist, who is responsible only for his own part and those of the other clarinetists in his section.


“As a conductor you’re responsible for knowing the entire score well enough to be able to explain it to all the players and

answer questions, and you have to know hundreds of pieces,” Hattner explains. “It’s a daunting difference. When I was a principal clarinetist, I could show up to a rehearsal and sight-read everything and it would sound fine, but you can’t do that as a conductor and have any success; you have to spend hours studying the score before you come to rehearsal.”

Conducting a youth orchestra, even one as accomplished as the Portland Youth Philharmonic, presents special challenges for the conductor. Hattner explains the difference in rehearsing with the Oregon Symphony and the PYP. “I do my homework beforehand, but the Oregon Symphony is so professional they’ll be completely ready to perform at the first rehearsal. As long as I go in prepared, and make no mistakes, they’ll play perfectly. With a youth orchestra, you have to teach them how to play every work from scratch.

“A typical first rehearsal with the PYP is a bit of a mess, because although the musicians will have looked at the music and hopefully listened to a recording beforehand, they’ll have questions about a lot of things like transitions. I might have to explain musical terms they aren’t familiar with, and often I need to tell them what the primary melody is at any given point, which isn’t always obvious.” He pauses a minute and then adds, “A really good conductor is essential to a less experienced orchestra like a youth orchestra.”

Hattner is acutely aware that he is working with only a small sampling of Portland’s student musicians, and he laments the ever-dwindling opportunities for music education in the public schools. “The PYP was never intended to replace the public school music experience. Schools can reach all the children. We can’t. Not all PYP students have school orchestras or bands to play in; if they do, I hope they will bring their training and expertise to their school colleagues and encourage younger players to pick up an instrument.” Hattner says PYP musicians have shown “it’s possible to achieve excellence, with effort” and he wants PYP musicians to be “music education ambassadors.”

“We also want to remind parents that their input at school board meetings is critical to preserving existing programs. If school boards and principals are not reminded and congratulated on their programs, they’ll be cut. There are a lot of young people in this community who can’t participate because they don’t have access to early musical education. If programs were made available to them that their parents could afford, it would make a big difference.” 

Elizabeth Schwartz is the program annotator for the Oregon Symphony and a freelance writer living in Portland.

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The Portland Youth Philharmonic will present its Winter Concert on Saturday, March 2, at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. The program will feature the winner of the PYP’s concerto competition and Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 6, “Pathétique.” For more information on this and other upcoming concerts, go to [portlandyouthphil.org](http://portlandyouthphil.org).



# Living and breathing jazz



George Fendel performs for residents of Rose Schnitzer Manor.

Story and photo by Peter Korchnak

Following a rendition of “Yerushalaim Shel Zahav” toward the end of his final jazz piano performance of 2012 at Rose Schnitzer Manor on Nov. 30, George Fendel delivered a piece of good news to resident Sheldon Petcher and the enthralled audience of three dozen residents, caregivers, and staff. His next concert will not only take place soon, it will be a special one: on Saturday, Feb. 10, Fendel will join forces with his son Marc, a professional alto sax player in Seattle, for a special concert at Classic Pianos Recital Hall.

Maurice Unis, Classic Pianos owner, who helps Fendel curate an occasional jazz series at his Southeast Portland-based company, once called Fendel an icon of Portland’s jazz community. With good reason: Fendel is a three-term Jazz Society of Oregon president; a 50-year collector of some 2,000 LP and 6,000 CD jazz records; and a 26-year jazz radio veteran, most recently with 89.1 KMHD, where he has hosted a four-hour Sunday program since 1997.

“I love the radio,” Fendel said. “I’ve always had complete freedom to play what I want. I still get a little rush when going on air.”

None of this surprises Fendel’s wife of 44 years, Laura, an active member of Portland’s Jewish community [see October 2012 issue of Oregon Jewish Life]. She likes to say, “George lives and breathes jazz.”

Their daughters, too, inherited Fendel’s passion for music: Reyna is a professional opera and Broadway singer; and Aliza, who moved to Jerusalem last year, is a singer, writer and teacher.

“I’d love to visit Israel again,” Fendel said. On his previous visit in 1993 he felt he’d found a second home. “But my health will no longer allow it.”

Fendel has also served on the board of Congregation Neveh Shalom, and in the 1960s, he helped lead Camp Solomon Schechter, in Olympia, WA. Now, he admits, “Laurie shares beautiful stories of people she works with, and I focus on jazz. We support and encourage one another – it’s a perfect balance.”

A native Portlander, Fendel finds ways to give back. The Manor show at Cedar Sinai Park is one of several he offers without charge every year. His mother, Gladys, was a resident there from 1998 to 2006.

“She loved this place,” Fendel said. As for him, “They have a wonderful grand piano, and the residents keep coming to the performances.”

CSP Life Enrichment Coordinator Katherine Watry said Fendel has become very popular with Manor residents. “George isn’t just an entertainer whose devotion to jazz music shines through the notes he plays,” Watry said, adding that if enough residents express interest, her department will arrange for a trip to the February show. “We all consider both George and Laurie to be dear friends.”

A Gershwin fan, Petcher underscored Fendel’s openness to requests from the audience. What is more, Petcher said, referring to Fendel, “I love George, his style and demeanor – he’s one of us. I’d like to see him come play as often as possible.”

The elders’ appreciation for music doesn’t escape Fendel. Making a comparison with gigs he has done at restaurants and private parties, Fendel said, “It’s a wonderful crowd. They listen.”

For tickets to the Fendel and Fendel show, call 503-239-9969. 

Peter Korchnak is a freelance writer in Portland. He explores his immigration experience at AmericanRobotnik.com. His book, *Guerrilla Yardwork: The First-Time Home Owner’s Handbook*, will be out in spring 2013.

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Andrew Greenberg at work in the Portland State Business Accelerator Map Room.

## Jewish entrepreneurs make medical discoveries at Portland State Business Accelerator

By Vanessa Van Edwards

Andrew Goldstein and Andrew Greenberg are two Jewish entrepreneurs hoping to change the future of medical diagnoses at Oregon's leading technology incubator, the Portland State Business Accelerator (PSBA).

Located in the heart of the "Silicon Forest" – a nickname for the cluster of high-technology companies located in Portland – the PSBA has been attracting entrepreneurs like Goldstein and Greenberg since it opened in 2009. Its innovative lab facilities, mentorships and collaborative entrepreneurial community have attracted more than 30 startup companies in technology, bioscience and cleantech.

Together these companies have raised more private angel and venture capital in the last three years than any other location in Oregon. Their success, as well as the unique entrepreneurial environment at PSBA, is what appealed to Goldstein and Greenberg.

Both Goldstein and Greenberg have big goals. With his company HydraDx Inc., Goldstein and his team are in the process of developing a medical device that can quickly test for dehydration using saliva – a technology that could have significant potential benefits for elderly care facilities, emergency rooms, athletes in training and the military. Greenberg is chief technology officer at the TOVA Company (Test of Variables of Attention) and APDM Inc. (Ambulatory Parkinson's Disease Monitoring). Greenberg explained, "Both of my companies aim to make objective tests for otherwise subjective diagnoses." The TOVA Company uses a computerized test of attention that helps diagnose and treat attention disorders, while APDM uses technology to measure mobility in order to better monitor therapies for movement disorders like Parkinson's disease.

Greenberg and Goldstein both got their start outside of PSBA. Goldstein is somewhat of a serial entrepreneur – founding, selling and working with four companies in the past 38



Students working at PSBA's "wet lab."

years. As a self-described "lab person," Goldstein has always enjoyed being on the cutting edge of medical discovery. In the 1980s, Goldstein and his associates developed the first FDA-approved saliva-based diagnostic test for HIV/AIDS, which was a revolutionary area in medicine at the time. Goldstein's company was acquired, and their saliva-based AIDS testing kit, OraQuick, is now sold over-the-counter in pharmacies across the United States.

In 2009, Goldstein planned to retire, but was approached by the company HydraDx because of his knowledge of saliva-based diagnostic testing. "I came onboard with HydraDx and got into the PSBA labs to develop the technology," said Goldstein. Goldstein hopes to develop point-of-care human hydration assessment and other novel tests using biomarkers found in saliva.

So far, HydraDx has raised about \$2.8 million in venture capital and is on the brink of finishing its final prototype. Luckily, Goldstein was able to get help from Andrew Greenberg, whose background is in electrical engineering. "One of the things I love most about PSBA is being able to work with other entrepreneurs and to have access to PSU. Greenberg is right down the hall, and he is helping us with the next phase of development because we need a mini-circuit board in the device," said Goldstein.

The company's goal is to develop a disposable under-the-tongue device that detects saliva flow rate. This will not only help detect dehydration, but also can be a valuable indicator for autoimmune diseases that affect saliva production, such as



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Sjögren's syndrome. This device would save both healthcare dollars and lives. Goldstein lists a number of possible applications including detecting dehydration in newborns, elderly, athletes and emergency room patients. Currently, the only way to check dehydration is with expensive, time-intensive blood tests. "If someone is dehydrated they can't wait 24 hours for a blood test to come back, nor do they want to spend \$600 to \$1,000 to receive intravenous fluids that they might not need," explained Goldstein.


The Portland community and PSBA resources have been instrumental in Goldstein's work. Although neither Goldstein nor Greenberg is native to Portland, both love calling it their home. Goldstein and his wife, Jean, moved to Portland in 1974 and both of their sons became bar mitzvah at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Greenberg and his wife, Jennifer, who is program director at Neveh Shalom, are both active members and excitedly preparing for their son's bar mitzvah next year.

Greenberg's company also reveals his Jewish roots. It is no accident that TOVA also means pleasing or good in Hebrew. TOVA is all about doing good. TOVA provides a computerized test of attention that assists in the screening, diagnosis and treatment monitoring of attention disorders, like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Psychologists and psychiatrists all over the world use TOVA's tests with a large contingent of users in Israel. "What makes TOVA's tests special is that they are language- and culture-free, so no matter where you come from you can get accurate

results." The test flashes geometric stimuli on the screen and then very precisely records how a patient responds. TOVA then compares these results to normal measurements from people ages 4 through 88.

Although this technology has roots going back to 1977, TOVA has greatly improved the technology and usage worldwide. Greenberg's other project is APDM, which lives in the same room at PSBA. APDM endeavors to provide technologies and services for automation, data management and instrumentation in clinical trials for movement disorders. Using technology developed in part at PSU, APDM offers three wireless, wearable inertial monitors. They are the size of a wristwatch and are designed to precisely record movement with a kinematic sensor suit.

Both Greenberg and Goldstein are passionate about their products because of their great potential to help people. "I love being an entrepreneur with the flexibility, but I think it is most important that we are helping people," said Greenberg. 

Vanessa Van Edwards is a freelance writer in Portland.



Andrew Goldstein working at his desk in the Portland State Business Accelerator.

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# Packouz Jewelers nears century mark By Gloria Hammer



Rick Mahler and Larry Packouz

Packouz Jewelers was established in 1917 by Nathan Packouz. The jewelry store on Southwest Broadway in downtown Portland was owned by the Packouz family for three generations until store manager Rick Mahler bought it about two years ago. Nathan's grandson Larry Packouz has remained at the store to mentor the new owner but claims he plans to retire in a year or two. Rick was store manager for about 15 years before buying the business.

The two men recently sat down to talk about the business – its past, present and future and how they each fit into those eras.

## RICK, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH LARRY?

He is both a friend and mentor. I have deep respect and appreciation for Larry Packouz's knowledge of the jewelry business.

I hope he stays forever and ever. Larry is Packouz Jewelers. And he will be here until he doesn't want to be here anymore. Larry can stay as long as he wants. Hopefully he will work here until he doesn't want to work anymore.

## LARRY, CAN YOU TELL US YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY WITH THE BUSINESS?

My grandfather Nathan Packouz came to Oregon from Poland with his brother and cousin. He was 8 years old and sold newspapers. When he was 18, he went to Los Angeles, worked in the jewelry business for about a year, saved a little money, came back and opened Nate's Jewel Box. A short time later he changed the name to Packouz Jewel Box. It was located a few blocks from our present location for about 45 years. My father, Bill, came into the store after attending the University of Oregon for two years. Then World War II broke out. He was in the Coast Guard for two years before working at the store. I followed after graduating from U of O in 1966. Shortly after my grandfather passed away, my dad had to move to Palm Desert for health reasons. So, when I was 25 years old, I started buying the store from my dad.

## RICK, WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN JEWELRY?

I started working at Zell Bros. Jewelers. My six years at Zell's was a wonderful education in the business.

I had great success at Zell's, but they were going through changes, and Larry and I became friends. I became a manager at Packouz in 1994.

## RICK, HOW HAS THE RETAIL JEWELRY STORE BUSINESS CHANGED?

Due to the economy, acquisitions and a number of other things, independently owned, high-end jewelry stores are going away quickly. Larry and I are very proud that we have been able to maintain our identity and keep the way we do business a priority. We make decisions together.


If there is one thing I want to make clear, it is that this store is a historical place.

## WHAT ABOUT YOUR LOCATION AND CLIENTS?

*Rick:* We have the best location in the state of Oregon. We are downtown on Broadway. Broadway is revitalized – Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Nordstrom's, the hotels. We can see Rob Solomon's US Outdoor Store's new neon sign from our front door. We have the best location of anyone.

Being downtown, there is something colorful going on every day. We get actors, actresses and sports stars; in this kind of business, names are confidential.

Everybody who comes into the store is comfortable. People come in to visit and say hello. The store is a living, breathing historical place. It is bigger than these four walls. It is as much a social destination as it is a business. It is a warm, fun place to be. Word of mouth is how we grow.

*Larry:* We are fortunate that our clients continue to buy jewelry. We take care of them and they take care of us. Some of the clients are third- and fourth-generation customers. We have made wedding sets for some clients whose parents' wedding sets were made by my grandfather. 

Gloria Hammer is a freelance writer who divides her time between Portland and Hood River.

# FISHY FUN

*New aquarium  
draws crowds  
to hands-on  
exhibits*



By Deborah Moon

The new Portland Aquarium was inspired, at least in part, by Dr. Marc Gottlieb's desire to give metro-area families the same opportunity to interact with ocean life that his own sons enjoy in San Diego.

"We are always surrounded by ocean life in San Diego," says Gottlieb. But his wife, Clover, who grew up near Vancouver, WA, spent her childhood seeing ocean life only on occasional trips to the coast.

The need and desire for an aquarium in an area where his wife has her roots inspired Gottlieb to join his financial adviser, Vince Covino, and his brother, Ammon, in opening the Portland Aquarium at 16323 SE McLoughlin Blvd. The Covina brothers had opened a similar aquarium in Boise – the Idaho Aquarium – and the idea of an interactive aquarium appealed to Gottlieb.

The Portland Aquarium has 12 hands-on exhibits.

Gottlieb, a California chiropractor, appreciates the importance of a hands-on experience – both in his practice and for children exploring a new environment. In his family chiropractic practice, he impacts patients ranging in age from a few minutes to 104 years.

Likewise, he says, "We opened an aquarium to make an impact on the community and to create a legacy."

If early reaction is any indication, they've definitely made an impact.

Hundreds turned out for the early opening for members Dec. 10, and the Dec. 15 general opening was packed. By mid-January, the aquarium's Facebook page had nearly 27,000 "likes," and Vince Covino reports daily attendance continues to be high.

Gottlieb's grandparents were Holocaust survivors who moved to Scotland after they escaped the Shoah. Gottlieb was born in Scotland and spent the first nine years of his life in Scotland and England.



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OPENING DAY – Joining a trio of costumed Portland Aquarium employees on opening day are (from left) owners Vince Covina, Marc Gottlieb and Ammon Covino, and Aquarium Director Shane Dietz, far right.



“I try to live by the values I was raised with,” says Gottlieb. “We live by Jewish values. Creating a legacy and creating a better world for our children is important to us.”

Gottlieb and his wife brought their two sons, Jett, 6, and Jax, 4, to Portland for the aquarium opening.

“To see all the children coming in to see ocean life was incredible,” says Gottlieb. “We provide an experiential aquarium to let them touch ocean life – they touch, feed and learn.”


Gottlieb’s favorite exhibit is a special tank where visitors can feed, touch and interact with stingrays and sharks.

“Stingrays are very docile,” says Gottlieb, adding that in the ocean it is safe to swim with them if you don’t threaten them.

On the way out of the aquarium, kids can visit the rainforest room full of iguanas, chameleons, frogs and a play structure. There’s also an Imagination Station near the exit where parents can sit while kids dress up as sharks and alligators.

Gottlieb says they are very conscious of the safety of the animals. For instance, the aquarium has cloth towels rather than paper towels available near exhibits where children get their hands (and maybe much more) wet. Paper towel debris or hand sanitizer that found its way into the tanks would be a health risk for the animals, he notes.

More exhibits will be added in coming months including an otter exhibit and sea turtles for kids to compare to the giant tortoise already in residence.

Plans for school field trips and summer camps are in the works too. 

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# Good Deeds Day



*On March 10 Portlanders can join volunteers around world aiding hungry, homeless, environment and more*

By Deborah Moon

To help launch a new community program that links volunteers with community needs, the Portland Mitzvah Network of the Jewish Federation of Portland is planning a broad range of volunteer projects to coincide with international Good Deeds Day March 10.

In Portland volunteers will be able to choose from projects such as outdoor environmental work at Tryon Creek State Park, book repair with the Children's Book Bank, a building project with Tivnu and Habitat for Humanity, feeding the hungry with Jewish Family and Child Service or participating in a project with elders at Cedar Sinai Park.

That one-day diversity of volunteer opportunities will soon be available at the click of a mouse when the Portland Mitzvah Network launches its volunteer website in March.

"I have had this passion and vision to create a communitywide volunteer program and portal since 2005," says Portland Mitzvah Network Chair Jon Caplan. "With greater reliance on technology, social media and increasing emphasis (and need) to promote volunteerism, the timing seemed optimal for creating a community volunteer program in 2012-2013."

While Caplan's earlier push to create a communitywide volunteer program failed to take root, he is optimistic today's linked-in public will find the network a valuable asset.

"Currently, there is no single source or communitywide program where individuals can go and learn how to get

involved in the community," says Caplan. "Whether individuals are involved in synagogues, federation-related agencies or other Jewish-oriented groups or organizations, it has always been difficult for someone in Portland (especially those new to the area) to learn how to get involved in and outside of the Jewish community."

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**Good Deeds Day was created in 2007 and by 2012, Good Deeds Day events took place in 50 countries.**

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"Good Deeds Day represents a great one-day event where individuals can gather, meet others in the Jewish community and perform mitzvot that benefit others," says Caplan. "It has been our vision to promote on-going events and opportunities (i.e., help drive seniors to the grocery store on a weekly basis) along with special events and community-gathering special volunteer events."


Caplan says the website will provide "an individual and agency-friendly volunteer portal."

Good Deeds Day was created in 2007 and by 2012, Good Deeds Day events took place in 50 countries.

"I'm really excited to be working with a committee of great people to make Federation's Good Deed Day on March 10 a wonderful success," say Steve Sirkin, who is chairing the day's events. "We're

looking forward to bring together people of all ages from across the Jewish community to perform acts of 'gemilut hasadim,' (loving kindness) or, put more simply, 'good deeds.' Our plan is to create a wide range of deeds for people to do along with offering the option of simpler ones that anyone can do on their own. Our goal is to involve thousands of Portland Jews and for as many of these acts as possible to become the first step in a longer-term commitment."

According to the international day's official website, [gdd.goodnet.org](http://gdd.goodnet.org), "Good Deeds Day is an annual celebration of good deeds. ... (that puts) into practice the simple idea that every single person can do something good, be it large or small, to improve the lives of others and positively change the world."

For more information on Good Deeds Day in Portland, contact JFGP Community Engagement Director Caron Blau Rothstein at 503-245-6449 or [Caron@jewishportland.org](mailto:Caron@jewishportland.org). 



Volunteers pack food boxes at Super Sunday.

# CARNIVAL MOOD

## REIGNS AT PURIM

### *It's Adar – time to be happy*

By Amy R. Kaufman

Each Jewish festival has its own kind of joy. On Purim it's unbridled joy.

"Everything is permitted on Purim," goes the Yiddish saying.

Elaborate costumes, buffoonery, theatrical farces, parodies of texts and personages, singing, feasting and drinking even make their way into the synagogue, creating scenes that wouldn't be countenanced at any other time of year.

The hushed sanctuary fills with suppressed excitement as masquerading children and adults arrive to hear the Megillah (Scroll of Esther) chanted aloud. With noisemakers and stamping they drown out the name of evil Haman every time it is mentioned. After the service, more than one husband, having fulfilled the obligation to drink, is ushered home by his wife.

The traditional feast seems to mirror a recurrent theme in the Book of Esther. Six banquets are mentioned, beginning with King Ahasuerus' feast "for the nations and ministers," during which "he displayed the glorious wealth of his kingdom and

the splendid beauty of his majesty" for 180 days. It is before these guests that the king orders Queen Vashti to flaunt her beauty, clothed in a crown.

Purim in Eastern Europe was a time for fulfilling the holiday's mitzvah of tzedakah and gifts of food. Moshe Z. of Tucson, formerly of Portland, recalls going from house to house in his native town in Czechoslovakia, delivering gifts of food according to the Purim tradition of mishloach manos (sending of portions). "It started out initially as shalach mones for the poor, and then it became a general custom among families to bring food, fruit and sweets," he said. "We dressed up in costumes and all kinds of masks. I wondered – why the masks? There was always this tendency to give anonymously. We put on masks because you didn't want to know who was giving, to shame the receiver. ... There were all kinds of customs to lighten the danger that was always present. In Eastern Europe the Jews were cognizant of the fact that life was hanging by a thread."

The story of Esther is believed to have taken place in Persia during the Babylonian exile at the time of Xerxes (485-465 B.C.E.). One would venture to say the joyousness of the holiday is commensurate with the story's happy ending. Haman's plot to annihilate the Jews is chillingly familiar. "It is the same solution proposed by a latter-day Haman whose name also began with the letter H and who was all too successful in carrying it out," Reuven Hammer wrote in the Jerusalem Post (March 11, 2011).

The story of Esther might be viewed as turning the tables on history. Jeffrey Rubenstein, author of *Purim, Liminality and Communitas*, points out that reversals of power and status

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permeate the story, and Purim merrymaking, with its “reversals of everyday conduct,” mimics a world overturned.

For example, the king gives his signet ring to Haman, granting him authority to carry out the massacre. After Queen Esther pleads with the king to save her people, he takes the ring from Haman and gives it to Mordecai, who replaces Haman as grand vizier. The king issues the edict to kill all Jews by sending letters throughout the kingdom. When Esther intercedes, the king orders Mordecai to send letters allowing Jews to kill their attackers. Haman is hanged on the gallows he had built for Mordecai’s execution.

Mordecai’s plea to Esther is one of the most thrilling paternal speeches in literature: “Do not think that you will escape [the fate of all the Jews] by being in the king’s palace. For if you will remain silent at this time, relief and salvation will come to the Jews from another source, and you and the house of your father will be lost. And who knows if it is not for just such a time that you reached this royal position.”

You don’t have to wait until Purim (the 14th of Adar, Feb. 24) to become lighthearted. In fact, the rabbis say in the Babylonian Talmud, “When Adar enters, we increase joyfulness.” Beginning Feb. 3, the fragrance of hamantaschen (“Haman’s hats”) will waft from Congregation Shaarie Torah, which bakes 2,500 dozen of the filled pastries each year.

For details on local Purim parties, check our Happenings section page 69-70 or call your local synagogue. 

Amy R. Kaufman is a Portland writer, editor and publisher.

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Arnold and Elaine Cogan are joined by Neveh Shalom Rabbi Daniel Isaak at the celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

## Elaine and Arnold Cogan celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary

By Polina Olsen

A 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary deserves a party, and Arnold and Elaine Cogan threw a bash.

Held at the Oregon Jewish Museum on Dec. 22, the celebration brought together family and old friends. Each guest received a handmade commemorative cookbook with the couple's favorites, including German Pancakes and Crazy Chocolate Cake. All 70 guests squeezed into the museum's auditorium to hear professional actors read poetry and essays about love.

The Cogan's love started long ago and has been growing since. Elaine's family came to Oregon from Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, NY, in 1947; Arnold's from Bath, ME, in 1948. They met at a high school Jewish sorority dance in the summer of 1949.


"It was a springtime formal, and we were each with other people," Elaine remembered. "We both had prominent eastern accents, so people said, 'We can't understand you, why don't you talk to each other?' That night, I wrote in my diary that I met a very nice boy from Bath named Arnie, and I hoped I'd see him again."

They married in their junior year in college and honeymooned in Corvallis, where they rented an apartment, shared a bicycle and finished school. Family and illustrious careers followed. As an urban and regional planner, Arnold went on to work for Gov. Tom McCall and became an instrumental leader in the fight to stop urban sprawl. "We had to get every city in the state to create and approve plans that met Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development regulations," he said. "When people think about the livability of

Oregon and how we protect farm and forest land – it was because of that program."

Meanwhile, Elaine wrote a column for Oregon's major newspapers as she focused on raising the couple's three children. "My job was to ferret out the news behind the news," she said. "I interviewed everybody and everything, and I could do this from home as long as I met the deadline." Her many accomplishments include hosting an early morning KGW talk show, editing the Jewish Review from 1985 to 1987 and serving as the first woman president of Congregation Neveh Shalom. (Arnold became president a few years later.) The couple has received numerous accolades, including the 2006 Maurice Sussman Memorial Award from the Oregon Area Jewish Committee.

They combined their talents to found a consulting firm, Cogan-Owens-Cogan, which works with cities and counties. "We build a bridge between what they're doing and the public," Elaine said. The collaboration started long before. Partners in profession and in life, they have always been each other's coach and proofreader in chief. Even in college, Elaine wrote the lyrics and Arnold composed the music for a campus musical.

"We started so young that we grew up together," Elaine said. When asked the secret to their long marriage's success, she added, "We didn't have too many bad habits. We have a high regard for each other, and what we do professionally does not compete. We trust each other, and we disagree but we aren't disagreeable. We're best friends." 



The Oregon Jewish Museum was packed with friends and family who turned out to help Arnold and Elaine Cogan celebrate 60 years of marriage.

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# Life on the Other Side

*Let's stamp out food snobbery* by Anne Kleinberg

I committed a sin recently. I admitted that I wasn't familiar with a particular French chef. If looks could kill ... you should have seen the face of my executioner. It was as if I had admitted not knowing the words to "Hatikvah" or the Pledge of Allegiance. I was dead meat.

In the professional culinary world, it's considered gauche not to know the name and work of every single chef in the world. This is a big no-no for foodies (and I consider myself to be one – obsessed with eating, talking and writing about food). Part of playing the game is being able to throw around the names of chefs like they were your first cousins – and being totally comfortable critiquing their creations. But you know what? I'm so over it.

Are chefs equivalent to brain surgeons? Is their work so earth-shattering that we must familiarize ourselves with every little esoteric ingredient and nuance of flavor? Every time a chef discovers a new use for a lettuce leaf we should be singing his praises to high heaven? I can hardly keep up with our list of government ministers; you want me to remember cooks too? Forget it!

Let's take E., for example – a very famous chef here in the Holy Land. Famous for once owning what was considered a top restaurant; infamous now for owing hundreds of thousands of shekels. He's one of the stars of an Israeli cooking show, and when he opens his mouth to compliment or criticize, you just want to smack him! He can wax poetic about a simple potato. Come on, really?

I went to his "casual" restaurant in Tel Aviv recently. I was told to try the cauliflower. OK, I'm game. I tried it. It arrived on a sheet of wax paper, no plate. It tasted nice, but not at all extraordinary. When the meal was over and we asked for coffee, we were told there is none. E. doesn't think that coffee, or soft drinks for that matter, are appropriate with this type of food, so he doesn't offer it. Are you kidding me? What happened to appealing to the customer?

There's another restaurant in Tel Aviv that offers molecular food. Don't ask, because I don't know. What I do know is that when the food arrived, I honestly couldn't figure out what it was. From the foam, to the layers, to the architectural structure of it, I was lost – I had totally forgotten what I had ordered. And I was definitely afraid to stick my fork into it for fear of breaking the art creation.

Can't we stop all this snobbery?


If you know the difference between vol-au-vent and choux paste, good for you. (They're both types of pastry.) Share the info

**If you know the difference between vol-au-vent and choux paste, good for you ... Share the info with a friend, don't hog it.**



with a friend, don't hog it. You've been to a great restaurant? Do tell your friends, but please, don't preach. You hated some dining experience – fair enough – talk by all means. But don't give lectures. There's nothing more obnoxious than a friend telling you how awful some food was when you ate at the same place and loved it. You either feel like a complete fool because she must know better or you begin to wonder what planet she's living on. Either way, you're going to get a bad feeling.

And while we're on the subject I'll make a confession. I love junk food. There, I've said it. Of course, you'll never catch me sitting at a Burger King because God forbid someone who knows me might pass by and catch me. But I'm a secret junk food junkie, and I don't think that makes me any less of a foodie.

So ... I'm on a kick to keep it honest. Food is a good place to start. Now if I could just convince everyone else around here....

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).



# Historic Masada is also a magical place for a concert

By Natalie Nahome

Masada is an ancient fortification in the Southern District of Israel, on top of an isolated rock plateau on the eastern edge of the Judean Desert, overlooking the Dead Sea. Apart from the archaeology, the site's iconic setting has made it a popular place for concerts and events throughout the year.

In the past few years Masada has been an attraction for many artists who perform on top of this beautiful mountain. One of the most amazing shows is the Masada Sound and Light Show. This spectacular show tells the story of the Jewish rebels and their last few days at the apex of this large cliff-top fortress. Presented against the dramatic backdrop of the western side of Masada, it tells the story of the rebels' last days. The show takes place throughout the summer months.

Most of the shows start at dawn just as the sun touches the ancient stone ruins. It's a magical appearance. I had the chance to see one of the most famous singers in Israel, Ehud Banai. For me it was an outstanding experience; the sun was coming out and the music was amazing. I just didn't want it to end.

Apart from concerts, there are lots of ways to experience this extraordinary place.

Many tours of Masada leave from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. Public transportation is not easy to find, so these tours provide visitors with the opportunity to access the site. Most Masada tours also include visits to the Dead Sea.

The Masada Sunrise Group Tour allows you to climb Masada at sunrise, continue to hike at Ein Gedi and float in the Dead Sea. This is a tour designed for people interested in hiking. It leaves from Jerusalem.

The Masada, Ein Gedi and Dead Sea Group Tour offers a similar experience, with the difference that it doesn't begin at sunrise. This tour also originates in Jerusalem.

The Masada and Dead Sea Group Tour is a bus tour that ascends Masada via cable car and goes on to the Dead Sea. This

tour is available from either Tel Aviv or Jerusalem.

Masada Private Day Tours are also available. These custom tours are usually day tours that go to Masada, Ein Gedi and the Dead Sea, plus a couple of other sites as desired. These private tours leave from wherever you like.


You can learn more about the trips to Masada on the national park's official website, [masada.org.il/masada-national-park](http://masada.org.il/masada-national-park). The site is in English, so it's very easy to read about all the tours offered and book a tour before you go.

For those of you who are staying in hotels in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and want to visit Masada and/or the Dead Sea, go down to your hotel's front desk and they will help you find a trip that will pick you up from the hotel and bring you back there.

## INTERESTING FACTS

Some historians believe that the Zealots did not fight because Jewish captives might have been forced to build the rampart and fight on the Roman side.

Some of the most exciting sites that can be seen at Masada today include two mikvahs that have been found to perfectly meet all halachic standards, as well as the only synagogue preserved from the time of the Second Temple.

In order to provide water in the middle of a desert where rainwater is woefully scarce – barely one inch of rain falls annually – Herod built an intricate system of aqueducts to drain every drop of rainwater from the nearby wadis into the Masada cisterns. 



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

# GUN ADVOCATES shouldn't point to Israel for right to bear arms

By Mylan Tanzer

I am often asked by friends, colleagues or others who detect my American accent (one doesn't have to be too discerning to do so) why I chose to leave the U.S. and make aliyah. The question is generally a bit on the cynical side and goes something like, "What was so bad in America that caused you to come to Israel?" Although we might have plenty to complain about here, I still get satisfaction in answering that there was nothing bad in America and that I had a wonderful and privileged life before making my move. It is sometimes difficult given the daily struggles and tension that exist here, for native Israelis or for those who came out of necessity from less democratic or less affluent countries to accept that there are actually those who left the great American life and moved to Israel out of choice. For a Jew, America is also a good place to live. Despite the negative day-to-day hardships, I don't take for granted the historical privilege of living as a Jew in Israel, which is also an open, modern, democratic and affluent country.

But in recent years I have begun to include a negative reason for not wanting to live in America. This became an issue for me even before the unspeakable and unfathomable Newtown tragedy given the increasing regularity of random mass shootings in schools, universities, movie theaters and even shopping malls. The incident at the Clackamas Mall made it even more personal. While the massacre at Sandy Hook was the most gut-wrenching and devastating of these horrific events, which also include Columbine and Thurston High School in Eugene, this has clearly become an American plague. In certain ways at certain moments, it has made me thankful that my family and I do not live in the U.S.

Not that incidents like this can't happen in Israel; they have occurred in many countries. In 1992 a deranged security guard entered a mental health clinic in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Kiryat Hayovel and gunned down five social workers, including the pregnant wife of a close friend. But Israel is the polar opposite of America in terms of the conditions that have created the American scourge of mass shootings. Nonetheless, the two sides in the post-Newtown U.S. gun-control debate have both used Israel to lend credence to their positions by applying their own interpretation of our reality and tailoring it to fit their respective positions.

The fact that Israel is a country awash in guns yet still free of such random massacres makes it a tempting target both for analysis and for potential solutions. But the difference between the countries is not in the prevalence of guns but in the regulations that accompany them. Additional differences include the basic fabric of Israeli society, the military context of guns for the vast majority of Israelis, mental health care and the general Israeli mentality.

The huge gap between the Israeli gun reality and that of the U.S. does not bode well for American pro-gun advocates and begins with the simple fact that we have no Second Amendment. No one I know believes we need to arm ourselves for protection against the central government or fellow citizens. The fact that we are surrounded by enemies still bent on our destruction strengthens the feeling that we do not use firearms against each other.

Even if this were not the case, it is extremely hard to legally obtain guns. Licenses are only given to those who work in security or law enforcement or who live or work in settlements.

Anyone who fits these requirements, is over age 21 and has been an Israeli resident for more than three years still must go through a mental and physical health exam. Then he must pass shooting exams and courses at a licensed gun range as well as background checks by the Public Security Ministry.

Once he orders his firearm from a gun store, he takes it home with a one-time, lifetime supply of 50 bullets, which cannot be renewed. The gunowner must retake his license exam and pass tests at the gun range every three years, where he is not required to use his own limited supply of 50 bullets. One licensed owner of a pistol who went to renew his license quoted his shooting instructor: "If you need more than 50 bullets, a pistol isn't going to solve your problem."

Israel has been very proactive in enacting and updating gun legislation. This month a new law will go into effect requiring gun owners to prove that they have a safe at home to store their weapon. The law was enacted after the 12-year-old son of a gun owner accidentally killed a friend when playing with his father's pistol.

Following the Kiryat Hayovel massacre, legislation was enacted requiring much stricter criteria for armed civilian



security guards. After the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, legislation ensured a continuous reduction in the number of weapons in public hands.

There are approximately 170,000 privately owned firearms in Israel, which means one gun for every 50 Israelis. That is far less per capita than in the U.S., where just over 300 million people own an estimated 300 million guns – roughly one gun per person.

Following Newtown, U.S. gun advocates have pointed out that Israeli schools are well protected by armed guards. One widely circulated photo shows a woman teacher with a rifle slung over her shoulder standing with a group of young pupils. These were the most blatant examples I saw of American pro-gun activists cherry-picking a few facts to concoct their own reality.

Appearing on Meet the Press, National Rifle Association's Wayne Lapierre said: "Israel had a whole lot of school shootings until they did one thing, they said, 'We're going to stop it,' and they put armed security at every school, and they have not had a problem since then."

That was, to put it lightly, a deceptive manipulation.

Israel has had one school shooting: the 1974 Ma'alot massacre, which was perpetrated by Palestinian terrorists who murdered more than 20 schoolchildren. Terrorists have also attacked school buses, such as the Avivim attack where 12 were killed. Yes, schools, like almost all other public institutions, are fenced in and have an armed guard at the gate. But teachers are not armed as a matter of policy, nor do they need to be. Schools in Israel are no more (or less) in danger than other institutions. Following Ma'alot, armed guards were posted at schools; but this is not the reason there have not been more school shootings.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor told the New York Daily News: "What removed the danger was not the armed guards but an overall anti-terror policy and anti-terror operations which brought street terrorism down to nearly zero over a number of years." He wisely added, "It would be better not to drag Israel into what is an internal American discussion."

Prof. Gerald Steinberg of Bar-Ilan University was interviewed in the same article and noted: "The attempt to compare the two tragedies is absurd." He noted that Palestinian terror attacks such as Ma'alot – the goal of which was to use the children as hostages to free other terrorists – are totally different from crimes committed by deranged people with guns.

Israel's strict gun-control laws are not the only reason this danger does not exist here. One reason is Israel has no gun culture. Most Israelis have had enough of guns in their military service. There are very few gun shops, and the few that do exist have few products to show and are pretty drab. As law professor Aaron Zelinsky wrote: "Most Israelis would like nothing more than to have a country where they needn't carry guns, where they live in peace. Most Israelis are not gun 'enthusiasts;' they're reluctant warriors. And they've been dreaming of the day they can turn their weapons into plowshares for thousands of years."

Moreover, Israel's universal health care is very successful in its efforts to locate and care for those with mental and psychological disabilities and handicaps. Once individuals with

limitations are "in the system," they are "red flagged" in terms of guns, military service and the like.

The problem of illegal firearms remains. The number of contraband guns is estimated to be equal to the number of legal ones. But illegal guns are mostly in the realm of the criminal underworld, which is a separate problem and a top priority of the police. Possession of an illegal weapon carries an automatic jail sentence.

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**T**he huge gap between the Israeli gun reality and that of the U.S. does not bode well for American pro-gun advocates and begins with the simple fact that we have no Second Amendment.

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Israel's reality is vastly different from America's in one other very important way: A small country, Israel has a close-knit family structure, and an intimacy and informality among strangers of all backgrounds and social classes.

I am not much of a sociologist, but from my personal experience in Israel, this social reality creates a mentality that encourages people to be more direct and to express and externalize both positive and negative feelings. One of the more exaggerated manifestations of stereotypical Israeli behavior is the "trash talk" that sometimes evolves into pushing and maybe a jab or two over anything from a place in line or smoking in a public place. At first this was quite a shock for a naïve boy from the Pacific Northwest. Though this is limited to certain segments of the population, it is nonetheless disturbing. Yet, it is perhaps another reason that mass shootings are not part of our reality. This behavior functions as a valve to release pressure that could, if pent up, result in someone snapping. That is often the catalyst for road rage shootings commonplace in the U.S., where externalizing frustration is very unacceptable. This negative phenomenon on the micro level might be a positive on the macro level.

Yes, Israelis, like everyone, can snap, and the results can be tragic, but for all of the above reasons, the "snap" has not and hopefully will never result in the swath of destruction we have been accustomed to in America.

In our neighborhood where we are in a permanent state of "snap" when it comes to Israel's Jews, our efforts at protecting ourselves need to be directed at this threat. Israel has many problems, but thankfully, civilian gun violence is not one of them. 

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](mailto:mylantanz@gmail.com).



# Ask Helen

## *Let backsliding friends know you noticed and you care*

**Dear Helen:**

*I had lunch last week with someone I've known professionally for 15 years and seen through a divorce, substance abuse, car accidents (related to drinking) and other traumas. He's done the same for me, but I have never abused anything except caffeine. We're friends in a professional way, and he has absolutely made me look good at work, so I value him. At lunch he had three glasses of wine, flirted egregiously with the waitresses, and was generally too loud and bright-eyed. I'm worried about him but don't know if I should say something or not.*

—Concerned

**Dear Concerned:**

This is a conversation better had on the phone than by email, voicemail or in person. Why? Leave no evidence for anyone else to read or hear, and don't get entangled in a sticky web of effusive denial. Your goal is to let him know how he's acting, how others see him and that you care.

Leave a bland message saying you need five minutes of phone follow-up from your meeting last week. Ask, when is a good time to talk? Call back until you connect. Start with: "We've known each other a long time through thick and thin." The middle is: "I'm worried about you because last week at lunch I saw symptoms that I saw during the bad period before you got clean. You were too loud and bright-eyed. I'm worried you're headed for a slide. Also, that you're more transparent than you may think you are. If I'm noticing, other people probably are too." End with: "I care about you. Please dial back and get help."

Then listen to what'll likely be profuse denials. No matter what he says, reply with persistent platitudes and support. You're not going to save him from himself if he's careening off the rails. But if there's a chance to stop his slide, you'll have done your part to alert and rescue him.



Helen 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@yourjewishfairygodmother.com](mailto:helen@yourjewishfairygodmother.com).

**A NOSH OF JEWISH WISDOM:**  
Discretion shall preserve you.


**Dear Helen:**

*I came to work last Saturday to pick up my forgotten umbrella and accidentally saw my bosses having sex in the male boss's office. I'm sure they weren't expecting anyone to show up on a weekend, and the door was ajar. They're a married couple, so that's not scandalous, but I feel mega-weird around them and awkward in his office. I heard them laughing when I turned and fled the doorway. Am I being a prude or is this bad behavior?*

—Prude or Private

**Dear Prude or Private:**

Their laughter implies a level of self-confidence in both their bosdom and sexuality that many people do not possess. Married is definitely better than an incipient office scandal. I assume they weren't putting on a show, just taking break on a working weekend and not expecting company. Note: An "ajar" door to someone else's office is not a likely place to pick up your umbrella, so I'm not quite sure why you witnessed anything. But sex is private and not a spectator sport. I'll assume you gave a stumbling apology, blushed profusely, shut the door and went home with your umbrella.

How to act now? Think about your cat. Or golf. Or a looming expensive home repair. Keep thinking about other irrelevant things every time you think of them having sex until you stop blushing and are able to talk to them normally about an inventory memo, financial statements or even ordering toner for the copier. Also, no matter how much you protest your embarrassment, human nature is such that you'll be tempted to blab. Under no circumstances should you discuss this with any of your coworkers. Ever. Or anyone who knows anyone who knows your coworkers. A secret that volatile will not stay a secret. And if anyone gets hurt by the indiscretion, the safe money's on you. Yes, they're guilty of impaired judgment for not having closed the office door. And yes, you may be a prude. But as functional adults, you should also be able to transcend the lapse and continue to work there. If not, start working on your resume. 



**VIDEO PROJECT** – Filmmaker Ken Klein talks about the video he is making, “Wandering in the Woods: A Portland’s Search for Jewish Identity,” during an evening program hosted by Gloria Hammer that included an excerpt of the film. Proceeds benefit Jewish Family and Child Service. Above, Hammer takes the winning ticket from Klein’s son, Jackson. Naomi Leavitt won the evening’s door prize for a copy of Howard Behar’s book *It’s Not About The Coffee*. Behar will be the keynote speaker at the Jewish Family and Child Service’s “Celebrating Our Caring Community Luncheon,” 11:30 am-1:30 pm, May 9, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Hammer is chairing the event and Klein is producing a short video about JFCS that will be shown during the luncheon. Behar, the former president of Starbucks Coffee Company North America and Starbucks Coffee International, is a frequent speaker on organizational and personal leadership. Photo by Deborah Moon



**DAY SCHOOL BENEFIT** – More than 200 people from the local Jewish community gathered at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at a benefit for Maayan Torah Day School on the evening of Jan. 12. The event raised \$45,000 for the school. Pictured from left to right are event honorees Jacob Spilman, Devorah Spilman, Jodi Berris, school director Aviel Brodtkin, Rabbi Kenneth Brodtkin of Congregation Kesser Israel and keynote speaker Gary Torgow. Torgow, who resides in Michigan, is a banker as well as Jewish education and Federation activist. Maayan education prioritizes the love of learning and students’ active involvement in acquiring knowledge in its dual track program of general secular studies as well as Torah and Hebrew studies. The school offers a Jewish values-based education and welcomes children from throughout Portland’s diverse Jewish community. Photo by Oolite Photography



**INTERGENERATIONAL HAVDALLAH** – Teen members of JUMP (Jewish Unity Mentoring Program) put on a havdallah service for the seniors of Rose Schnitzer Manor Jan. 12. After havdallah, the teens enjoyed a wonderful dor l’ dor experience of listening to the amazing life stories of many seniors. The inspiring stories were saved in a scrapbook made by the teens and the residents. In addition, each senior gave one piece of advice to the teens of Portland, which was made into a beautiful book that will be shared with the Jewish teens of Portland and of NCSY (the parent organization of JUMP). “The teens left feeling inspired and moved by the lovely experience of learning and connecting with the seniors, creating a meaningful bond and experience that will be remembered for a long time and saved in both the scrapbook and advice book made that night,” said JUMP member Raizel O’Brien, center front.



**SUSSMAN HONOREES** – Rob and Mara Shlachter receive the Oregon Area Jewish Committee’s 2012 Maurice D. Sussman Award from OAJC President John L. Moss, right. OAJC recognized the Shlachters for their many outstanding commitments to the community with the 2012 Sussman Award at a dinner in their honor on Dec. 13 at the MJCC attended by about 170 people. Several people spoke about the couple at the dinner, including old friends John and Rosemary Schwimmer; Rob Shlachter’s law partner David Lokting; Joe Lei and Jonathan Pulvers, two young people who benefited from the Shlachters’ volunteer efforts with Mock Trial and the Maccabi Games; and their son David Shlachter. Event co-chair Marge Cohn greeted the crowd. There were more than 30 people in attendance under the age of 30, a tribute to the great relationships the Shlachters have made through the years, according to OAJC Director Emily Gottfried. The Sussman Award event is one of OAJC’s major fundraisers for the year. This year’s event raised almost \$45,000 for the organization. Event co-chairs were: Marge Cohn and Marvin Richmond, David Lokting and Alysia Duckler, Bob and Rita Philip, and John and Rosemary Schwimmer.

## FREE LECTURE EXPLORES FEMININE ROLE IN CONTINUITY AFTER FORCED CONVERSIONS

The mysterious and little-known Conversas are the topic of this year's Lorry I. Lokey Lecture, to be presented by Deena Aranoff, assistant professor of Medieval Jewish studies at UC-Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union.

The talk will be 7 pm, Feb. 19, in the Smith Memorial Student Union, room 294, on the Portland State University campus.

Aranoff's talk, "Conversas and Continuity: How women's history unlocks the mystery of Marranism," will examine Inquisitional accounts of conversa practices, and it will argue that the mystery of the persistence of Marranism (or Crypto-Judaism) through the centuries is partially resolved when Jewish identity is expanded to include women's history, domestic practice and Jewish social life.

Conversos are Jews forcibly converted to Catholicism during the Spanish Inquisition in the 15<sup>th</sup> century but who maintained their Jewish identities via secret observance and ritual practice.

Since 2009, the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at Portland State University has hosted an annual Lorry I. Lokey Lecture in Jewish history. For more information about Aranoff's lecture, contact Jenn Director Knudsen, Judaic Studies' development director, at 503-725-2305 or knud@pdx.edu.

## FEB. 16 LECTURE LOOKS AT CRISIS OF ISRAELI DEMOCRACY

The public is invited to a free lecture, "The Crisis of Israeli Democracy: How it Broke, How to Fix It," at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7:30 pm, Feb. 16.

J Street Portland presents the lecture by Gershom Gorenberg, the Israeli/American author of *The Unmaking of Israel* (Harper Collins 2011) – a deeply personal and thoroughly researched study of the disproportionate influence religion exercises in Israel. Gorenberg postulates this influence has the potential to cause great damage to the future of Israel as a democracy and to a future Jewish state that respects all Jewish denominations and other faiths.

Gorenberg said he also anticipates talking about the recent elections in Israel. He added, "I believe that despair is a luxury, an excuse for inaction. I would say that the issues that I've raised in my book – the corrosive effect of the settlements and on Israel as a democratic Jewish state, and the necessity of separating synagogue and state – are even more pressing now than when I typed out the last words of *The Unmaking of Israel*."

Following the presentation copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

J Street, a pro-Israel, pro-peace group that advocates for a two-state resolution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine, is joined in presenting the event by cosponsors: Neveh Shalom, Havurah Shalom, P'nai Or Tikun Olam Committee,

Congregation Shir Tikvah, Oregon Area Jewish Committee, Kol Shalom, Institute of Judaic Studies and Beit Haverim.

The lecture will be preceded by havdalah at 7:15 pm. Neveh Shalom is located at SW 2900 Peaceful Lane, Portland. For more information, go to Facebook.com/jstreetportland or email Portland@jstreet.org.

## BENEFIT FOR ROBISON SENIORS WILL PULL YOUR HEARTSTRINGS



Heartstrings, Cedar Sinai Park's annual gala benefit, will feature music from the boundary-crossing ensemble Portland Cello Project.

The evening event will be March 2 at the Governor Hotel, 614 SW 11th Ave., Portland.

The evening holds special meaning for Leslie Geller, this year's co-chair. "Many of us don't think about elder care until a loved one in our immediate family needs it," Geller says. "I didn't attend Cedar Sinai Park's annual fundraiser until my dad needed care and I came to Robison Jewish Health Center. That shouldn't be the case, however. As Jews, we have a responsibility to support our elders and those in need. By attending Heartstrings, we honor our elders by honoring the Torah and our responsibility to those in need: 'Before the elderly rise, and show honor before the aged' (Leviticus 19:32)."

She and fellow co-chair Jane Vereschagin hope that those who have not previously attended this fundraising event will make this the year they come.

For more information or reservations, visit [cedarsinainapark.org/heartstrings](http://cedarsinainapark.org/heartstrings) or call 503-535-4422.

## YOUNG ADULT GROUPS HOST PURIM PUB CRAWL

So you've read the whole Megillah? Join us for the second annual grown-up costume party and show Haman who is still around and partying! Get dressed up as your favorite Purim character (or as something else) and come celebrate with other young adults at our Purim Pub Crawl. This event is cosponsored with JND (Jews Next Dor), Moishe House, Portland Hinenu and Portland Young Adult Shabbat.

The rabbis of old say "A person is obligated to drink on Purim until he can no longer distinguish between cursed is Haman and blessed is Mordechai." Join us for this mitzvah! There will be a costume contest, hamantaschen, Mishloach manot (including a return visit from the Candy Bus from last year) and much more.

Costumes are highly encouraged. Prizes will be given out for various costumes. The Pub Crawl this year will be in Northwest Portland and will start at 8:30 pm, Feb. 23. A Facebook event page will include more information on Pub locations and schedule. For more details and to RSVP, contact JND, [MoisheHousePDX@gmail.com](mailto:MoisheHousePDX@gmail.com), [Hinenu.Pdx@gmail.com](mailto:Hinenu.Pdx@gmail.com), or [PortlandYoungAdultShabbat@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandYoungAdultShabbat@gmail.com).

## FOUR ATTORNEYS, A JUDGE AND A RABBI OFFER ETHICS COURSE

Chabad of Oregon's Benaroya Jewish Learning Academy and the MJCC will present a CLE course entitled: "Living with Integrity: Navigating Everyday Ethical Dilemmas."

This new course created by the Jewish Learning Institute will be held at the MJCC for six Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm beginning Feb. 6. It is approved by the Oregon State Bar for 9.0 hours of CLE credits (3.75 ethics).

Dealing with topics like client confidentiality, telling the truth and filial responsibility, Rabbi Motti Wilhelm will present the course with respected members of Portland's legal community: Roy Pulvers, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; Phil Margolin, Portland attorney and New York Times Bestselling author; Amy Joseph Pedersen, Stoel Rives LLP; the Honorable Eve Miller, Clackamas County Circuit Judge; and Gersham Goldstein, Stoel Rives LLP.

Packed with real-life scenarios, Living with Integrity challenges participants to articulate their own opinions, while providing practical Talmudic wisdom to help them navigate through life's inevitable ethical challenges.

"Judaism has real life answers to the questions we face each day. I am proud to partner together with some of the most respected members of Portland's legal community to discuss the ethical decisions we face each day," says Wilhelm, the director of the Benaroya Jewish Learning Academy.

Call 503-977-9947 or visit [ChabadOregon.com/cle](http://ChabadOregon.com/cle) for registration and information.

## ISRAEL PEACE AND CULTURE WEEK SET FEB. 1-8 AT PSU

Join With Israel, the Jewish Student Union, Portland Hillel, Stand With US and other groups for a week of Israel-themed programs focused on peace and culture.

Events include:

**Feb. 1:** Jewish Agency for Israel social media guru Avi Mayer will kick off "#IsraeliAmazing," a multi-media pro-Israel campaign targeted for the PSU campus. Multicultural Center SMSU 228, 6:30 pm.

**Feb. 4:** Michael Bloom from the Oregon Israel Business Alliance will discuss the "History of Peace." SMSU 296, 4:30 pm.

**Feb 5:** Ed Kraus and Eric Flamm of Portland J Street will discuss "Peace is Possible." SMSU 236, 6 pm.

**Feb 6:** Gay activist and San Diego Israel Shaliach Jossi Herzog will discuss "LGBTQ Life in Israel." SMSU 047, 6 pm.

**Feb 7:** Join Portland's Israeli Shlichah Natalie Nahome for Trivia Night. Location TBD, 7 pm.

**Feb 8:** Ari Shaefer Shabbat. In memory of the Brown University Israel activist, the Ari Shaefer Foundation organizes Shabbats at campuses across the country with the theme of positive Jewish-Muslim relationships. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Student Union, 6:30 p.m. Native American Center, free to all, kosher food, reservations are not required.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, additional events and the latest schedule visit [www.facebook.com/events/132094856953087/](http://www.facebook.com/events/132094856953087/) or email [wisraelpdx@gmail.com](mailto:wisraelpdx@gmail.com).

## WESTERWELLE AND PARISH STAR AS JEWISH MOMS FEB. 7-24



Wendy Westerwelle and Ritah Parish will star when Triangle Productions presents the funny two-person show, "25 Questions For A Jewish Mother." Parrish and

Westerwelle are featured in a play that explores what Jewish mothers really think. "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother," written by Emmy Award-winning Judy Gold (The Rosie Show) and Kate Morin Ryan is one of those shows for everyone. Be forewarned that not every word that comes out of a Jewish mother has gems of wisdom behind it, but what they do say makes for an entertaining evening.

The Feb. 10 performance benefits the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center (tickets at [info@ohrconline.org](mailto:info@ohrconline.org) or [www.ohrconline.org](http://www.ohrconline.org)).

The show opens Feb. 7 and continues through Feb. 24. Shows are 7:30 pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays with two Sunday performances Feb. 17 and 24.

To order tickets go to [tripro.org](http://tripro.org) or call 503-239-5919 or 1-888-608-1126.

Triangle Productions is located at The Sanctuary, Sandy Plaza, 1785 NE Sandy Blvd MB #2, Portland, OR 97232.

## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR WEEKEND IN QUEST 2013

Registration has opened for the seventh annual "Weekend in Quest."

The Institute for Judaic Studies annual study weekend in Astoria will be March 1-3 this year. Weekend in Quest 2013 features Professor Matthew Warshawsky, associate professor of Spanish in the Department of International

Languages and Cultures at the University of Portland. He will present four lectures during the weekend on the topic: "Jews, Conversos and Crypto-Jews in Iberia and The Americas."

In addition to the opportunity to study with Professor Warshawsky, the weekend will also provide attendees with Shabbat services, led by Ilene Safyan. There will also be schmoozing time, delicious catered community meals, lighthearted entertainment and some dancing, all within view of the magnificent Columbia River at the Holiday Inn Express.

To register and pay online, visit [weekendinquest.org](http://weekendinquest.org).

For more information, contact Mimi Epstein at 503-203-2671 or [mimiepstein42@comcast.net](mailto:mimiepstein42@comcast.net), or Addie Banasky at 503-246-4571 or [addieban@comcast.net](mailto:addieban@comcast.net).

## AUTHOR TO SHARE UNEXPECTED JOURNEY AT GENEALOGY GATHERING



On Feb. 10, The Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon will host Ellen Cassidy, author of "We Are Here: Memories of the Lithuanian Holocaust" (Univ. of Nebraska Press). "I tell the story of how I set off for Lithuania, the home of my family roots, in search of my

personal family story ... and then expand it to look at how a country recovers and moves forward," said Cassidy. "I talk about how I entered the complex terrain of the Holocaust through my family story."

She examines how a country scarred by genocide remembers the past and builds a more tolerant future.

"This has implications today - for Rwanda, Bosnia, even our own country," said Cassidy.

Cassidy is a former columnist for the *Philadelphia Daily News* whose articles, essays, and translations have appeared in *Hadassah*, *The Jewish Forward*, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and other publications. She has just been awarded the 2012 Translation Prize by the National Yiddish Book Center, with her colleague Yermiyahu Ahron Taub.

Cassidy will speak about the book at the JGSO meeting at 1 pm, Feb. 10 at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 3225 SW Barbur Blvd., Portland. Tickets are \$5 for non-members. For more information, email [JGSOregon@gmail.com](mailto:JGSOregon@gmail.com).

## YOUNG ADULTS SOUGHT FOR FREE TRIP TO ISRAEL

Taglit-Birthright Israel sends Jews age 18 to 26 on free 10-day trips to the Jewish state.

Registration is now open for Oregon participants on a June Birthright trip.

For more information, contact Portland shlichah Natalie Nahome at 503-608-8134 or [natalie@jewishportland.org](mailto:natalie@jewishportland.org).

## MORE EVENTS:

### Feb. 2

The Q, Jewish multimedia trivia game, will take place at 7-9 pm at the MJCC. Fundraiser for NCSY's teen programs. [portlandncsy.com](http://portlandncsy.com) or [meira@ncsy.org](http://meira@ncsy.org)

Women's Rights at the Western Wall by Rabbi Pamela Frydman, co-founder and international cochair of Rabbis for Women of the Wall. 7 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 East 29<sup>th</sup> Ave., Eugene. 541-485-7218

### Feb. 7

Live Stand-Up at Open-mic Comedy Night at the MJCC. No-host Happy Hour 5:30-6:30 pm Show Time: 6:30-8:30 pm .503-244-0111

### Feb. 10

Women's Day of Jewish Learning, 12:30-5 pm at the MJCC. Join us as Rabbi Dara Frimmer in a program focusing on Rosh Chodesh Adar. [oregonjcc.org/womensday](http://oregonjcc.org/womensday)

Secularism, Tolerance and The Dreyfus Affair in Turn of the Century France with Elynn Gould, author of the newly published *Dreyfus and the Literature of the Third Republic*. Free. 3:30 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 East 29<sup>th</sup> Ave., Eugene. 541-485-7218

Oregon State University Piano International presents Israeli pianist Inon Barnatan in concert at 4 pm. The program will include selections from his new *Darkness Visible* CD. Austin Auditorium at the LaSells Stewart Center, 875 SW 26th St., Corvallis. Tickets: [CorvallisPiano.org](http://CorvallisPiano.org) or 541-752-2361

Day of Hope Annual Gala and Grand Charity Raffle of the Jewish Business Network of Vancouver, WA. 5:30-8:30 pm at the Downtown Vancouver Hilton. Benefit for children of the Good Family Orphanage in Odessa, Ukraine, and local underprivileged families. Dinner, desserts, drinks and a live performance by magician and mentalist Oz Pearlman. [facebook.com/TheJBN](http://facebook.com/TheJBN) or [thejbn.org](http://thejbn.org)

### Feb. 11-24

Help the Holocaust Center from your home in your PJs! Online auction to help continue OHRC educational programs and maintenance of the Oregon Holocaust Memorial in Washington Park. Go to [biddingforgood.com/ohrc](http://biddingforgood.com/ohrc) to bid.

### Feb. 12

Sephardic Film Series features "The Life Of Frank Iry: A Granddaughter's Journey" and "Searching for Baghdad; A Daughter's Journey." 7 pm at Congregation Ahavath Achim 3225 SW Barbur Blvd, Portland. Speaker following the film during the dessert reception. David Tver, 503-892-6634.

Emergency Preparedness workshop, 7 pm at the MJCC. Learn steps that you and your family need to take to be self-sufficient for the first several days after a major disaster. 503-245-6496 or [bob@jewishportland.org](mailto:bob@jewishportland.org)

**Feb. 12**

[Taste of Temple returns to Congregation Beth Israel](#) at 5 pm when more than 25 of the best chefs and restaurants in town, and an outstanding array of breweries and vintners, share samples of their specialties. Unlimited food and drink and the opportunity to bid on some exclusive items. Beth Israel, 1972 NW Flanders, Portland. RSVP with payment: Tracy at 503-222-1069 or [tracy@bethisrael-pdx.org](mailto:tracy@bethisrael-pdx.org)

**Feb. 16**

[Adult meetup to try snowshoeing in the White River Canyon on Mt. Hood with a skilled guide.](#) Rental gear is available at ski shops in Portland. Meet at the MJCC at 9:30 to carpool. RSVP: [oregonjcc.org/rsvp](http://oregonjcc.org/rsvp)

**Feb. 17**

[Jewish Community Orchestra Young Artists Showcase along with orchestra performing under direction of their new award-winning Artistic Director and Conductor Donald Appert.](#) Silent auction to help support the orchestra. 3 pm at the MJCC. Tickets available at the door. [jewishcommunityorchestra.org](http://jewishcommunityorchestra.org) 503-806-2494

**Feb. 19**

[Jewish Dad's Night Out.](#) Monthly relaxed discussions on being a Jewish Dad. This month: Rabbi Zuckerman, Congregation Shaarie Torah, at 7:30 pm at Lompoc Sidebar, 3901A N. Williams, Portland. [jgeenberg@nevehshalom.org](http://jgeenberg@nevehshalom.org) or 503-246-8831

**Feb. 20**

[AIPAC Oregon Community Event.](#) 6-9 pm at location TBD. Contact: Lila Inksfeld, 206-624-5152 or [seattle\\_aipac@aipac.org](mailto:seattle_aipac@aipac.org)

**Feb. 21**

[Friends of the Center Dinner: Celebrating Champions at the MJCC.](#) Emcee is Travis Demers, 1080 The Fan – sports talk radio. Portland Timbers players will be on hand to schmooze and enhance photo booth photos, blender bikes will whip up smoothies, and Wilson High cheerleaders will add energy. [oregonjcc.org/dinner](http://oregonjcc.org/dinner).

**Feb. 22**

[Kol Shalom's sing-along Shabbat at 7 pm at MJCC will feature festive songs and dancing.](#) Everyone is invited to attend. 503-459-4210 or visit [www.kolshalom.org](http://www.kolshalom.org).

**Feb. 23/24**

[PURIM: Most congregations feature Megillah readings and Purim Festivals or Purimschpiels.](#) Call your nearby congregation or select one of the following:

[Chabad and Circus Cascadia create Purim at the Circus!](#) Richmond Elementary School 2276 SE 41st Ave., Portland. 3:30 pm, Sunday. [ChabadOregon.com/CircusPurim](http://ChabadOregon.com/CircusPurim)

[The Book of Esther, this year's legendary Purimschpiel from Beth Israel,](#) 1972 NW Flanders, Portland. 6 pm. 503-222-1069

[Cirque du Shaarie Purim Celebration, 6:30 pm at Shaarie Torah,](#) 920 NW 25th Ave., Portland. Includes aerial show by Pendulum Aerial Arts. RSVP [education@shaarietorah.org](mailto:education@shaarietorah.org) or 503-226-6131

["Chagschwartz," A Very Potter Purim, 7 pm at Neveh Shalom,](#) 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. Come dressed as your favorite Harry Potter or Purim character. 503-246-8831

[Vancouver's Congregation Kol Ami hosts Megillah Mia Saturday evening at 6 and a Purim Carnival at 12:30](#) Sunday. 7800 NE 119th St., Vancouver, WA. 360-896-8088

[Sunday Afternoon Purim Carnival at the MJCC.](#) Call for details. 503-244-0111

**March 2**

[The Forward Stride Center for Therapeutic Recreation honors Marylhurst University President Judith Johansen as its "Cowgirl of the Year" at the nonprofit organization's annual Cowgirl Ball.](#) The Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation will provide a \$15,000 challenge grant to match gifts donated at the Cowgirl Ball. 5:30-10 p.m. at Clark Commons at Marylhurst University, 17600 Pacific Hwy., Marylhurst. [forwardstride.org](http://forwardstride.org)

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

**February busy at Oregon Jewish Museum**

Oregon Jewish Museum begins a busy month with a light brunch and lecture, "Comics, Journalism and Society" by Sam Norich, publisher of "The Forward" on Feb. 3 at 11 am.

Norich will discuss the commonalities between journalism and comics, both of which shine light on uncomfortable truths and relate them through powerful storytelling.

This talk is presented in conjunction with OJM's "Graphic Details, an exhibit featuring works by prominent female Jewish confessional graphic artists.

OJM Sunday Music presents Shicky Gnarowitz, 2-3 pm, Feb. 10. Shicky Gnarowitz, a three-piece band, has been playing traditional folk music from Eastern Europe, primarily Klezmer and Greek Rebetiko music for 15 years. Highlights for the band include playing at comedian Will Farrell's wedding.

OJM Cinema screens: "Will Eisner: Portrait of a Sequential Artist," Feb. 13, noon and 7 pm. Arguably the most influential person in American comics, Will Eisner enjoyed a career that encompassed comic books from their early beginnings in the 1930s to their development as graphic novels in the 1990s.

Portland Jazz Festival ([pdxjazz.com/portland-jazz-festival](http://pdxjazz.com/portland-jazz-festival)) events at OJM include two Jazz Conversations: Wayne Horvitz with Paul DeBarros (Seattle Times) Feb. 17, 1 pm; and Steven Bernstein discusses composer Nino Rota and the music of Fellini's films with Tom D'Antoni at 1 pm Feb. 23.

**OJM Exhibition and Opening Receptions**

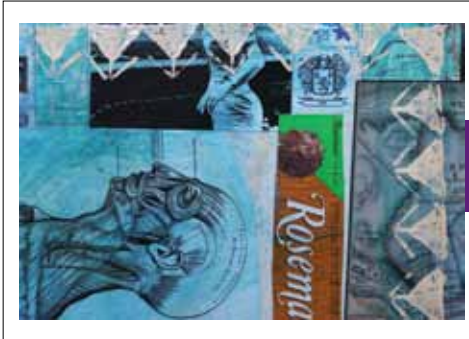
Feb. 17, 2-3 pm (Exhibit Feb. 15-April 14): Eye to Eye: Photographs from the Portland Jazz Festival by Bruce Polonsky. Coinciding with the 2013 Portland Jazz Festival, Eye to Eye: Photographs from the Portland Jazz Festival by Bruce Polonsky captures images from eight years of these musical celebrations.

Feb. 27, 5:30-7:30 pm (Exhibit Feb. 27-April 24): Pictures of Resistance: The Wartime Photographs of Jewish Partisan Faye Schulman. Faye Schulman is the only known Jewish partisan photographer who took pictures of Jewish partisan resistance ([jewishpartisans.org](http://jewishpartisans.org)).

Feb. 27, 5:30-7:30 pm (Exhibit Feb. 27-April 24): Sidonie Caron: We Are Our Brothers' Keeper. Sidonie Caron's work reflects the profound connections between family, community and society. Infused with the sentiment of her personal travels, her insightful paintings depict such everyday scenes as waiting for a bus in Israel, or the facade of an old European synagogue.

Personal Runner, Mixed Media on Masonite, April 1997, by Sidonie Caron

OJM is the Oregon Jewish Museum, 1953 NW Kearney, Portland. 503-226-3600



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