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Cover photo: Sara Harwin's "Illuminated Letters" exhibit opens at the Oregon Jewish Museum Feb. 5. Photo by Images by Floom

Correction: The cover section about the 100th anniversary of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center contained two errors. In the box about the Feb. 23 dinner honoring Gayle Schnitzer Romain, her grandfather's name should have read Harry Mittleman. The story on the facing page correctly identified the photo of Harry and Helen Mittleman, after whom the JCC is named. The paragraph next to that photo, however, should have said Charlotte Haimsohn z"l had lived in San Diego.

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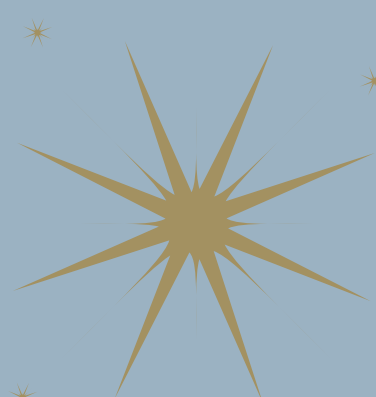
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Editor's Letter



“Sometimes words are inadequate.”

Our cover subject, Judaic artist Sara Harwin, told me that as she explained why she chose visual art as a way to transmit the core values of Judaism. While the project she has spent the past six and half years creating is based on words, she uses imagery to help others understand “the vitality that is Judaism.”

I have two stumbling blocks to truly understanding her statement about words. As a journalist, words are my lifeblood. On top of that, I am *not* a visual person – I have a poor memory for visual images, and I definitely would not be classified as a visual learner if I were in the education system today.

Sara also spoke about the role of light in her “Illuminated Letters” exhibit that opens at the Oregon Jewish Museum Feb. 5.

“Light draws us to the possibilities,” she told me.

I found new insight into those two phrases while I was working on this month's cover story. Perhaps seeing Sara's exhibit and hearing her explanations of the images in the exhibit's six panels opened my eyes to fresh understanding.

As I headed out to ride my bicycle recently, her words and images were in my head. A major storm front was rolling in from the coast. But as I started to ride, the weather was balmy, the skies were partly cloudy and a double rainbow hung across the road in front of me. Possibilities!

For nearly two hours, the riding was wonderful. The front held off and it was exhilarating to be outside. Then suddenly I was engulfed in rain and heavy wind. The light seemed to vanish; it was almost as if night were falling at 11 am. The absence of light was draining. Heading home became a battle against the elements. I slogged through the rain and wind and darkness. Time stood still and home got no closer.

But then the clouds broke and splashes of sun returned. I was still riding through rain, so I knew there was another rainbow somewhere above me. My spirits soared and suddenly it was easier to pedal. Nothing had really changed but the presence of light.

And as I pedaled along through the rain and wind and wonderful light, I saw another cyclist heading toward me. Battling the same elements and experiencing the same joy at being outdoors with sunlight finding a way through.

We waved and smiled at each other.

Sometimes words *are* inadequate!

Liorah



WEDDINGS



FAMILIES



SENIORS

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Jewish Portland Tomorrow: Difficult conversations ahead



Marc Blattner is CEO and president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. These comments are excerpted from his Marc's Remarks emails of Jan. 3 and Jan. 10.

By Marc Blattner

For the last 3+ years, I have written weekly remarks sharing thoughts about Jewish life and other subjects. Here I will share thoughts on Jewish Portland Tomorrow – a potential future vision for meeting the interests and needs of Jewish life in Portland.

I am sure these Marc's Remarks will generate plenty of conversation – both positive and negative. There will be lots of questions and concerns. People may agree or disagree. However, to strengthen Jewish Portland, it is necessary to have these difficult conversations.

Today, according to most studies of Jewish communal life, we are losing “market share.” Fewer and fewer Jews are engaging in Jewish life, at least the way we currently define it. We have moved, not surprisingly, away from a “sheltered” Jewish community where Jewish organizations were started predominantly because “Jews took care of Jews,” or we were not allowed to participate in general communal organizations. We created an incredible “cradle to grave” system that met the needs of the Jewish community of that time period. But does this structure truly meet the needs of today and tomorrow?

Our community alone has 40+ Jewish organizations. Each is striving to meet the needs of its (growing/shrinking) membership or to provide programs and services to the community. In too many ways, each organization is focused on its own needs (including funding) and, dare I say, survival. This minimizes our community's capacity to create an overarching strategy for how to respond to the Jewish community of tomorrow. As someone told me recently, “If we landed in Portland and there were no Jewish communal infrastructure, would we create what we have today?”

My initial two years were focused on learning more about Jewish Portland. I then approached Jay Zidell, one of our community's most generous philanthropists, about leading an effort to create a future vision for Jewish Portland. In January 2013 a committee of 10 dedicated community leaders began to examine Jewish Portland today and to help create a vision for its future. Over a five-month period, the group met every other week to discuss trends and ideas, which ultimately led to several key recommendations cited later in this post. Underlying these findings are daunting trends in our community (and many others):

- *An aging major donor base.* Over the past seven years, our total Jewish community has seen a reduction in overall philanthropic giving (excluding capital campaigns).
- *Infrastructure and other costs are escalating,* while incoming dollars are relatively constant or diminishing.
- *A running theme of “what is mine is mine” –* including programming, space and donors.

People today are looking for the highest quality, most affordable and most convenient services to meet their needs – whether in the Jewish community or not.

It is time to reimagine Jewish Portland ... and to create a communal system unlike any other.

What does this mean? Jewish NewCo (name for discussion purposes only) is about the creation of a new consolidated organization (Jewish Federation, its partner agencies and others) that focuses on Jewish social services, life and learning, philanthropy and managing the back-office expenses for our community. As part of this plan, the Jewish Federation would be absorbed into Jewish NewCo. This new organization would be a hub for lifelong access to innovative and exceptional Jewish experiences. Think Amazon.com – a one-stop shop for all things Jewish.

(Note: The committee did not feel comfortable examining the synagogue community, yet it does believe that there are ways synagogues can benefit in this enterprise.)

This single overarching Jewish organization provides an integrated and more efficient approach to Jewish culture, learning, social services, philanthropy and connections to Israel. We can raise additional money with a more sophisticated approach to financial resource development. And any cost savings or new dollars will be invested right back into the community for more Jewish experiences and programs.

Our goal is to make our Jewish community more:

- *Accessible* (lower costs, “programming without walls”)
- *Inclusive* (interfaith families, LGBT community, people with disabilities)
- *Meaningful and inspiring*
- *Fun* (a running theme at the meetings).

It is time for a communal reboot. We must recognize that the sum is greater than the parts! But right now, “turf” and history are in the way.

In recent weeks, meetings took place with leadership from several of the federation partner agencies to share these ideas. Not surprisingly, the reactions included legitimate questions. It was suggested that the federation hire a consultant to gather more feedback and to add “more meat on the bone.” Immediately, the federation governing board allocated funds to hire an outside consultant. The consultant (who has been

an executive director of a federation partner agency in another community) will begin his work in mid-January and deliver a full report by the end of March 2014.

The community will have the opportunity to provide input. After we receive the consultant's report, we can then share more specific details.

I applaud the efforts of this leadership committee. They have created a bold idea for our future – and now it is time for Portland's courageous conversation to proceed to the next level. We must acknowledge our incredible past as well as the enormous challenges before us.

The goal of Jewish NewCo is to align our communal efforts toward a common definition of success by having ONE team and ONE communal plan for an exciting, vibrant Jewish community for all.

As always, I encourage your thoughts and feedback – marc@jewishportland.org.

Letters from readers

Dear Editor:

In December, students at the Swarthmore College Hillel passed a policy stating that they would allow and sponsor any and all organizations and people be they "Zionist, anti-Zionist, post-Zionist or non-Zionist."

Hillel International's President and CEO Eric Fingerhut responded: "Let me be very clear - 'anti-Zionists' will not be permitted to speak using the Hillel name or under the Hillel roof, under any circumstances."

Since then, a variety of critics have claimed the policy conflicts with Hillel's mission to serve as the Jewish pluralistic organization on campus, and that it violates the free speech rights of those speakers who are excluded from Hillel by this policy.

The fundamental problem with our critics' position is that they misunderstand Hillel's calling. Hillel's long-established mission and vision is this: "We envision a world where every student is inspired to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel."

Hillel is fully committed to creating an environment for debating or criticizing Israel's actions and policies. We welcome discussion about settlements, the Palestinian community or the establishment of a two-state solution. We welcome criticism of Israel's policies and actions. But, at the end of the day, we are committed to helping students build an enduring commitment to Israel. That is our mission.

This issue is not about free speech. We support our critics' right to speak freely about their views on Israel and on Hillel. But the First Amendment does not require us to open our doors or to sponsor organizations or people who delegitimize Israel and who fail to recognize Israel's right to exist. To do that would directly conflict with our mission – our purpose for being.

Andy Gitelson, executive director, University of Oregon Hillel, Eugene

Thank you for the article about the Dragon Boat Races and the Golden Dragons ("Dragon boaters enjoy fun, fitness and friendship," January 2014). The races are an important and exciting part of the Rose Festival. I would encourage Portlanders to "go to the races" in 2014. I thought the readers should be aware that Roberta Weinstein was the Co-Director for the races and a Board Member of the Portland Kaohsiung Sister City Association. She served in each capacity for more than 13 years putting in thousands of hours of volunteer time. She currently serves as Race Announcer.

Phyllis Oster, Portland

Great article. You have captured the essence of the sport, especially the Golden Dragons. Thanks for the plug, hope it attracts some people to participate with us.

Norman M. Gerber, Tigard

Thanks for your article on being Jewish and vegan ("Should vegan be the new kosher?" January 2014). There is definitely a long tradition of compassion for animals in the Jewish faith. I became vegan in 1989, and it has been the best decision of my life. The more people make the connection between what we eat and our responsibility towards fellow sentient beings, the better for our health and the health of the planet.


Lida Husik, Portland

I have been out of town for the past two weeks and just now got a chance to see and read the January edition. It is wonderful! Thank you so much for putting together a great piece on the past, present and future of the MJCC. I have been working at the MJCC for more than 10 years now and had no idea about some of the history involved in bringing this community center to fruition. It is even more clear to me what a treasure the MJCC is to our community...past, present and future. The MJCC looks forward to another 100 years of serving the community!

Jordana Levenick, Operations Manager, Mittleman Jewish Community Center

University of Oregon President Michael Gottfredson issued this statement regarding the American Studies Association proposal endorsing a boycott of Israeli academic institutions:

The University of Oregon is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, freedom of inquiry, and exchange of ideas as core principles of our mission as a leading public research university. Academic freedom is the cornerstone of our research, teaching, and service to society. An academic boycott violates this fundamental principle. While we support the right of individuals to express and advocate for their own views, we oppose any organizational effort that undermines the ability of members of our academic community to collaborate in support of research, teaching, and scholarship. We join the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and Association of American Universities in strongly opposing a boycott of Israeli academic institutions and organizations.



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Bruce Morris Designs Hebrew Keyboard



Before beginning their ulpan study, Cassandra Sagan and Bruce Morris (center) toured Israel with family. Overlooking Jerusalem from left are Sonia Kim, Joel Morris, Cassandra Sagan, Bruce Morris, Rebekah Morris and Michael Vandenburg.



By Deborah Moon

Bruce Morris designed a keyboard and supplemental software so he could touch-type his Hebrew homework for cantorial school. Then, when he and his wife were studying at an ulpan in Israel, he loaned the keyboard to her to type one of her poems in Hebrew.

She refused to give it back.

Noting his wife, Cassandra Sagan, is a poet not a techie, he says he was surprised that she was typing easily within 10 minutes.

“That experience made me realize it’s not just me,” he says. “When I saw how easily she learned it, I realized I had to commercialize it.”

“The whole deal is if you are an English touch typist, the sounds are going to match,” Bruce explains. “I have taught many, many people to use it in 10 minutes.”

Bruce’s keyboard pairs each Hebrew letter with the English letter with a similar sound. While existing software (such as Microsoft Word and Davka Writer) offers users an option to use a similar layout, no keyboard existed before Bruce found a manufacturer in Tualatin that could produce his economically. He also has developed supplemental software that makes it easier to type vowels and final letters in Hebrew.

When Bruce made the original keyboard for his own use, he bought three sets of Israeli Hebrew letter stickers to have all the letters he needed. Since Israeli Hebrew typists don’t use vowels, he says it was hard to find sticker sets with vowels. So in addition to selling keyboards, he also sells sticker sets so people can convert a laptop or other keyboard to his system.

Bruce also modified existing Hebrew software with

supplemental software that comes with his keyboards and sticker sets. His supplement uses the number keys to type Hebrew vowels automatically (an additional keystroke is required to type a number); other programs also use the number keys for vowels but require multiple key strokes. Since Hebrew has no capitals, Bruce’s software uses the shift key to type “final” Hebrew consonants; this method is used in some, but not all, other programs so his software standardizes the practice.

In a fun twist, he labels the escape key the “Oy” key, since users might be tempted to say “Oy Veh!” just before they need to “escape.”

Israeli keyboards are based on the same principle as English “QWERTY” keyboards (named for the first row of letters). Both keyboards were developed in an era of manual typewriters and arranged keys so that common letter combinations would be far enough apart so the typewriter arms for the letters would not jam. The resulting Israeli keyboard has no relation to where an American touch typist would expect to find Hebrew letters.

The journey to a new keyboard began when Bruce was helping lead services at Congregation P’nai Or after the accidental death of the Renewal congregation’s founding rabbi, Aryeh Hirschfield z”l. Bruce had been involved in Jewish music since high school, when his youth group leader was noted Jewish songwriter and performer Debbie Friedman z”l. Since she did not read music, he helped her proof the galleys for the music book to accompany her album “Sing Unto God.”

Rabbi Goldie Milgram, who came to serve P’nai Or for the Jewish holidays following Rabbi Aryeh’s death, inspired Bruce to pursue formal cantorial training.



Of that first encounter, Rabbi Milgram says, “My soul soared to work with such a flexible, intuitive, spiritually capable, musically talented cantor.”

Rabbi Milgram says she also is impressed by his “long-needed” keyboard, which she says, “must come from his outside-the-box capacity for understanding what is needed and manifesting it in healthy ways grounded to Judaism and Jewish practice.”

Recalling Milgram’s visit, Bruce says, “She told me, ‘You should be a hazzan.’ She said she’d already written my recommendation to the Aleph ordination program. It’s kinda hard to ignore that.”

He enrolled in the Renewal movement’s distance-learning program for rabbis and cantors in 2010. Both cantors and rabbis take many joint online classes – classes meet at set times with teachers and students interacting via webcams – though cantors, of course, take more music classes while the rabbinic students spend more time studying Talmud and other texts.

“When I got into the school, I discovered while studying Hebrew that I was trying to learn the words and grammar and then having to hunt and peck to do my homework,” he says. “It was horrible. The idea of Hebrew QWERTY was out there, but there was no hardware.”


So he made his own and looked for ways to share it.

The first keyboards came off the production line last April, just in time for Bruce to share it with Jewish Renewal founder Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, who was in Ashland for an annual Renewal Shabbaton. Reb Zalman was encouraging and told Bruce that he had had similar ideas decades earlier.

In an interview with Oregon Jewish Life, Reb Zalman said, “When I got my first computer, it was a CPM system, and I had to type Hebrew. I opted for designing a way in which an aleph would be on ‘a’ and ayin on ‘e,’ a chet on ‘x’ and so on. I was able to program my dot matrix printer to produce those letters for me when I used the proper control codes. Earlier I had designed the same thing for the IBM Selectric typewriter, but I could not get the company to make me that symbol ball.”

Now, decades later, he is delighted that Bruce has developed the hardware to bring that idea to fruition.

“Whenever I had to type Hebrew alone or enter it into a text in English, I found that the Israeli keyboard was cumbersome and difficult to work,” Reb Zalman says. “I enjoyed working with Bruce’s keyboard because my mind processes Hebrew letters closest to English ones. I recommend it warmly to people for entering Hebrew in ways that the fingers feel happy.”

Bruce says the Aleph-Board keyboard and stickers have been selling well, especially when he takes them to Jewish conferences. Both are available online and at Jewish bookstores, including Everything Jewish in Southwest Portland. Keyboards (models for PC and Mac) are \$59.95 and sticker sets are \$9.95. Both come with information to download the software to modify existing Hebrew typing programs. 

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JONATHAN SINGER JOINS MILLER NASH

Miller Nash welcomes Jonathan Singer to the firm's Portland office as an associate. Singer joins the litigation practice team, where he will focus on civil litigation with an emphasis on securities, products liability and other commercial matters.

"(W)e are happy to have Jonathan, a fourth-generation Oregonian, return to Portland to contribute the unique experience he gained in Washington, DC, to our established litigation practice," said Kieran Curley, the firm's managing partner.

Singer is the son of Peter Singer and Sharon Stern and the grandson of Helen and Jerry Stern, all of Portland. His other grandparents, David and Anne Singer z"l, also lived in Portland for two decades.

"I grew up at Neveh Shalom and have been a member of Ahavath Achim in the past, but I have not yet formally joined a synagogue since moving back to Portland this month from Washington, DC, where I practiced law for three years at O'Melveny & Myers," says Singer. "My practice in D.C. afforded me the chance to work regularly with the White House, cabinet-level officers, and congressional committees, and in matters all around the world. But Portland has always been home. So when the opportunity arose to work at Miller Nash, one of the premier full-service law firms in Portland and the Northwest, I jumped on it."

Singer received his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He earned a bachelor of arts in politics from Pomona College.

Jonathan.Singer@MillerNash.com | MillerNash.com | 503-205-2324

EDIE ROGOWAY LAUNCHES ROGOWAY LAW

Rogoway Law, a Portland employment, civil rights and personal injury law firm, opened Jan. 1, 2014.

Edie Rogoway, a Portland native, has been practicing law for 14 years – all in Portland. For the past four years, she and a partner had a private practice. Her new office is at 6312 SW Capitol Highway, Suite 1102, Portland. In her new private practice, she says she "welcomes the opportunity to continue serving our community."

"I chaired Impact (the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's annual women's event) in the spring of 2013," she says. "I'm on the MJCC/PJA finance committee. I spoke at last year's Maimonides dinner, spoke at the Friends of the Center Dinner a few years back honoring Jerry Sadis, and am very involved with Rejuvenation at BB Camp each fall."

Rogoway and her husband, Nathan Van Ness, are the parents of 7-year-old Georgia Van Ness, a second-grader at Hayhurst Elementary. Georgia attends Hebrew school at Gan Israel.

edie@edielaw.com | edielaw.com | 503-334-0331



LAUREN BLOOM HANOVER JOINS PROFILE THEATRE

Lauren Bloom Hanover is the new director of education and community engagement for Profile Theatre. Each year Profile produces a season of plays devoted to a single playwright.

Hanover oversees the company's education programs for students including the Inside Out: Community and School Tour, the Hands On Theatre Program and

Business Ins & Outs welcomes submissions of news items about businesses and Jewish organizations including new leadership, retiring leaders and new facilities. Send your business news brief of up to 250 words and a photo to Oregon Jewish Life Editor-in-Chief Deborah Moon at deborah.moon@ojlife.com.

the internship program. Additionally Hanover manages the theater's education programs for adults including the In Dialogue Series that presents talkbacks and other supplemental programming to explore the featured writer's world. Hanover will develop and maintain strategic partnerships with community groups and organizations to realize Profile's mission of "engaging with our community to explore that writer's vision and influence on theatre and the world at large."

Growing up in California, Hanover belonged to Barah, where she prepared for her bat mitzvah with the late Rabbi Jerry Winston. More recently, she has attended services in San Rafael at Rodef Shalom, where her mother has been part of the choir for several years. Hanover came to Profile from the San Francisco Bay Area where she was education program manager with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. A teaching artist for many years, she has worked with Marin Theatre Company, ForWords Literacy Lab and the Shakespeare Society in New York. As an actor, she has performed with the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Columbia Stages, Capital Stage, Just Theater and The Actor's Company Theatre in New York.

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CEDAR SINAI PARK, DEBBI BODIE EARN NATIONAL HONOR

Cedar Sinai Park will receive the Jewish Programming Award from the Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America in recognition


of the Hesed Shel Emet Jewish Burial Project for the needy. The project was initiated by CSP Chief Development Officer Debbi Bodie in collaboration with Rabbi Ariel Stone of Congregation Shir Tikvah.

Hesed Shel Emet brought together Jewish agencies, rabbis, cemeteries, Hevra Kadishas and local funeral homes to assure that low-income members of the Jewish community be guaranteed a dignified Jewish burial despite the lack of family resources with which to cover that expense.

"Hesed Shel Emet means ultimate kindness," says CSP CEO David Fuks. "This kindness is an essential responsibility of any Jewish community. We are very proud that Debbi Bodie's and Ariel Stone's passionate leadership ... (developed) a systemic approach to solving a fundamental problem."

Bodie will receive this recognition on behalf of CSP and the Jewish community of Oregon and Southwest Washington at the conference of the Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America in Jacksonville, FL, in late March.

"While I am honored to see this project recognized, I am very pleased that it represents the efforts of an entire community coming together and that so many donors have stepped forward to assure that resources will always be available to address this important need," says Bodie.

Since the project's inception in 2010, 29 burials have been provided. The project is supported by gifts by community members and endowed funds within the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. These funds include the Min Zidell Hesed Shel Emet Endowment Fund, The Lubliner Endowment Fund for the Needy and the Community Endowment Fund of OJCF. 



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Weddings

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and my beloved is
mine.”
— Song of Solomon 6:3

INSIDE:

- Modern Jewish Wedding
- Marriage Diversity
- Freedom to Marry
- Mazel Tov, Israeli-style
- Couples’ Soundbites
- Enhance the Real You
- Are You My Beshert?
- Wedding Venues





The Modern Jewish Wedding

By Michele Schwartz, CLCEP

Among the most memorable Jewish wedding traditions, “breaking the glass” ranks near the top. At the end of the ceremony, the happy groom stomps a shrouded wine glass with a satisfying crunch (or as I recommend, an easy-to-smash lightbulb), and cheers of “mazel tov” fill the air. But Jewish weddings, from Orthodox to interfaith, present many additional opportunities to honor our heritage and faith. Here are five of my favorite Jewish traditions with contemporary twists for you and your groom – before, during and after your ceremony.

Before the Ceremony

Kabbalat Panim (Greeting Faces): Every bride wants to be Queen for a Day. Did you know that the concept is a Jewish one? In ancient ceremonies, the bride sat upon a throne-like chair, and friends and family of the bride came and greeted her. A modern update is a little pre-wedding celebration and beautification (mani-pedi? updo’s?) for the bride and her gals. Toast the bride with a little bubbly to make it special.

During the Ceremony

Hakafot is a little like “Ring Around the Rosy.” This tradition symbolizes the creation of a new sacred family circuit. The bride circles her groom seven times as she enters the chuppah. In modern weddings, the bride and groom circle one another, creating a sacred space around each other in front of the symbol of their new home, the chuppah.

Chuppah, which means covering in Hebrew, is the most recognizable symbol of a Jewish wedding. Designing a chuppah with your fiancé will be a special way for you both to create something symbolic and beautiful together. Unlike many other Jewish ritual objects like a tallit or mezuzah, there are few legal requirements for the chuppah. It just has to be open on all four sides. In other words, it can be symbolic or fun, adorned or simple. Most importantly it can represent who you are, or aspire to be, as a couple. You can make your chuppah just wide enough to hold the two of you and your officiant, or you can make it roomy and invite your entire wedding party to join you underneath the canopy. You can have a freestanding chuppah or invite honored family and friends to hold it over you.

After the Ceremony

Yihud means seclusion. Traditionally, it is inappropriate for unmarried men and women to be alone together; so, as soon as the bride and groom exited the chuppah, they would go immediately into a room of seclusion, symbolizing their new status as a married couple. No photographers, videographers or mothers allowed! Look into



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one another's eyes, take a deep breath and pause, reveling in the moment. Also consider enjoying some of the food and drinks you won't have time to enjoy once you join your reception, which will already be in full swing when you walk through the doors.

Finally, an important part of the wedding ceremony is the recitation of the **Sheva Brachot** (the seven blessings). In very traditional families the wedding reception is ended with the same recitation of the seven blessings before the departure of the bride and groom. Rather than chant the traditional seven blessings for a second time, have guests give their own verbal blessings to the wedding couple. The blessing I remember the most from this tradition at my wedding: "May you always be happier than you are right now!" 

Michele Schwartz is founder and editor of The Modern Jewish Wedding and an event planner. She was a 2013 ESPRIT Award Finalist-Best Social Event.

PHOTO BY MARK GLUCKMAN



Breaking the Glass—Then What? After the glass is broken don't throw away those shards. Instead, have your trusted wedding planner collect them and use them to create a mezuzah for your new home or bedroom door. There are a number of beautiful, modern mezuzot that will complement your style or décor. Just Google "broken wedding glass mezuzah" or "wedding glass keepsakes" for a variety of options.



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Something Old and Something New: Marriage Diversity in Portland's Jewish Community

By Polina Olsen

The upcoming program “Open Hearts = Open Minds, People of Faith Supporting Freedom to Marry,” provides first-person accounts of gay and lesbian couples. (see page 22)

Of course, marriage diversity within today's Jewish community extends beyond this program to couples of all stripes, shapes and sizes including gay, straight, interracial, intercultural, interfaith by birth, interfaith forever and certainly more. We asked people from different perspectives to share their memories and ideas.



Bob and Michele Goldschmidt. Photo courtesy of Bob and Michele Goldschmidt

Drs. Michele and Bob Goldschmidt are both Jewish now, but things didn't start that way. A Catholic school graduate, Michele met Bob in her physics class at Lehman College in New York. She is African-American and from a family of eight children. He is a first-generation German Jew. His initial attraction was Michele's voice and joviality. Michele found Bob's intellect dazzling. They married at the United Nations Chapel in 1977.

“I was no longer a practicing Catholic,” Michele says, remembering her wedding day. “Judaism matched my soul's bend. I wanted to challenge concepts. I converted when our eldest was an infant. When people ask why, I say, ‘I needed to wrestle.’”

They had three children, worked and earned PhDs. Their move to Portland began with Michele's postdoctoral fellowship. Today Michele is the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

program manager for the Portland VA Medical Center – “I love doing what I'm doing; I speak, live and dream prevention” – and Bob is an information security specialist.

“My son became a bar mitzvah at Havurah Shalom,” Michele says. “I learned to chant Torah at the same time he did. Bob kept up with African-American culture, and I with Jewish culture. We want our kids to be culturally rich.”



A rabbi and Presbyterian pastor co-officiated at Jenn Director and David Knudsen's wedding.

Childhood sweethearts **Jenn Director and David Knudsen** kept their respective religions when they married. He grew up active in Presbyterian youth groups, she at Congregation Beth Israel. They met in English class during their junior year at Sunset High. She invited him to the school's annual girl-ask-guy dance by showing up at his door with a balloon. A long-distance relationship lasted throughout his years at Stanford and hers at the University of California, Santa

Barbara. She knew he was serious when he rearranged his schedule and scrounged money to visit during her junior year in France.

“We wanted a co-officiated wedding in a house of G-d,” Jenn says. “We found a rabbi in the Bay Area who knew Rev. Charlie Brown of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Portland. We married in Lewis and Clark College's chapel. It worked out perfectly.”

Today David is a strategic planner at Intel, while Jenn works for the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at Portland State University. She also serves on the board at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Daughters Alyssa, 12, and Hayley, 10, attend Oregon Episcopal School.

“Alyssa's bat mitzvah is next July, and while she's steeped in studying for it, she also understands a number of church

rituals,” Jenn says. “To me this is significant because the vast majority of my friends growing up in Portland were not Jewish, and I felt foreign when I was invited to go to church with them. Our daughters are getting a Jewish education so they can be comfortable in any Jewish ritualistic space, and they are learning



Toinette and Victor Menashe met at Ahavai Sholom Sunday School.

the same at OES for Christian spaces.”

For some couples, marriage is just an extension of a lifelong connection. **Toinette and Victor Menashe** met at Ahavai Sholom Sunday school when they were 6 years old, but they didn’t “connect” until they were summer camp counselors at the Neighborhood

House. They will celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary with their two sons and four grandchildren this June.

“I went to Irvington and Grant High, Vic to Shattuck and Lincoln,” Toinette says. “I was supposed to go to Reed, but four days before classes started Vic talked me into going to the

University of Oregon. We were married five years later. I had taught for a year, and he was in his last year of medical school. We were the last wedding to take place in the old synagogue on Park Street. They closed it the next day.”



Evan Kalik blames his wife Ardyth for his love of cats. photo by Polina Olsen

In contrast, **Evan and Ardyth Kalik** met later in life. The founders of the CAT Adoption Team in Sherwood, each had previously been married when they saw each other at work in Florida. She loved cats. He was a dog person. All that was about to change.

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Freedom to Marry exhibit Feb. 9

A photo exhibit featuring the experiences, stories and perspectives of clergy, parents of gay children and LGBT couples of faith who support the freedom to marry will be the centerpiece of a Feb. 9 open house supporting the right of same-sex couples to marry.

This exhibit, called “Open Minds, People of Faith Supporting Freedom to Marry,” will be at the shared home of Beit Haverim and the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, 1111 Country Club Road, Lake Oswego. The open house is part of an LOUCC and BH series that aims to raise awareness and promote personal and spiritual growth, deepened relationships and collaboration to make a difference.

“Oregon United for Marriage” traveling exhibit uses audio interviews and photos to share the stories of people from a variety of Jewish and Christian traditions. The exhibit is intended to share how persons from a wide spectrum of Jewish and Christian faith traditions support the freedom to marry and how their faith informs this support.

“Oregon United for Marriage” is a coalition of individuals and organizations working to win the freedom to marry for same-sex couples in Oregon. LOUCC and BH will host this event to raise awareness in time for the November 2014 ballot.

The event will also feature speakers and musicians giving brief presentations in the sanctuary.

“Beit Haverim is committed to dignity for all people,” says Rabbi Alan Berg, who leads the Reform congregation. “As we join hands and share our voices with our partners at the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ in support of marriage equality, we hope to be a source of strength to the larger community. Come and sing and learn with us.”

Berg will speak at the event as will the Rev. Jennie Ott of LOUCC and Aubrey Thonvold, OUM faith director.

Visitors are invited to drop in to the Sunday program any time between 1 and 5 pm.

For more information, contact Beit Haverim, 503-344-4839 or office@beithav.org.

“Evan’s wife passed away, and both of us were lonely,” Ardyth says. “We love and respect each other, and it works out fine. I’m in church every Sunday. Evan is Jewish so I’ve cooked a Passover dinner for 27 years. I make latkes on Hanukkah, but my daughter-in-law makes the matzah balls. She’s better at it.”

Today the couple has three children each from their previous marriages, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, 12 cats, three llamas, two horses and two goats. Evan blames Ardyth for his obsession with helping injured and homeless cats. In fact, they are building their new CAT Alliance Team Sanctuary on their multi-acre property with spaces for feral cats, cats with AIDS and cats with behavioral problems (email LeonLuan2000@yahoo.com for more information). Inkwater Press will publish “The Man Who Wouldn’t Kill Cats,” a book on Evan’s life this year.



Victoria and Justin Haugen on their wedding day. Photo courtesy of Victoria and Justin Haugen.

Cantor Ida Rae Cahana of Congregation Beth Israel married **Victoria and Justin Haugen** just over two years ago. They are expecting their first baby in June and plan to raise the child as a Jew.

“Justin wasn’t half-bad looking, and he had a good heart,” Victoria says, remembering first impressions. “He was never strongly affiliated with an organized religion. We took an Introduction to Judaism class together so he’d know what he was in

for and what would happen as we raised kids. I wanted to get involved in the Jewish community, and Justin was that final push to rejoin and become an active participant. I’ve read that interfaith marriage can cause degradation in Jewish traditions, but in our case, Justin caused a renaissance.”



left: 1991 wedding of Michael (left) and Gabe Hunter-Bernstein. right: 2013 wedding of Michael (left) and Gabe Hunter-Bernstein. Photos courtesy of Michael and Gabe Hunter-Bernstein

Meanwhile, **Gabe and Michael Hunter-Bernstein** have a different approach to raising children. The local organizers of “Open Hearts = Open Minds, People of Faith Supporting Freedom to Marry,” the couple met while teaching third grade in Los Angeles County.

“Michael and I went to the movies to see both parts of ‘Little Dorit’ with dinner in between,” Gabe says. “By the time that was over, we had planned our lives together.”

The son of an Episcopal priest, Michael was raised in Southwest Washington, while Gabe enjoyed synagogue youth activities in Los Angeles. Both remain committed to their respective faiths.

They first married in 1991 when California permitted gay and lesbians to register as an unincorporated nonprofit family association. “We had a traditional Jewish service at the gay and lesbian temple in LA,” Michael says. “The rabbi did the seven blessings in Hebrew, and we chose people to do them in English including my father and another Episcopal priest. It was a huge celebration.”

Life followed including the adoption of two sons, a move to Portland for Gabe’s teaching job at Portland Community College and a series of legal changes and challenges. With gay marriage now legal in Washington, they decided to marry on Michael’s birthday. An Episcopal priest officiated.

Today Gabe serves as a lay leader at Beit Haverim. “Our rabbi is part-time so I lead most services when he isn’t there,” Gabe says. Michael belongs to Beit Haverim and attends St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Portland, where he has served on the vestry and belongs to the choir.

“It has worked out well,” Gabe says. “When we looked at adopting, we tried to figure out how to raise the boys. We decided to let the birth mothers decide. Ethan’s mother wanted a Jewish family. Then, Victor’s birth mother is Irish-American and wanted her son to be Christian. Ethan’s had a bar mitzvah. We celebrate all the holidays. The boys are clear on who they are, and they know both traditions.”

Polina Olsen is a Portland freelance writer and author of several books including *Portland in the 1960s: Stories from the Counterculture*.



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Life on the Other Side

Mazel Tov Israeli-style By Anne Kleinberg



Wedding couples at Casa Caesarea.

About the only thing I recognize about weddings in Israel compared to weddings in the U.S. is the stomping of the glass and the loud chorus of “Mazel Tov!” The rest – OH MY GOD!

Let’s start with the time. When the invitation says 8 pm with chuppah at 9 pm, you can be certain that the chuppah ceremony won’t take place before 10:30 or 11 pm. That’s just the way it is – Israeli weddings never start on time. The bride and groom have to make a grand entrance – and that can range from being escorted by young women wearing hot pants and halter tops bearing lit torches to appearing behind a gigantic puff of smoke. My favorite scene took place not when I was a guest, but rather a surprised bystander. Standing outside a movie theater in a local mall, I watched a bride and groom playing on a pinball machine. They were obviously biding time until they could make their grand entrance into the wedding banquet hall on the second floor.

The food? Endless! You arrive at your table and there are carafes of soft drinks, baskets of rolls, and plates and plates of

salads. Humus and tehina of course, and roasted eggplant with tehina, roasted eggplant with mayonnaise, roasted eggplant with onion and peppers, spicy carrot salad, coleslaw, potato salad, hering, ikra (fish roe), spicy tomato salad, pickles, olives, etc. Then, after the chuppah, the waiters come out and ask you what you would like: salmon, St. Peter’s fish or pastry stuffed with mushrooms. When you finish that, the main course comes out (by now you’re so full you can’t see straight, and it’s probably way after midnight). There’s chicken, fish, steak or kebab. A bottle of wine is opened and put on the table, more drinks are offered and the music is pounding in your ears.

That’s just the way it is – Israeli weddings never start on time.

Let's talk about music. If the bride and groom come from Ashkenazi backgrounds, you can be sure there will be no "Jewish" wedding music (forget a hora – unheard of!) and certainly no, and I mean absolutely no, Mizrahi music! I love Mizrahi music and at my stepson's wedding, I tried to bribe him and his future wife to allow some songs of the popular Oriental style. They wouldn't hear of it. After pleading and pleading and promising them that the minute those songs are played, everyone will jump up to dance – they agreed to a total of three songs. Apparently Mizrahi music has ridiculous lyrics. (I've got to admit – the lyrics are pretty pathetic, but I so love the melodies.)

If the couple is from a Mizrahi background – naturally the music will have lots of soul.

Wedding wardrobe? Everything! From shorts to cut-off jeans to bejeweled evening gowns – there is no dress code here and anything goes. When an invitation indicates black tie – maybe, just maybe, the men will wear jackets. But it's not certain. When I first visited Israel 40 years ago, wedding gowns were a joke – froufrou and ridiculous. But now some are truly stunning, and I must admit I've never yet seen an unattractive bride in this country – the girls are gorgeous!

The couples love to take photographs before the wedding in all kinds of places – so you'll see them posing at the beach, in the middle of fields, on horses, at archaeological sites, in parks. The funniest took place in my B&B, where a bride was posed stretched across the bed with a half-empty bottle of red wine dangling out of her hand. The photographer thought it was cute to hint that the groom did not show up, and here's what the bride was left with. I only worried about that bottle spilling out on the white bedspread – but all ended well (including the groom showing up as expected).

Wedding presents are usually checks, often written out right at the entrance to the wedding hall where envelopes and a safe are provided. The most bizarre thing I ever experienced was when we were asked at the entrance if we were with the bride's or the groom's side. Then we were directed to the correct safe box. Apparently, the caterer is paid after the money is collected, and one must make sure that the amounts are even from both sets of families. And considering that a medium-sized wedding in Israel is 500 people, we're talking a lot of money here!

I could go on and on, but you get it. There are weddings that take place in hotels – totally elegant and first class – and weddings that take place on the beach with small intimate crowds, and even a lesbian wedding that recently took place at Casa Caesarea.

The bottom line is that they are fun to attend, full of love and happiness and abundance and celebration. I love them all! ☺

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 annekleinberg.com and casacaesarea.com.



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Edward and Leah Hershey

Congregation Shir Tikvah | Portland



As the New York Times reported when we married* our courtship turned on a ballgame, snow bank and bowl of soup, but Paris and frugality played a role. "If we get engaged," I asked as we passed the Palais de Justice at dusk, eyeing the *tu-et-moi* ring I'd bought her that morning, "would you expect another ring?"

"Of course," Leah replied

without hesitation.

"In that case," I said, "will you marry me?"

* nytimes.com/2004/01/04/style/weddings-celebrations-leah-schwager-edward-hershey.html

Mike z"l and Jane Goldhamer

Kol Shalom | Portland



As a divorcee with two small children, I belonged to the Reform Temple in Wichita, KS. My rabbi said he wished he could get me together with his friend, Mike Goldhamer, an Air Force officer at Schilling Air Force Base in Salina. One weekend Mike came to Wichita

and asked Rabbi Miller if there were any unattached women in his congregation that he might be interested in. The rabbi gave him my name, we had our first date in February 1962, and were married by that rabbi that December.

Betty Esthelle and Sol

P'nai Or | Vancouver, WA

As a young RN looking for "fun" work in the summer of 1949, two years after the polio epidemic, I contacted Jewish Federation in N.Y. and applied for a position as a summer camp nurse. I was hired as the Charge Nurse at Camp Wel-Met in the mountains where 400 Jewish kids arrived for 2 to 4 weeks. I had lots of very important, demanding daily work AND still had time to find my "Beshert," a graduate art/psychology student named Sol, whom I married in 1951 for 33 productive years.

Derek and Alison Donin

Congregation Shaarie Torah | Portland



Derek and I met almost six years ago at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center summer camp, he was working at the sports camp and I was working at the day camp. He had grand plans to fly us to Paris and propose under the Eiffel Tower. That was not in the cards; instead we went to Vegas and he dropped to a knee at the top of the Eiffel Tower at the Paris Hotel.

David Schwartz and Deborah Elliott

Marketing Director, Rose Schnitzer Manor | West Linn



David and I met on Match.com in August 2011. I was getting ready to cancel my membership when his profile appeared in my Daily Matches. It was love at first sight. I boldly sent him a brief note indicating my interest. Little did I know that my profile had appeared in his Daily Matches on the very same day. We married in Portland on Oct. 6, 2012. It was beshert.

Lorraine and Lawrence Schechter

Temple Beth Tikvah | Bend



Lorraine Shapiro and Lawrence Schechter met in 2009 at Temple Beth Tikvah's first b'nai mitzvah class. Fast forward to Jan. 21, 2012, Shabbat service: Inspired by rhapsodic cantorial chanting "And Thou Shalt Love," Lawrence said to Lorraine, "I think we should get a mezuzah to commemorate our wedding." Stunned and speechless,

Lorraine gave a tentative, blushing nod. After the service Lawrence quietly told a couple fellows, "I guess I popped the question." Mazel tovs resounded, a wedding team sprang forth and they wed Aug. 5, 2012.

Susan Newman and Phil Goldsmith

P'nai Or and Havurah Shalom | Portland



We were both dealing with midlife losses when we started attending a monthly healing service at Congregation Neveh Shalom. We got to know each other through sharing our stories at the service. Much to our surprise we found each other! We got married two years later with the entire P'nai Or community celebrating our wedding with us officiated by Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfeld z"l.

Lou and Bernice Menashe

Congregation Neveh Shalom | Portland



Lou drove to Los Angeles from Portland with his mother, Rebecca, to visit his uncle. We had a blind date on Thursday and had a great time. On Friday, we each had other dates. On Saturday we spent the day at the beach. On Sunday, we went on a picnic with his relatives. At the picnic, we decided we wanted to get married. Everyone was shocked! On Thursday, we had our wedding with a rabbi, flowers and 150 guests. We will be celebrating 63 years of marriage in July with our 4 children and 9 grandchildren.

Rabbi Joshua and Goldie Stampfer

Congregation Neveh Shalom, rabbi emeritus | Portland




Rabbi Joshua Stampfer and Goldie Goncher met at Brandis Camp Institute in 1943 and he proposed in Atlanta, GA, on Stone Mountain a few months later. She said "Yes" immediately.

They were engaged for four months and were married on Feb 13, 1944 in Akron, Ohio. Rabbi's father officiated. This month marks their 70th anniversary!

Alta and Omri Franco

Chabad; Gan Preschool parents | Portland



Omri proposed to me on a beautiful spring day at the park near our first home together. We had spent hours, arms linked, walking and discussing our future together; baby names, places we want to live, everything. We fell deeply in love on those walks. He knew I'd say yes if he asked me to marry him in our park, and I did. 

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Enhance the real you on your big day

By Kira Brown

Weddings are a blessing – an amazing beginning for a bride and groom as they embark on their life together as a married couple. A wedding, the celebration of the union, is one of the most important days of a person's life, marked by the ceremony, the feast, family and friends. With so much time and money spent, and so many involved in hosting a memorable event, researching, planning, shopping, testing and trying are musts! Here are some of my favorite tips and tricks for wedding day bliss.

The Bride

The Wedding Dress: The dress, of course, is the focal point of the wedding celebration. A bride's gown is an expression of her beauty and femininity, and most dream of their dress since before they could drive.



Dress by Jennyvi Dizon, bridal and evening gown designer. | Photo by Sara Johnson Photography.

However, dress shopping can get overwhelming quickly if one isn't prepared. First, knowing your body type can help eliminate a lot of styles that you may love on a model or mannequin, but that won't accentuate your best assets. For example, if you are heavy on top, minimizing florals, beading and ruffles around the bust and adding volume to your hip area may balance you out, giving you the overall effect of a proportionate body shape. Balancing your body shape is key for perfect pictures and comfort during the day.

A wedding dress is most often the most expensive piece in a wardrobe. Custom dresses are fantastic and personal, but often pricey. If you're on a budget, shop David's Bridal, J. Crew and even Ann Taylor for a memorable dress that won't break the bank.

Overall, when searching for your dress, make an appointment, bring your friends and family and have fun! Even during your first fitting, snap quick pictures of yourself in the dress – don't just trust the mirror. And try on at least three, even if you think you have settled on what you want from the mannequin alone. Try on more than one as you may be surprised that a new fit or a new style may be best on your big day.

The Party Dress: On trend for your big day is changing during the reception to a more relaxed party dress. I love drama and I love big dresses. If you do too, for your reception consider a secondary dress that is comfortable for dancing and moving, won't drag or be tripped over and will preserve your wedding dress for years to come.

Hair and Makeup: For the big day most of us want to be pampered like a princess with hair, nails and makeup perfectly finished. Be yourself, only enhanced with a natural glow that translates well for photographs. Don't surprise yourself on the big day with a ton of unnatural curls and makeup. Schedule a trial, and again, take pictures for an idea of how you will look photographed on your wedding day.

Shoes and Accessories: The perfect shoe is a combo of comfort and glamour on your wedding day. Major retailers offer great deals on beautiful shoes for your big day. But don't forget to consider where you may be walking (e.g., spiked heels in the grass) and how long you may be standing. With this in mind, consider a more comfortable shoe to change into for the reception.

The Groom

Grooms have a lot of choices these days. In recent years, I have seen grooms attired in full tuxes to suits and ties, to no ties, to beach-side shorts and flip-flops. Of course, for men, comfort is always the key. But on your big day, your man should be encouraged to step up and dress up more than usual to complement the feel and style of your dress and your marital celebration. On trend now is more color! Black is always a classic, but what about navy suits or a tan suit ensemble? When selecting, take into account your man's overall personal color scheme and body shape. Help him maximize his fashion and portraiture potential with a well-fitting, well-made ensemble. And don't forget or skimp on the details such as cuff links and shoes. If your groom is without a suit, a wedding is a great time to purchase this wardrobe staple. Get more than the one-time wear from the suit by opting for

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something classic and versatile for wedding and special occasion wear rather than a more formal, tuxedo-type look.

The Bridal Party

Custom dresses for bridesmaids, flower girls and mothers of the bride can be costly. Consider department store evening wear and major retailers like Ann Taylor, where you can even order swatches to check for color. And the gentlemen in the party should wear complementary ensembles to the groom, yet should not overshadow his style.

Places for Ideas and Inspiration

Here's a short list of websites for online ideas and inspiration:

[Pinterest.com](#) – Create your own Pinboard for your big day and collect ideas
[TheKnot.com](#) | [StyleMePretty.com](#) | [RealSimple.com](#)
[blogs.nordstrom.com/weddings](#)

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 and Ken Downing of Neiman Marcus. Kira also offers virtual style consultations for women and men. Contact her at kira@fashionphoenix.com.



Jewish Soul Mates: Are You my *Beshert*?

By Amy Hirshberg Lederman

The night I met my husband was a warm April evening, and the smell of orange blossoms permeated the Tucson air. The date was “arranged” by mutual friends, but I had a lot of doubts about meeting their old college friend, a nice Jewish doctor from Los Angeles.

“If he’s such a great guy, why is he 31 years old and not married?” I asked myself as I pulled into the parking lot, totally missing the irony of my own unmarried situation.

I knew, even before the chips and salsa arrived, that my children would have his eyes. Deep, calm, caring eyes that had me convinced in less than a minute that I had found the man I had traveled 27 years to find.

I didn’t know at the time but according to Jewish tradition, I had found my *beshert*, my true soul mate.

What is a soul mate? Is it a New Age concept to define true love? Is it a catchy phrase used by romance novelists and reality TV show writers to market a product? Or does it mean something deeper and more vital, a spiritual bond between two people that is essential to fulfilling our heart’s destiny?

The Bible gives us a glimpse of the origins of a soul mate in Genesis when God said: “It is not *good* for man to be alone; I will make him a helper corresponding to him.” Loneliness is God’s first concern about us as human beings. There is a sense that we will not be happy alone; that we need to be connected to another human being to experience companionship, love and support if we are to achieve personal fulfillment and reach our highest potential. Adam, the first man, may have been complete in his physical being, but without someone to love, without a partner with whom to relate and create, he was spiritually and emotionally incomplete.

In the story of Isaac and Rebecca, we watch as God becomes the first matchmaker. Abraham’s servant, Eliazar, prays to God for a sign. He barely finishes his entreaty when Rebecca appears and fulfills the exact hope he had prayed for: she offers him and his camels water. This is seen as more than a lucky coincidence; it is viewed as an act of Divine providence guiding Isaac to his true love.

The idea that heaven plays a part in the destiny of our hearts also appears in the Talmud, which describes a soul mate as someone who is chosen for us even before we are born. “Forty days before a child is born, a voice from heaven announces: ‘The daughter of this person is destined for so-and-so.’”

How do we find our soul mate? Jewish history provides us with several answers. Eliazar is our first example of God working



as a matchmaker. During the 12th century in Europe and Asia, it was customary to hire an intermediary (a *shadchan* in Hebrew) to find a suitable marriage partner (think of Yente in “Fiddler on the Roof!”). While this custom is no longer widely practiced, it is still followed in Orthodox Jewish communities today.


The internet has given us another vehicle to find true love. And while it may not be as romantic as a picnic in the park or as practical as a *shadchan* arranging marriages, there are countless stories of couples today finding their partners online. JDate.com and SawYouatSinai.com are just two websites that

offer matchmaking services for Jewish singles whose observance may vary greatly, but who desire the same thing: finding true love.

Most of us yearn for love in our lives. But not finding our soul mate does not mean that we are destined to live a loveless life. Love takes many forms and there are many types of loving relationships that nourish the heart and elevate the soul. Although different from a soul mate, a soulful, loving relationship is born from a deep sense of caring, respect and love for another human being that imbues life with meaning and purpose. Soulful relationships can occur throughout our lives with friends, coworkers, respected teachers and family members as well as in our efforts to know and love God.

My husband and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary this year. Some may view ours as a “marriage made in heaven.” But we know how hard we have worked to share and communicate, and how important negotiation and compromise are in order to create a strong and loving relationship here on Earth. When I look into his face and see the tenderness reflected in the eyes that so closely resemble those of my children, I am reminded of a wonderful saying from the Hasidic rabbi the Ba’al Shem Tov:

“From every human being there rises a light that reaches straight to heaven. And when two souls that are destined to be together find each other, their streams of light flow together and a single brighter light goes forth from their united being.”

That light is the one that guides us in our search for love and intimacy. It is the light that keeps us on track as we journey through life together. 

Amy Hirshberg Lederman is an author, Jewish educator, public speaker and attorney. Her columns have won awards from the American Jewish Press Association for excellence in commentary. Visit her website at amyhirshberglederman.com.



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Where will you say, “I do”?

By Deborah Moon

After you say “Yes!” comes your next big decision: where to say “I do.”

But before you can decide where you and your beloved want to celebrate your union, you have a lot of questions to consider. How many guests will you have? What is your budget? Will the ceremony be at your synagogue? Will the wedding and reception be at the same place? If not, how easy will it be for guests to transfer between them? Do you want an elegant or casual setting? Does it have a setting for photos that complements your style?

What about food? Do you want/need your reception to be kosher, vegetarian or gluten-free? Does your venue have its own or preferred caterers? Can liquor be served?

Do you want a site that has everything you need? Or do you want to bring all the elements together yourself or with the aid of a wedding planner?

There is so much to decide before you choose the venue that is just right – the one that lets you bring it all to life on your special day. When you’re ready to start looking, Oregon offers a breathtakingly diverse array of venues. Here are just a few that might have the right answers to all your questions:

Weddings are the *raison d’être* for **Abernethy Center** in Portland. More than 85% of the events at Abernethy are weddings.

“Our property hosts several different types of venues ranging from a traditional white wedding chapel, the Veiled Garden, which has a classic Northwest feel where your ceremony is intimately surrounded by trees, a formal ballroom and Abigail’s Garden, which is a full outdoor ceremony and reception (site) that sits on 4½ acres,” says Elizabeth Fowler, Abernethy Center senior event specialist. “Depending on the day of the week, time of year and space there is an option to accommodate just about every budget, guest count and feel that couples are going for. ... What makes Abernethy Center unique is our range of spaces available to brides and grooms.”

She adds that Abernethy Center is very familiar with Jewish wedding traditions, has exclusive on-site catering and is able to customize menus and accommodate dietary restrictions.

Ashland Springs Hotel is a 1925 historic landmark property with a naturalist theme.

“The entire hotel’s atmosphere takes its guests into simpler times, when destination hotel was part of the adventure,” says Karolina Wyszynska Lavagnino of the Neuman Hotel Group. “With over 5,700 square feet of banquet space, we set up ceremonies from the beautiful outdoor space – the English Garden – to our palm-filled, naturally lit conservatory, as well as in the tall-ceiling Crystal Room.

“Receptions of up to 180-200 people take place in the Grand Ballroom. More intimate (events) are in the Crystal Room. We cater to every budget, making it the most amazing event the bride and groom imagined. We have had it all from vintage, Hollywood glam, to country, shabby-chic and modern design weddings. With the right linens, flowers, centerpieces and lighting, our banquet spaces transform to your liking.”

The iconic **Benson Hotel** houses the charm and elegance that comes with more than 100 years of legendary service in downtown Portland. “The best part is that the newlyweds can visit the hotel for years to come – celebrating anniversaries and reflecting on special memories never to be forgotten,” says Benson General Manager Ron Gladney.

“The staff at The Benson Hotel are happy to work with budgets and groups of any size to make your wedding day perfect,” says Gladney. “While the hotel and the Crystal Ballroom have an unmistakable historic feel, the Mayfair Ballroom is decidedly more modern; the layout of any of the available rooms offers the opportunity to personalize the atmosphere of the event. Our catering and event staff is on hand to make sure the personality of the newlyweds truly shines through – from customized menus (including kosher, gluten-free and vegetarian), seating arrangements, music and more!”

Another downtown option is **The Mark Spencer**, a boutique, family-owned Arts hotel with 102 guest rooms and suites. The hotel offers settings for smaller ceremonies and receptions of 40 to 100 people. The hotel’s largest space can accommodate about 150 people for a sit-down dinner reception.

Where the hotel really shines is with its packages for smaller gatherings with family and friends.

“Ideally located in downtown Portland’s West End at the gateway to The Pearl District, The Mark Spencer Hotel offers attractive packages for out-of-town guests and intimate space for rehearsal dinners, receptions and send-off brunches,” says Dave Spacek, director of marketing for the hotel. “Just one block from Powell’s and situated between Kenny & Zukes and Jakes Famous Crawfish, this location cannot be matched in downtown Portland for dining, entertainment and nightlife.”

The **Mittleman Jewish Community Center** in Southwest Portland offers both a range of settings and built-in Jewish amenities, including a kosher kitchen.

The center’s ballroom has offered a formal option since the center was renovated last decade. When the chuppah and the reception are all in the ballroom, it can accommodate about 150-175 guests; for larger weddings, couples have held just the reception in the ballroom. Just outside the ballroom is the center’s lovely lobby, which can be just the right space for a pre-dinner cocktail hour.

The center also has two outdoor settings available seasonally. The front courtyard can accommodate about 200 people for outdoor ceremonies. The pool patio and lawn is a mix of a very nice natural space and casual patio. It's a nice option for smaller outdoor ceremonies and receptions for 50 to 80 guests.

The Nines lives up to its name, offering an elegant luxury option for weddings and receptions. Sophisticated yet approachable, The Nines allows for events from intimate groups of five guests to grand dinners for 500.

"An elegant staircase adds to the grandeur of our amazing event space (13,500 square feet)," says Marketing Director Laura A. van Daal. "A creative design concept and floor plan allows our highly skilled staff to offer a personalized experience to you and your guests. The Nines is an elegant location to hold a ceremony, followed by cocktail hour and dinner.

"When selecting The Nines, not only do you receive impeccable service and divine food, but we also offer table décor including votives and a beautiful fresh white seasonal flower centerpiece," says van Daal. "We also have a customizable dance floor and staging for band or DJ."


Ever dreamed of being married by the captain of ship? That dream can come true during a river cruise with **Portland Spirit**. The cruise line offers four ships for private weddings for 40 to 250 guests, with smaller groups welcome to book a public cruise with a private ceremony before the ship gets under way.

"It's all inclusive, so planning is easy," says Director of Marketing Kari Baxter. With food, decorations, sound system and dance floors provided, it doesn't take long to pull together a full wedding. While summer weekend weddings often need to be booked six months to a year ahead of time, off-season and midweek weddings have more availability.

People can bring their own officiant, but Baxter says about 75% of the couples choose to be married by the captain. "He is dressed in his full uniform – it makes for fun pictures. Our ceremonies are nondenominational."

Located in Portland's West Hills, the **World Forestry Center** has a definite Pacific Northwest feel. The center's two indoor halls feature warm wood, broad-beamed ceilings and an elegant, natural setting. For weddings and receptions of up to 250 guests, Miller Hall is a good choice. The smaller Cheatham Hall accommodates 150, but when combined with a tented plaza option, it can host 400 guests.

Photography options include the beautiful outdoor fountain that backs up to the forested hills and a variety of settings in the Discovery Museum. Many couples have their photo taken in front of the 1909 Lima Shay-Geared locomotive named Peggy located between the museum and the two halls.

Since the center is nonprofit, Event Coordinator Amber Morrison says it offers another very Oregon feel: "Holding your special event here supports our mission to educate and inform people about the world's forests and environmental sustainability." 

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Chef's Corner

When Planning the Wedding Menu ... Style Matters

By Lisa Glickman

Your wedding day is a day you remember for a lifetime. This spring, my husband and I will celebrate our 20th anniversary. We were married in sunny Palm Springs, CA, at a beautiful French restaurant that still exists. We have returned many times over the last 20 years to celebrate our anniversary. Le Vallauris remains just as beautiful, and the food is just as delicious as it was that day almost 20 years ago.

Held outside in the courtyard adjacent to the restaurant, our wedding day was not without its fair share of snafus. Due to a mix-up by the airline, the rabbi arrived an hour late while our guests patiently waited in the late

afternoon sun. My sister, the matron of honor, failed to remember my groom's ring back in the hotel safe and had to drive a 20-mile round-trip to retrieve it. A much more than gentle breeze threatened to topple the gardenia-laden chuppah. Even with the hiccups, the day was perfect and we now look back on those not-so-ideal memories with laughter. Prior to the ceremony, our guests were offered beautiful hors d'oeuvres and champagne as the sun was setting. After the nuptials, we enjoyed a spectacular French-inspired meal followed by dancing well into the evening. The entire day was magical and most importantly, the food was exquisite.

Brides and grooms spend months finding just the right theme for their wedding. Color palettes are chosen, locations are scouted and menus are sampled to find just the right atmosphere for their special day. Brides and grooms also have a lot of celebrating to do for weeks leading up to the wedding day. Couples attend showers and engagement parties that all include plenty of great food. Menus should reflect the couple and celebrate their style and taste. A planned honeymoon to Mexico might inspire a rehearsal dinner of Mexican cuisine, margaritas and a mariachi band. An environmentally conscious couple might enjoy a farm-to-table theme for an engagement celebration. My nephew's wedding took place on the sand in Pacific City. The night before the wedding, we dined on casual local seafood and craft beers followed by a giant bonfire on the beach. Helpful websites like oncedwed.com, TheKnot.com and pinterest.com are full of great menu ideas for planning the perfect wedding to suit any couple's particular style.



Signature cocktails are also a great way to celebrate his and her style and taste. Large drink containers filled with sangria, fruit-permeated vodka or specialty cocktails make attractive focal points on a buffet and allow guests to serve themselves.

This strawberry topiary makes a beautiful table centerpiece or adds a bright pop of color as part of a post-nuptial brunch. Your local craft store has everything you will need for creating this edible masterpiece. Rather than flowers that are discarded, this centerpiece is not only decorative, it also serves as a fresh, simple and tasty dessert served along with squares of buttery pound cake and a creamy chocolate fondue for dipping.

STRAWBERRY TOPIARY



- Two 8-inch **Styrofoam balls** (preferably green)
- Six 24-inch **plant stakes** secured together at end with flower tape
- 1 package **banana leaves** (see note)
- 4-5 pounds **strawberries**, rinsed and stems trimmed
- Any **attractive container** that holds Styrofoam balls securely
- About 50-60 **toothpicks**

Place first Styrofoam ball in container. Secure plant stakes together with flower tape and push through first ball to reach to bottom of container. Place the second Styrofoam ball on top of stake to create topiary base. Remove banana leaves from package and lay flat. Cut about a 2-foot piece of leaf and gently glide both sides of leaf evenly over open flame on gas range. Continue to flip leaf until the leaf begins to blanch and turn from dusty green to shiny green on both sides. Cut leaf into 3-inch squares; discard the center stem and any frayed ends. Push a toothpick through each leaf and into a strawberry. Arrange strawberries on Styrofoam balls until both balls are completely covered with strawberries.

NOTE: Banana leaves are used in Latino cooking to wrap tamales and slow roast meat and fish. They also can be used to line serving platters for hors d'oeuvres and buffet main dishes. They are very inexpensive and can be found in the Latino section of some grocery stores or at specialty Latino markets. You can freeze extra leaves in a plastic bag for later use.

CHOCOLATE FONDUE

- 12 ounces** of best-quality dark chocolate, roughly chopped
- 8 ounces** heavy cream
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tablespoon** favorite liquor such as Kahlua, Grand Marnier or Frangelico (optional)

Place chocolate in a medium bowl. In a saucepan, heat heavy cream to boiling. Watch carefully so it doesn't boil over! Pour hot cream over chocolate and wait about a minute before stirring. Add liquor if using. Serve immediately or pour into flame-resistant bowl over a tea-light base to keep warm. ☺

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



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**PERSONAL CHEF:
Gaela Witter**

By Kerry Politzer

Even a devoted restaurant-goer likes to dine in once in a while. The most discriminating palates are sure to be satisfied by Gaela Witter's Persimmon Personal Chef Service. Chef/owner Witter thrives on culinary challenges; one of her specialties is substituting ingredients. For example, if a kosher client requires dairy-free creations, she might use silken tofu or raw cashew paste in a dish. She explains, "A great way to make a sauce without cream or butter is to take raw cashews and put them in boiling water for 30 or 40 minutes, then put them in a Vita-Prep (blender) – they make a smooth and creamy thickener."

Witter learned to accommodate special diets while working as an event coordinator. "To this day, as a cook, it's my responsibility to maintain dietary standards."

The chef experienced the joys of Jewish cuisine while living in New York. During this time she perfected her brisket, tsimmes and matzah ball soup recipes. She says, "One of my favorite dishes to make is latkes – that's always been fun." Throughout her career she

has been fascinated by Old World and Jewish-German food.

After graduating from Portland's Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, Witter cut her teeth in the kitchens of Philippe Boulot (formerly of The Heathman Hotel) and John Gorham (Tasty & Sons, Tasty & Alder, Toro Bravo), who continue to influence her to this day. "I can never get away from my French roots from working with Philippe," she explains. "I have a tendency to use the French technique and dishes, although I do try to lighten them up; all the butter and cream, from a personal chef perspective, is not necessarily good for my clients ... John's influence has been absolutely astounding. He has taught me the value of consistency, the highest quality ingredients and a positive attitude." On her days off, Witter can often be found dining at one of the restaurants in Gorham's growing empire. She also works with his food photographer David Reamer.

Witter tailors her menus to the needs of each client. "My service really is customized to the size of your family,

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The night prior to cooking the chicken, season chicken with salt inside the cavity and outside on the skin, and place in a standard baking dish. Let chicken sit in the refrigerator overnight, uncovered on the bottom shelf, away from any other items to prevent cross-contamination.

The next day preheat the oven to 425° and position a rack in the lower third of the oven. In a bowl, mix the olive oil with the minced garlic and minced herbs and season with salt and pepper.


Carefully separate the skin from the chicken breast and rub the herb olive oil under the skin. Put rosemary sprigs, thyme sprigs and parsley stems with the ½ lemon in the cavity of the chicken. Truss legs together with kitchen twine. Season chicken lightly with salt and pepper.

Set the chicken, breast side up, on a rack in a roasting pan. Roast for 20 minutes. Reduce heat to 375° and continue roasting for approximately 30 minutes longer, until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the inner thigh registers 165°.

Tilt the chicken to drain the cavity juices into the pan; transfer the bird to a cutting board. Remove the rack from the pan and spoon off the fat. Set the pan over high heat. Add the white wine, reduce and then add stock and cook, scraping up any browned bits. Press the lemon to release the juices. Carve the chicken and pass the pan sauce at the table.

regardless of whether you're single, a couple or have three or four children." On a typical day, she carts her equipment, groceries, menus and heating instructions to a client's house and then spends five to six hours cooking. After preparing enough food for a week or two, she packs up for the day and carts her pots and pans home.

One of Witter's most popular dishes is Moroccan chicken. "You get a lot of the Moroccan spice flavors in it, and I make sure it always tastes exactly the same as the last time (clients) had it." Consistency is of the utmost importance to the chef. She never leaves a client's kitchen without making sure that he or she has received all ingredients.

In the future Witter plans to roll out her service to different cities. "I would love to expand," she enthuses. "I really want to make certain that I get this business model to the point where it's easily replicated." Here in Portland she's already at wait-list status. While you're waiting, you can try Witter's recipe for Herb Roasted Chicken. 

Kerry Politzer is a lifelong foodie who moved to Portland two years ago. She has written for Dessert Professional, IN New York, and WHERE Traveler.

HERB ROASTED CHICKEN

SERVINGS: 4

Roast chicken is always a crowd pleaser, fits into most dietary restrictions and is foolproof. The trick is to season your chicken the night before.

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 garlic clove
- ½ teaspoon minced rosemary plus 2 rosemary sprigs
- ½ teaspoon minced thyme plus 2 thyme sprigs
- ½ teaspoon minced tarragon
- ½ teaspoon minced parsley
- 4-5 parsley stems
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- ½ lemon
- One 4-5 pound chicken
- ¼ cup white wine
- ½ cup chicken stock or low-sodium broth
- Kitchen twine



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Lighting the Way

Sara Harwin holds one of the “particles” featured in her new exhibit, “Illuminated Letters – Threads of Connection,” which opens at the Oregon Jewish Museum Feb. 5.

Artist Sara Harwin offers visual gateway to Judaism's core concepts

By Deborah Moon

When Sara Harwin's exhibit "Illuminated Letters – Threads of Connection" opens at the Oregon Jewish Museum Feb. 5, it will be the culmination of the nearly seven-year project, built on the foundation of a lifetime of Jewish experience.

Sara created the exhibit "to be a visual entry point to Judaism." The project presents 18 core concepts of Judaism through an artistic lens. A Judaic artist whose ceremonial and ritual artwork is used in synagogues and homes across Oregon and around the country, Sara knows the impact art can have on understanding and emotions.

"This project is something I am presenting to the Jewish world at large in the hope people will find it useful and inspirational and a way of connecting," she says. "I want to bring people to a deeper understanding and engagement in Judaism."

Sara's personal Jewish journey began in her hometown of Detroit, where she began studying Hebrew for the first time at a Yiddish school afterschool program. While attending Camp Tamarack, a camp supported by Detroit's Jewish Federation, Sara met Fred Harwin. The first time they met, Fred was a counselor and Sara a camper. But the summer before Sara went to the University of Michigan to study art, they connected again when they were both on the camp's staff. That second connection sealed the deal.

Fred attended Wayne State University and the University of Michigan and became a medical illustrator. Sara earned a bachelor's in fine art.

Soon after their marriage 46 years ago, the couple moved to Oregon when Fred was hired by Oregon Health & Science University. While on sabbatical 36 years ago, he learned to make facial and ocular prosthetics. He is now one of 150 board-certified ocularists in the United States, and he creates detailed, custom-made ocular prosthetics (artificial eyes).

The Harwins have two children. Lise, 36, is the public relations director at Lewis & Clark College. She attended the afterschool Hebrew program that

was then part of Portland Jewish Academy. Jesse, 27, attended the PJA day school from kindergarten through eighth grade. He is currently a student at Portland Community College and works with the Mentor Network, helping emotionally delayed individuals.

In addition to art, Jewish camp and their two adult children, the Harwins share a commitment to the Jewish community.

"Our involvement in the Jewish community is with the intention of building a healthy and vibrant Jewish community for people, of whatever practice, to be part of – that is our guiding principle," she says.

The couple has been involved with Gesher (a bridge of outreach and welcome to the unaffiliated) and the Egalitarian Shul. Sara is a past president of both PJA and the former Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. Her ritual artwork can be seen at several local congregations. Congregation Neveh Shalom has a set of six Torah mantles, Congregation Shaarie Torah has an ark curtain and table cover and Congregation Ahavath Achim has ark doors. Congregation Beth Israel also displays some of her art, though not ceremonial pieces.

"Fred has been on this journey with me all along the line," says Sara. She says he has helped her understand "the power of the word to communicate the idea, yet realizing words are imperfect at best."

After four decades of creating ritual and ceremonial art using acrylic painting, paper-cutting, mixed media, stained and etched glass, lithographs and fiber art, Sara says she decided, "It was time to do work I wanted to do for myself." She drew on her past projects and embarked on an intensive study program, which she compares to pursuing a Ph.D.

The project presents 18 core concepts of Judaism through an artistic lens.



The Harwin Family: Sara, Jesse, Lise and Fred

The exhibit explores the intersection between that study and “my visual communication.”

During two years of intensive study of Hebrew with biblical studies professor Steve Carver at Warner Pacific, Sara focused on word development and how words grow out of common roots. She chose 18 roots – three letter groupings that are the root of key concepts from the Torah – “that were inspiring to me.”

While her new exhibit is based on those words, the real impact is through viewers’ visceral response to the images she has created.

“Sara ... invites and empowers viewers to find their own vision, views, values and to add their own voices to the flow of the tradition,” says Rabbi Goldie Milgram, Reclaiming Judaism founder and executive director.

“Sara ... invites and empowers viewers to find their own vision, views, values and to add their own voices to the flow of the tradition.” –Rabbi Goldie Milgram

Created in partnership with Reclaiming Judaism, a nonprofit that gathers leading Jewish innovators to collaborate in the creation and provision of new programs and resources for meaningful Jewish living, the exhibit is planned as a traveling exhibition after its run at the OJM ends April 20.

OJM Director Judith Margles says, “I’ve been enthusiastically following the artistic development of Illuminated Letters for the past few years, always with an eye to bring it to OJM. We are particularly thrilled to be the first museum to exhibit this work and to further explore the tradition of the illuminated manuscripts.”

As part of the OJM exhibit, Margles says, “A smaller exhibit of four rare manuscripts, on loan from Mount Angel Abbey, John Wilson Special Collections, Multnomah County Library and the Mark O. Hatfield Library, Willamette University, will draw upon Sara’s exploration of the intersection between art and language.”

The illumination in the exhibit title reflects Sara’s view that “light allows us to see so much, and the energy partnered with the light draws us to the possibility of connecting with that.” She says, “My sewing is my ‘threads of connection.’”

“Sara Harwin’s exhibition is a visual guide to the 18 roots of Jewish spirituality and meaningful daily practice, mitzvah-centered living, that connects us to each other, the planet and a cosmic sense of the Divine,” says Rabbi Milgram. “Reclaiming Judaism through the lens of spirituality and meaning is central to the path of Jewish healing and meaningful living after the traumas of the 20th century. As an artist, Sara has created a valuable approach to empowering reconnection in ways that eschew an infantilizing theology and open up authentically Jewish portals of connection to the Divine.”

The exhibit features six panels arrayed along a black background representing a Torah scroll. After Sara selected the roots that spoke to her, she created “particles,” three-dimensional objects each containing the letters of three roots. She created a panel for each particle, in addition to an introductory and concluding panel.

According to Rabbi Milgram, Sara “has developed the exhibition in ways that help the viewers to experience this entryway to reclaiming Judaism for themselves. ... This is an experience of active learning, which is itself a primary goal of a healthy Jewish life.”

“Illuminated Letters – Threads of Connection” is the first exhibit in which Reclaiming Judaism has served as a partner. The nonprofit’s teaching and editorial support of the exhibit is part of its Mitzvah-Centered Life Initiative.

Currently Sara is on the staff and faculty of Reclaiming Judaism.

“As a mentor to Sara’s learning, spiritual development and exhibition process, I am deeply moved by the depth of Jewish scholarship and professional artistry that she has undertaken



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“Illuminated Letters – Threads of Connection” uses an artistic lens to look at 18 core concepts of Judaism derived from the roots in this panel. The concepts (arranged in groups of three) are illuminate, wrestle, connect; deeds, love, words; courage, justice/righteousness, truth; wisdom, holiness, Torah – the teaching; remember, slavery, holy rest; place, covenant, commandments.



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Artist Sara Harwin explains the first of six panels in her upcoming exhibit "Illuminated Letters - Threads of Connection." Each panel contains three concepts - a dominant root and two others that support that element. The first panel shows how to approach the exhibit: illuminate, wrestle and connect. When looking at all the ways you can live Judaism through these roots and through your actions, you become a partner in the covenant by stitching your threads of connection back to those of the universe, she explains.



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Artist Sara Harwin is creating a modern-day Talmud page that will feature thinkers of today sharing personal experiences related to shavat, holy rest. The finished page – featuring Rabbis Goldie Milgram, Laurie Rutenberg, Gary Schoenberg, Diane Elliot, Shefa Gold and Dr. Ron Wolfson – will be part of her “Illuminated Letters – Threads of Connection” exhibit that opens at the Oregon Jewish Museum Feb. 5.

in relationship to each letter, term and phrase,” says Rabbi Milgram, who plans to come to Portland for the opening reception Feb. 5.

It was while studying with a wide range of people at Jewish conferences that Sara realized she wanted to understand how her Jewish studies intersect her visual communication.

Her studies at a Jewish Renewal conference with Arthur Kurzweil, author of *Talmud for Dummies*, inspired one portion of the Illuminated Letters exhibit.

“Where are the voices of women on the page?” she wondered. “If there were to be a contemporary Talmud raising questions, who would be the thoughtful individuals we would turn to to put their words on the page?”

So in conjunction with each of the root concepts on the exhibit panels, Sara has invited noted Jewish thinkers and scholars to reflect on those words. The OJM exhibit will include one page arranged like a page of the Talmud with five modern-day thinkers reflecting on the concept of shavat, holy rest – the rest that occurs after the six days of creation. Other Talmud pages will be added for future showings of the traveling exhibit.

“The idea is that men and women scholars of today from all branches of Judaism are on the same page talking about their personal experiences that flow from that root in a way that is respectful and inclusive,” says Sara. “The writings we are getting are very touching and very personal.”

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Flutist Amalia Blumberg and pianist Beth Karp will perform at Beth Israel Feb. 13. Photo by Deborah Moon



By Elizabeth Schwartz


On Thursday, Feb. 13, as you head home from work in the chilly dark of a late Portland winter, you can end your day in musical contemplation. Congregation Beth Israel presents the first in a new series of three free mini-concerts called Music Under the Dome.

“I want to bring people in to our sacred space and think of it as a place to hear beautiful music, whether it’s Jewish or not,” says Cantor Ida Rae Cahana, who hosted a similar concert series when she was the cantor at Central Synagogue in New York City. “This series is open to the entire community. The idea is people will drop in, listen to this short 45-minute concert and go on their way.”

Cahana envisions Music Under the Dome as a respite from the day’s stresses, similar to the long-running Brown Bag Lunch Series at The Old Church in downtown Portland. “It’s a chance to relax in a beautiful sacred space, hear beautiful music and enjoy an opportunity for mediation and relaxation.”

The first concert features flutist Amalia Blumberg and pianist Beth Karp, of 106 Keys (see the profile of 106 Keys in the December 2013 edition of OJL). “Amalia teaches in our religious school,” says Cahana of the choice.

Blumberg and Karp, who focus on music of Jewish composers, plan an evening of meditative works, including a selection from 20th century Israeli composer Paul Ben-Haim. They’ll also present some Jewish folk songs that Karp arranged, including “New Moon” and “Tumbalalaika,” as well as Robert Schumann’s “Three Romances,” originally composed for oboe and piano. “We’re thinking of music that’s calm and resonates nicely in the space,” says Blumberg. “Cantor said we should think out of the box when we plan the program.” Cahana may join the duo for Charles Davidson’s setting of the Purim Megillah, in anticipation of the Purim holiday.

The series continues with mini-concerts April 10 and June 12. Performers have not yet been chosen for those concerts. For more information, contact 503-222-1069 or visit bethisrael-pdx.org. 

Music Under the Dome: Beth Israel opens sanctuary for Thursday mini-concerts



Ask Helen

Stress strains family dynamics

Dear Helen: I have a dead father, a sick mother and a crazy sister. I promised my father on his deathbed to take care of my mother, who drinks and smokes too much and is now lying to her doctors after a severe medical event that landed her in ICU. My sister lives two hours away. She answers phone calls, emails and texts randomly, sometimes up to a month later. I left her multiple messages when Mom was admitted, and kept her up to date on everything. I told her I've been staying with Mom since her release, chauffeuring her to medical appointments, cleaning her fridge and shopping. Now my sister has decided I am "controlling" and "interfering," and that I have no right telling the doctors anything about my mother's behaviors because "she's an adult and she can say what she wants about what she puts in her body." I feel as though the docs need to know that she massively under-reports usage, and when she says she's "stopped," she's means since her confinement. What do you say about communication with all of them, other than my dad to whom I relate just fine?

Hands Full!

Dear Hands Full: Stressful times bring out the best and worst in everyone. In families where communication is already strained, what bubbles to the surface isn't always pretty or even polite. Your biggest priority: continue to take good care of your mother. You sound like a caring and well-intentioned daughter whom she is fortunate to have close by. Re the doctors, couch the information in the form of questions, such as: What are the risks and consequences if my mother does smoke, drink, etc.? Do that within her hearing so she can hear what the doctor says, and then repeat the answer as needed. You might ask if they could do blood tests to determine residual levels of nicotine and alcohol, to see if they're impacting her health or interfering with her medications.

Attempt a rational conversation with your sister. Explain your reasoning and efforts. Tell her you're willing to leave her messages – phone and email – about your mother's status, but not to be raked over the coals for being helpful. Say you're not willing to discuss or negotiate your choices around being a good daughter. She can talk directly to your mother or to the doctor if she likes. If she tries to berate or castigate you, tell her that's outside the boundary of your communications agreement. Be sure to stress that you'll update her ASAP if anything changes. Be friendly and ask about her life, but hold the line where it matters to you. If she persists, say you'll call if anything changes and end the conversation. Rinse and repeat as needed.

Dear Helen: What a crazy winter! I've been stranded for up to a week, sometimes without electricity and water. Any good advice before the inevitable next time?

Stir Crazy

Dear Stir Crazy: Everyone from your local utility to FEMA has ideas for disaster and emergency preparation. Basics: store potable water (and purifying tabs), nonperishable food and a water-proof grab bag of important papers and medications with an extra set of glasses. Think lost luggage: pack undies, socks, a hat, a toothbrush and a good book. Keep a duplicate stash in your car in case you're stranded away from home.

Meet with your neighbors and come up with a communal plan. Everyone should come with information they've gathered so you can compare notes. Agree on a time frame for which you'd need to be prepared. A week seems like a reasonable worst-case estimate. Climate needs will suggest different supplies. You can keep frozen things cool in snow (protected from critters); heat imposes different requirements. Look into joint ownership of a portable generator. And keep a box or two of supplies in your garage of items like spare batteries, a crank-operated radio/cell phone charger, boxed chicken soup and milk, pet food, board games and cards, and perhaps some chocolate-covered espresso beans.

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

Please email your questions to helen@yourjewishfairygoddmother.com and check out the blog at kabbalahglass.com/blog/



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MYSTERIOUS IMAGES II





Oregon Jewish Museum hopes to unlock more photo mysteries

The Oregon Jewish Museum is looking for a few more “History Detectives” – people who can unlock the stories behind OJM’s “mystery photos.”


An earlier story on some of the museum’s unidentified images (“Mysterious Images,” Oregon Jewish Life, November 2013) helped Anne LeVant Prahl, OJM’s curator of collections, identify some of the mystery photos. And now she’s hoping for more community help.

“In the photo of President John F. Kennedy – who is he with, and why do we have the picture?” she wonders.

Three of the young women in a group photo from the 1960s have been identified, Prahl notes, “but we don’t know why they are a group, where the photo was taken or who the rest of them are.” In that photo, the group includes, from back left, Ruth (Cohen) Roth and Julie Levin, and – back row, at right – Sally (Spring) Lonn.

The mystery photos span the history of Oregon’s Jewish community – from the studio portrait of the elegant young mother with two of her children to the more contemporary photo of (presumably) a grandfather and grandchild.

“We’re really grateful for the community’s help with this – and with everything that the museum does,” Prahl says. “Identifying a piece of someone’s history is an important contribution to telling the story of Jews in Oregon.”

If you have information about any of these photos, contact Anne LeVant Prahl at curator@ojm.org. She’ll be delighted to hear from you. 

~ Sura Rubenstein

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McKinley Mitchell well known in political, not Jewish, circles of early Oregon

By Ellen Eisenberg

On March 26, 1896, Gervais, OR, “was enthusiastic over the arrival home of her native son, McKinley Mitchell” after his nomination to the state legislature as a Republican. “The people en masse met him at the depot and welcomed him with addresses and the firing of anvils,” reported the *Daily Capital Journal*. Although the journey from Salem had been short, “a procession was formed and he was escorted home amid much enthusiasm.”

The warm reception is not surprising. Gervais was a small town and Mitchell seemed to be a rising star in the Republican Party. Born in Oregon City in 1858, Mitchell was the son of Isaac Mitchell, a pioneer of 1849–1850, and attended public school in Gervais. By 1879 he had opened a general store and changed his first name from Michael to McKinley. Within a few years he was appointed postmaster and elected to the Gervais city council, a position he held, at least intermittently, into the 1890s. In addition to the Gervais store, he also dealt in grain and hops, ran a warehousing business and edited a newspaper. After the turn of the century, he moved to Portland and

opened stores there and in Hubbard. At some point he acquired a 147-acre farm in Yamhill County.

In 1896, after the impromptu parade in Gervais, Mitchell campaigned for the legislature by linking himself with his more prominent Republican namesakes, presidential nominee William McKinley and incumbent U.S. Senator John Mitchell, with a button reading, “McKinley for president, Mitchell for senator, and McKinley Mitchell for both.”¹

Once elected Mitchell played a key role in the heated contest over Oregon’s U.S. Senate seat during the 1897 “hold up session,” when Senator Mitchell’s supporters blocked legislative activity rather than concede.² Originally part of the John Mitchell faction, McKinley Mitchell eventually shifted his support to Joseph Simon, a Jewish Portland lawyer and prominent Republican, who thus became the fourth Jewish U.S. senator. During the dispute the Gervais favorite son was praised by the *Capital Journal* for his dedication to serving the people rather than a party leader. In later years Mitchell remained active in the Republican Party, as well as in Oregon Native Sons, a group dedicated to preserving pioneer history.

Mitchell was mentioned frequently in the regional press during the 1890s for his political activities, his business dealings and even his visits to Salem.³ Striking in this coverage is what is never mentioned: that McKinley Mitchell was a Jew. It was not that Mitchell’s Jewish identity was unknown. His father’s 1882 burial in the Jewish cemetery (presumably in Albany) and his sister’s wedding, conducted in Gervais by a rabbi, were noted in the press; several pioneer histories mention the family’s Jewish identity. Mitchell’s own wedding to the former Hattie Scheier took place at San Francisco’s Congregation Beth Israel in 1891. Upon his death in 1936, Mitchell made bequests to both Portland congregation Ahavai Sholom and the Neighborhood House.

McKinley Mitchell has gone unnoticed in Oregon Jewish history, perhaps deservedly so – he was not a leader in the Jewish community and there were a number of Jews, including Joseph Simon, Ben Selling and Solomon Hirsch, who were far more prominent in state politics. Yet Mitchell’s experience is significant for the glimpse it offers into patterns emblematic of Jewish life in 19th century Oregon. Though distinctive for both their Jewish identity and their occupational profile as merchants, Jewish Oregonians were widely accepted as town leaders, civic boosters and neighbors. Jewish Oregonians were able to attain prominence and win elections in towns from Burns to Gervais,


WEEKEND IN QUEST 2014

The eighth annual “Weekend in Quest” study weekend in Astoria, Feb. 28–March 2, features Professor Ellen Eisenberg, who has been selected to write *The Jews of Oregon 1950–2010*, the official sequel to the first volume on the Jews of Oregon. She will present four lectures during the weekend on the topic “Go West, Young Mensch,” looking from various perspectives at the experience of Jews who settled in the western United States.

The weekend will also include Shabbat services conducted by Beth Hamon and Liz Schwartz. Beth has led music at Congregation Beth Israel, Havurah Shalom and Temple Beth Sholom. Liz leads music at Havurah Shalom and hosts the “Portland Jewish Hour” on KBOO radio.

The weekend also provides schmoozing time, catered community meals, musical entertainment and dancing at the Holiday Inn Express on the banks of the Columbia River. To register, visit weekendinquest.org or contact Mimi Epstein at 503-203-2671 or mimiepstein42@comcast.net.

...Mitchell's experience is significant for the glimpse it offers into patterns emblematic of Jewish life in 19th century Oregon.


from Portland to Pendleton. Like Mitchell, they were regarded as pioneers and native sons who, like other Oregonians of their generation, had suffered the hardships of frontier life and made significant contributions to their communities. Their activities as settlers, town builders and civic leaders overshadowed ethnic and religious distinctions, and fostered their acceptance as Oregonians. 



Ellen Eisenberg holds the Dwight & Margaret Lear Chair in American History at Willamette University. She is the author of *The First to Cry Down Injustice: Western Jews & Japanese Removal during WWII*, which was a National Jewish Book Award finalist, and co-author of *Jews of the Pacific Coast: Reinventing Community on America's Edge*. She uncovered McKinley Mitchell's story in the course of her research for a history of Jews in Oregon, which is slated for publication by Oregon State University Press. She also has been hired to write a companion volume to Steven Lowenstein's *The Jews of Oregon, 1850-1950*. She plans to research and write that book in 2014-15. It will focus on Oregon's Jews from 1950 to 2010.

(Endnotes)

- 1 The Dalles Daily Chronicle (The Dalles, OR), May 20, 1896, 3.
- 2 Senators were elected by state legislatures rather than by popular vote.
- 3 A search for McKinley Mitchell on the Historic Oregon Newspaper database for the period from 1890-1900 yields 75 separate pages on which Mitchell is mentioned.



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Want to be glamorous?

Exercise



Muriel Feuer at 24 Hour Fitness in The Pearl.

By Liz Rabiner Lippoff

I lift weights a few days a week at a local gym. Mostly, I listen to NPR on my headphones and mind my own business, so I don't have a lot of gym friends. But I watch other people all the time. What have I learned?

There are lots of great exercises for abs, and I'm not doing enough of them. Nobody likes someone who leaves a machine all wet and sweaty. And, for the most part, people who are the most serious about working out are dressed pretty grubby.

Of course there are people who take both their workouts and their hairstyles seriously. And I confess that I put on lipstick and mascara before I go. (In my defense, I wear my hair very, very short, and I have been asked where the men's room is. I spare both of us embarrassment by dolling up a little.) But the people who are ready for their close-up, Mr. DeMille, are way outnumbered by the sweaty Bettys in ratty college tee shirts.

So there I was, doing curls and listening to an interview with Virginia Postrel about her new book *The Power of Glamour*. Bill Clinton, she said, has charisma, not glamour. You walk across a room to be with him. Barack Obama, in contrast, has glamour. You see him and sort of stand in awe. People aspire to glamour, she maintains.

“What’s the **secret** to looking so **fabulous**?” I asked. “A great **salon**? **Fancy facials**?”

“**Exercise**,” she replied.

Hmmm, I thought, as I watched a woman walking with her trainer. I'd noticed her before. She always looks glamorous, with hair perfect and her makeup runway ready. My gym persona is thinking: she can't be serious about working out. But my new, NPR-sensitized self was starting to admire her a little. So I watched her. And then I interviewed her.

“What’s the secret to looking so fabulous?” I asked. “A great salon? Fancy facials?”

“Exercise,” she replied.

Muriel Feuer and her husband Jerry are New Yorkers who retired to Lake Oswego 20 years ago when their first grandchild was born in Portland. They adapted quickly. They belong to Congregation Beth Israel in Portland. Muriel was on the board of the Oregon Area Jewish Committee and did some projects with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the World Affairs Council of Oregon.

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And she found herself a gym. Jerry had been in textiles his whole career, and Muriel was a health teacher and guidance counselor. But even working full time and raising kids, she went to the gym and played a lot of tennis. She has never let up, even now, at 81 years old.

Muriel is on a campaign to be sure seniors get exercise.

“Elderly people should try to keep their bodies moving, no matter what” — Muriel Feuer, 81

“Elderly people should try to keep their bodies moving, no matter what,” she says. “And weights are important. There are lots of articles on this. Challenge your body to become strong.”

She goes to the gym several times a week, attending cardio classes, lifting weights or working out with a trainer. Now that she lives in The Pearl, she also walks everywhere she can. Muriel exercises her mind as well. She is socially active, and she reads *The New York Times* every day. She enjoys a wide range of books and just finished *This Town* by Mark Leibovich, about Washington, D.C. (She recommends it.)

Her husband Jerry now lives in a memory-care facility and, because she visits him almost every day, she has gotten to know the other residents. One lady is 102 years old, and Muriel asked her what she believes helped her to live that long.

“Exercise,” said the lady. She used to exercise all the time, but now, she complained, there’s no way to keep it up.

Muriel got right on it. “You need exercise for the residents,” she told the manager. She insisted, and they did hire someone to lead the residents in group activity games. Muriel could see the change in the residents, especially in Jerry. “It’s so much better for them than just sitting around and sleeping.”

OK, Muriel’s glamour does come from other tricks of the trade. She always wears makeup, gets a manicure and has her hair colored and styled. “It’s both a habit and a way to make me feel good,” she says. “It helps my attitude.”

I am working on my attitude and my habits. I’m bumping my cardio up a notch. I’m adding more exercises for my abs.

And I’m going to wear my pearl earrings to the gym from now on. ♡

Liz Rabiner Lippoff is a freelance writer and a medical marketing consultant at Liz, Ink: LizInk.biz.

Exercise helps avert senior falls

By Harold Valentine

For Americans 65 and older, falling down can be the worst thing to happen to them, according to statistics from the National Council on Aging:

- One in three seniors experiences a significant fall each year
- Every 18 seconds, a senior is admitted into an emergency room after losing balance and hitting the ground
- Every 35 minutes, an elderly person dies from a fall – the leading cause of death for seniors

“The projected cost in health-care expenses for 2020 due to fall-related injuries in the United States is \$55 billion,” says Karen Peterson, a therapist with multiple certifications, and author of *Move With Balance: Healthy Aging Activities for Brain and Body*, (MoveWithBalance.org). She’s also the founder and director of Giving Back, a nonprofit organization that grows and spreads programs that support senior health.

“It’s important for seniors to keep moving and learning, that’s what helps improve balance and coordination, and even helps build new neural pathways,” says Peterson, who emphasizes the cognitive importance to her workout programs. “But if you’re rather frail, or just very fearful of falling, you’re less likely to get up and move around.”

Peterson says a fun, social program of games and activities that include exercises specifically designed for seniors helps them address multiple issues, including those that tend to keep seniors sedentary – which only lessens their strength and balance. These activities benefit all seniors, from 55 to 105.

Last year, her program won the MindAlert Award from the American Society on Aging.

“Seniors of all ages need to continually work on improving their balance, coordination, strength, vision and cognitive skills. When they do, they’re less likely to fall – and more able to enjoy life.”

Peterson suggests these moves, which address many different areas of the body:

• **The cross-crawl:** The basic cross-crawl focuses on the fundamentals of balance. This can be done sitting, standing or lying down. March in place, lifting the knees high. At the same time, reach across and touch the lifted knee with the opposite hand or elbow; alternate and keep going.

• **Forward toe-touch dancer:** To improve motor skills, physical coordination and cognition, there are many dance exercises that are appropriate for seniors. If needed, use a chair for assistance. Place your feet shoulder-width apart. Extend your left foot and your right arm forward at the same time. Keep your

left toes pointed down, touching the floor; for more difficulty, hold the toes a few inches off the floor. Repeat this move with your left arm and right foot. Hold each pose for several seconds, and increase holding time.

• **Sensory integration – the arrow chart:** Look at an arrow chart and call out the direction indicated by each individual symbol. Then, thrust your arms in that direction; in other words, say and do what the arrow indicates. For an additional challenge, do the *opposite* of what the arrow indicates.

• **Side-step walk:** Walk sidestepping – bring your right foot across the left and put it on the floor three to five inches beyond the left foot, ankles crossed. The closer the feet, the harder it is to balance. Alternate crossing the foot in front and then behind the other foot as you move along; repeat several times, then do the same with opposite feet. As a bonus challenge, try a reading exercise from a vision card, designed for stimulating the brain/visual system, while sidestepping.

• **The cat jump:** This activity is practice in case of a fall; the muscle memory of the movement will be etched in your body. Bend your knees in a squat. Jump a little off the ground with both feet, and land softly, like a cat, without jarring your body. Repeat until you are confident in your ability to prevent a spill.

“Research shows that most falls are preventable,” Peterson says. “These and other exercises, performed regularly, are a great way to achieve safety and a revitalized lifestyle.”

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Inflammation: Too much of a good thing?

The common link between heart problems, arthritis and pain

By Christie Winkleman

We've all heard about inflammation, but what is this mysterious thing exactly? Underneath the surface, our bodies are working hard to protect us every day. Countless tiny battles are going on in which our immune systems ward off invaders, carry away irritants or clean up dead cells. This natural process is called inflammation, and it is an essential part of the body's attempt to heal itself. It is not an infection, it is the body's *response* to an infection or other harm.


Inflammation has a bad reputation, but it is certainly not all bad. When needed, inflammation is how the body responds to an acute, harmful stimulus. Inflammation does not occur without reason, and it is a useful part of the body's healing process that should be allowed to run its course. Without inflammation, infections and wounds would never heal.

Sometimes, though, the inflammation lasts too long. This may happen because the repair work never gets completed or

the attack becomes prolonged. In these cases inflammation may get out of hand and become long-lasting (chronic). Many things may increase inflammation, such as emotional stress, environmental toxins, inflammatory foods, nutrient deficiencies and more. In fact, inflammation may cause more inflammation! And when these factors get layered together, what was once acute inflammation can become chronic inflammation, and this can lead to disease.

Chronic inflammation is a player in many chronic illnesses, such as asthma, hay fever, stomach ulcers, arthritis, back pain, tooth and gum disease, sinusitis, digestive problems and many more. If it goes on long enough, chronic inflammation can even contribute to heart disease, high blood pressure, depression, high cholesterol and even some cancers – all common problems for older adults. High cholesterol cannot cause heart disease without an inflammatory effect also present, so knowing about and treating inflammation is especially important in preventing heart disease in our later years.

What can be done about this inflammatory domino effect? Often in medicine, doctors are called upon to treat symptoms instead of developing a deeper understanding of the causes of disease. If a patient comes in with pain or another problem due to inflammation, it is important to make them feel better, but this is only the first step in the path of bringing them back to balance: the inflammation itself must also be addressed at a deeper, more pervasive level. It is also important that the therapies used to combat inflammation do not also wipe out the benefits of inflammation. This is why we use gentle and effective therapies at Insights to Health Clinic.

Naturopathic physicians take a whole-person approach to examine all the layers that contribute to the patient's inflammation. We examine the diet, explore stressors and sort out the lifestyle pieces that result in an inflammatory state. For example, insufficient sleep or poor sleep quality raise inflammation, and no treatment would be complete without an exploration of this often overlooked factor. As every patient is unique, the process of returning to health is also unique. Treat yourself to exceptional health in 2014! 



Dr. Christie Winkleman, N.D., M.A., is owner and director of Insights to Health Clinic in Multnomah Village, a full-service family naturopathic clinic. She and her husband, Dr. Gil Winkleman, are members of Neveh Shalom, and their children attend Portland Jewish Academy.



FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

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Now Portland moms can *enjoy* free Israel tour

By Polina Olsen

You've heard of Birthright Israel, the transformative program that believes a free trip to Israel should be part of every young Jew's life. Well, how about Birthright Moms? The Jewish Women's Renaissance Project's Transform and Grow promises Jewish moms the trip they deserve. Based in Maryland and operating since 2008, the JWRP has sent thousands of women from around the world on an action-packed trip.

Now Portland, too, has gotten in on the action. Portland Kollel, NCSY and JWRP have teamed up to host a highly subsidized 10-day trip to Israel on Dec. 7 through Dec. 16, 2014. Targeted for religiously non-observant women with children under 18 living at home, the Israel portion of the trip is free. Participants must pay their own airfare. In addition, Kollel and NCSY request contributions and donations to offset their \$300 per person cost. Apply using the simple online form at jwrp.org or contact Meira Spivak (meira@ncsy.org) for more information. Spaces are expected to fill quickly.

Local involvement started when Naomi Leavitt learned about JWRP and realized Portland wasn't on its list of communities. She texted Meira Spivak, the Oregon Director of NCSY and the Jewish Student Union. One week later the two met with Portland Kollel.


"We got the acknowledgement in November," Naomi says. "Jewish philanthropy is amazing. We'll take inspiration from the trip back to our home and community. This program will enhance Portland."

The December 2104 trip will include about 200 people with at least 10 slots open to Portlanders. Expect kayaking on the Jordan River, camel rides in the desert and fascinating lectures by experts like Gila Manolson, author of *The Magic Touch: A*



Naomi Leavitt, left, and Meira Spivak want Portland moms to enjoy a free tour of Israel (airfare not included).

Jewish Approach to Relationships. Participants will visit an artists' colony, see an ancient kabbalistic synagogue and stay at first-rate hotels like the King Solomon in Jerusalem. Follow-up activities after the trip ends will ensure fires keep burning and new friends stay in touch.

Meira Spivak bumped into JWRP trips twice during her last visit to Israel and noted everyone was having a wonderful time. "The NCSY is about inspiring the Jewish future," she says about the local organization she directs. "We're always doing things for teens. It's not enough. It really starts from the top. Women want to feel more connected, and they should take time to do something for themselves. I want to encourage every woman to consider this as an option. It's an amazing trip." 



Jewish moms enjoy dinner in Israel on a Jewish Women's Renaissance Project trip.



A Farewell to Two Ariks

By Mylan Tanzer

The recent death of Ariel “Arik” Sharon after eight mostly comatose years took from us arguably the most colorful, courageous and controversial personality in Israeli history. A month earlier, Arieh “Arik” Einstein, the most revered and iconic singer/songwriter in Israel’s history, died suddenly. These two larger than life characters had been almost a daily part of my life even before my 1981 Aliyah.

Sharon was a manifestation of the rebirth of Israel: born into a farming family and who, at age 12, was required to take up arms to defend his family and land against marauding Arabs. By age 20 he was a company commander in the paratroopers and was seriously wounded at the battle of Latrun in the War of Independence. At 25 he established and commanded the famed 101st paratroop brigade, which performed daring missions including the surprise parachute jump deep in the Sinai desert in the 1956 war. He is justifiably credited as the catalyst in turning what threatened to be a defeat with existential implications in the 1973 Yom Kippur War to a decisive military victory, ending Arab aspirations of defeating Israel militarily. After having retired just prior to the war breaking out, he was recalled and personally mustered the remnants of the IDF in Sinai and audaciously crossed the Suez Canal to surround and threaten the Egyptian army with annihilation.

Like his military career, Sharon’s entry into politics, first on the independent “Shlomzion” list and then as a Likud minister, showed his characteristic energy, vision, leadership and ability to get anything done. This inspired the moniker “Arik the Bulldozer,” further strengthening the controversial persona he established in the army. He transformed the low-profile Ministry of Agriculture into the main arm of Likud’s settlement expansion policy in the West Bank; the settlements are to be included in Israel’s borders in any peace agreement to provide needed security.

Sharon’s boldness in the second Likud government came close to ruining his political career; if it had been anybody but Arik, it would have. As defense minister and architect of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, he was forced to resign after the Phalangist massacre in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatilla in Israeli-controlled areas of Beirut as retribution for the assassination of the Christian leader, Bashir Gemayel.

The Kahan commission asserted Sharon did not order the IDF to take the necessary precautions to prevent a revenge attack and recommended that he resign as defense minister, which Arik refused to do.

I remember taking part in demonstrations demanding his resignation. Even though it was Lebanese and Palestinians killing each other, something which is routine, we were ashamed we were even remotely implicated.

Due to this pressure, the government voted to demote him to minister without portfolio.

Sharon filed a \$50-million libel suit against Time magazine, which implied he had encouraged the Phalangists to carry out the revenge attacks. Since he could not prove intentional malice, he did not win the case, but the U.S. court asserted that Time’s entire article was “false and malicious.”

With this and other political developments acting as a kind of unofficial exoneration, Sharon began his political comeback. As housing minister in the late ‘90s, the “Bulldozer” became a steamroller by flattening the formidable housing and construction bureaucracy to miraculously build hundreds of thousands of housing units for the one million new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. A friend who worked for a time as a supervisor at construction sites recalled Sharon’s visits and how he personally would rally the workers to get the job done, just as he used to do with the troops in battle.

After Netanyahu’s disastrous first term as PM, followed by an equally disappointing stint by Ehud Barak of Labor, Ariel Sharon became the 11th prime minister of Israel. Amidst the trepidation of moderate and liberal Israelis like myself, Sharon underwent the same transformation of many leaders who preceded him when he radically changed his long-established views and declared Israel cannot continue to rule over 1.5 million Palestinians.

As PM, Sharon created the doctrine of “hitkansut,” which can be roughly translated as disengagement and regrouping. Believing we can no longer wait for the Palestinians to accept our existence, nor tolerate their terror, he implemented unilateral measures to disentangle ourselves from them – thus the withdrawal from Gaza and the construction of the security barrier. This was an amazing turnaround for someone who only years earlier had based his beliefs and actions on the premise that Jordan is the Palestinian state. Following his reassessment, Sharon left the intransigent and rebellious Likud behind and formed Kadima, which virtually disappeared after the stroke that ended Sharon’s career at the peak of his power eight years ago.

The abrupt and tragic end to his term leaves so many unanswered questions. I am confident that Sharon would not have allowed the unending missile barrages from Gaza following the disengagement. Because of his courageous leadership and how he was perceived by his enemies, I believe with Sharon we would be closer to an accord with the Palestinians. When Anwar Sadat landed in Israel for his historic 1977 visit, the first person he requested to meet was Sharon. When Sharon suffered his stroke and was replaced by Ehud Olmert, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah publicly rejoiced and declared a holiday. Not coincidentally, Hezbollah provoked the second Lebanon war six months later.

Sharon also courted other forms of controversy. Beginning in 2001, there were several investigations into possible corruption. Although the attorney general chose not to charge Sharon and his sons in the cases of using their influence in the “Greek Island” scandal or of illegal loans from South African billionaire Cyril Keren, many questionable backroom transactions, deals and appointments occurred during Sharon’s tenure, including one that resulted in a jail sentence for his son Omri.

Sharon’s reputation for not respecting authority or heeding superiors created animosity, tainting his many achievements and deeds and creating constant controversy. But it is a testament to his tremendous abilities that despite this, no one succeeded in stopping him. He was convinced he knew best how to ensure the security of Israel on both a conceptual and practical level. His formidable presence at every historical junction from 1948 until 2006 is testament to this.

Sharon was a born fighter and deserves credit as one of a handful of individuals responsible for Israel surviving the uncertainty of its early years. He continued his uncompromising character in politics.

Not since Ben Gurion, and perhaps Rabin, has there been a feeling of the prime minister as a father figure for Israelis. In the years preceding his stroke, Sharon was perceived in this manner. Personally, I disliked him, often intensely, over most of his political career and feared the day that he might ascend to the prime minister’s office. Once he did, like Sharon, I too changed my opinion. I had not allowed myself to see him as a visionary and a leader who was in the end a pragmatist. These characteristics have been sorely lacking since his departure.

He fought when injured, he fought when healthy, he fought when ill. Sharon never stopped fighting, and continued to struggle when it seemed no longer humanly possible. It was the only way Arik knew.

The other Arik we lost recently, Arik Einstein, was not only the most iconic singer in Israel’s history, he was a cultural giant who touched almost every Israeli at some point in their lives – primarily through his music, but also through TV shows and movies, and through his extremely modest and self-deprecating personality. He was never comfortable with adoration and would have disapproved of the massive, widespread and almost unprecedented spontaneous national mourning that took place following his sudden death from an aneurism at the age of 74.

He was Israel’s Elvis, Sinatra and Springsteen rolled into one, but the similarities end here. Einstein was a product of Israeli society’s informal and irreverent early years. He was modest (“I’m not some musical giant, just a guy who sings ballads”), humorous (in TV shows and movies he was considered an expert, and hilariously funny, impersonator), unassuming and self-deprecating. He wrote and sang the songs that have become the soundtrack of Israel. He never spoke about his political views, instead expressing strong opinions through his music. He brought to life the lyrics of Israel’s greatest writers and poets such as Bialik, Rachel and Leah Goldberg in pop and rock songs, exposing Israel’s literary giants to younger generations.


He was born and raised in the Tel Aviv he loved. His first love was sports. He was the national Israeli youth champion in the

high jump and shot put and played basketball for Hapoel Tel Aviv. He was rumored to be the first Israeli to dunk, and when he was passed up for the national team, decided to forego sports and spend all his time on music. He remained a sports freak until his death. I had the pleasure of talking to him several times when I was with the Sports Channel. His passion was the Hapoel Tel Aviv soccer team, whose players will wear a black band on their uniforms in his memory for the remainder of the season.

Yair Nitzani of the successful ‘80s rock band “Tislam” wrote, “Arik for me was my hero, the ultimate Israeli rascal, the guy who invented rock and roll in Hebrew, the first who sang the Beatles in the language of the bible, who taught me that you can be a musician and also do nonsensical comedy on TV and in movies. He was a professional who took his work in the most serious way possible yet took himself in the least serious way possible.”

With the news of his death, the main television channels pre-empted their regular programming. Thousands of Israelis from all walks of life descended upon the hospital and gathered outside his apartment singing his hit songs, the words of which everyone knows by heart. The following day, a memorial service at Tel Aviv’s Rabin Square was held with tens of thousands in attendance. Prime Minister Netanyahu ended his eulogy saying, “Arik, you were the greatest of them all.” The radio stations played only his music in the days following his death. The Walla website calculated that in two days, his songs were played more than 6,200 times. This is even more stunning when taking into account that he was reclusive in the final 20 years of his life. He still wrote and released new songs and gave periodic interviews, but due to deteriorating vision, and a keen displeasure with the vanity and superficiality of today’s music industry, he performed no concerts and was essentially unseen by anyone outside of his close friends, who regularly visited him in his central Tel Aviv apartment.

Einstein released 48 albums of original material, and his songs dominate the pantheon of Israeli music. All of them have meaning and significance, and almost every Israeli has at least one Einstein song that stirs strong emotions and memories. The 1978 song “San Francisco on the Water” became my Aliyah theme song. Einstein described the beauty and wonder of San Francisco and America in general, yet how badly he missed Israel. This song expressed my mixed emotions about leaving the Pacific Northwest I grew up in and loved and the America which had given me so much, yet felt the need to fulfill my Jewish destiny through Aliyah.

Arieh means lion. Ariel means lion of god. Both Ariks were lions in their own vastly different ways. Israel is not the same without them. I appreciate what they have done and miss them both. *Yiyeh zichronchem baruch.* 

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.





MEN'S CLUB SPAGHETTI DINNER – The rejuvenated Shaarie Torah Men's Club kicked off the next 12 months of activities with the return of the annual Dec. 25 dinner. Above, Men's Club President Steph Kotkins acts as bartender pouring a beer for Geoffrey Strongin. Below, the crowd enjoys a spaghetti dinner with all the trimmings put on by Men's Club volunteers. Attendees brought board games and cards for an informal game night. Mah jongg and poker were among the most popular games, but board games such as Monopoly and Chinese checkers engaged more people in the fun. Men's Club is open to the entire Portland Jewish community; for details, call Congregation Shaarie Torah at 503-226-6131.



COMEDY NIGHT - Edie Rogoway, right, and Tricia Leishman celebrate as the winners of The Battle of the Sexes Comedy Night at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center Jan. 9. The contest to decide whether men or women are funnier featured (below, from left) Leishman, Roy Kauffman, moderator Ken Klein, Timothy Blackton and Rogoway. Photos by Elie Bulka/Oolite Photography



YALE SINGERS – Yale University's Jewish a cappella group, Magevet! performs in Congregation Beth Israel's Pollin Chapel to an overflow crowd Jan. 4. The day before the group performed at Congregation Shaarie Torah.



PIANISTS' REUNION – Internationally renowned pianists Vladimir Feltsman and Arnaldo Cohen, right, reunite in Portland after not seeing each other for 40 years. Feltsman was in town Jan. 12-13 for two days of recitals and a master class for Portland Piano International. Cohen is artistic director of Portland Piano International. Cohen and Feltsman met very early in their careers (see newspaper photo), while performing at concerts in Naples after they'd both won major competitions. They became friends but hadn't seen each other for four decades. After winning the prestigious Marguerite Long International Piano Competition in Paris, Feltsman returned to the Soviet Union, where he then spent eight years in artistic exile when he applied for an exit visa in 1979. He finally emigrated, with the personal intercession of President Ronald Reagan in 1987, and gave his first American recital at the White House. Photo by Andie Petkus (c) 2014



LIFT UP DINNER – Volunteers at Congregation Beth Israel served 586 meals, including 92 that were sent out for home delivery, at Lift Urban Portland's Annual Christmas Dinner. Volunteers Jacob and Michael Adler serve rolls while Jerry Schwartz, Benjamin Rabbino and Elizabeth Domagalski work on the clean up.



J-STREET SPEAKER – J-Street Western Regional Director Gordon Gladstone visits with Congregation Kol Shalom's former president Myra Himmelfarb (left) and current president Elly Adelman. Gladstone spoke to an interested crowd of more than 50 guests on Jan. 12 at the Kol Shalom Center. Members of Kol Shalom, J-Street, Congregation P'nai Or and Havurah Shalom were among those in attendance at this interesting, informative and optimistic lecture and discussion of J-Street's work and prospects for a two-state solution. Earlier that morning Gladstone spoke on "Supporting Secretary Kerry and Other Good Deeds" in a free program at Congregation Beth Israel.



“A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff” Feb. 6-9

Boom Arts and Portland Playhouse present the West Coast premiere of a spellbinding solo song cycle about the spiritual implications of the 2008 financial collapse. Created and performed by the acclaimed indie rocker, poet and Torah scholar Alicia Jo Rabins (Girls in Trouble, Golem), “A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff” will be presented in a new version directed by Maureen Towey (Sojourn Theatre, Arcade Fire). The work’s fall 2012 world premiere was at Joe’s Pub at the Public Theater in New York City.

Boom Arts Curator and Producer Ruth Wikler-Luker, who also serves as Literary Manager for Portland Playhouse, is thrilled to introduce Rabins’ piece to Portland. “Audiences are in for a treat,” she says. “In this insightful, inventive, and beautiful multidisciplinary piece, Alicia draws on her incredibly varied and talented artistic and spiritual repertoire to connect the dots between the Madoff phenomenon and humanity’s search for perfection.”

Rabins first encountered the Madoff story while working as a resident artist on Wall Street in 2008-2009. As the financial system crumbled around her, Rabins wondered if it was right to dismiss Madoff’s crimes as an anomaly. Her initial curiosity turned into an obsession, and she began interviewing individuals connected with Madoff’s rise and fall. In the process, she began to consider how the ancient Jewish rite of excommunication – including reciting the Kaddish (the Mourner’s Prayer) – might apply to this very modern story.

Through contemplative prose and captivating melodies (both sung and on looped violin), visually accompanied by a mesmerizing new animation piece by Portland artist Zak Margolis, Rabins leads us through her investigative journey. Did Madoff succeed because he understood human desire, she asks? And what would the ancient rabbis say?

Performances are at Portland Playhouse, 602 NE Prescott St., Portland, on Feb. 6, 7, 8 and 9 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$35 (reserved seating) and \$20 (general admission) and may be purchased via boomarts.org.

A Jewish Night at the Museum

Portland Jewish Academy and PJ Library host A Jewish Night at the Museum 6-8 pm, Feb. 24, at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, 1945 SE Water Ave. OMSI will be closed to the general public and open only for attendees.

This second annual Jewish Night at the Museum will include the opportunity to see the special traveling exhibit, Tony Hawk’s Rad Science, exploring principles of physics and of special interest to teens. The exhibit uses the feats of world-renowned skateboard legend Tony Hawk to demonstrate how physics principles like gravity, force, velocity, acceleration, inertia and balance make radical tricks possible in sports like skateboarding, BMX and snowboarding. In addition, PJA Jewish Studies faculty are developing materials as a Jewish companion to different OMSI exhibits and experiences as to put a Jewish lens on this special night at the museum.

Cost is \$10 per family. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Sign up online at Jewishportland.org/omsi or call 503-245-6219.



Early Bird discount ends Feb. 3 for local Jewish gap year program

The Tivnu Gap Year is a nine-month residential experience for high school graduates, ages 17-20, from across North America. Participants work and live together in Portland. They build affordable, sustainable homes, create community and explore the connections between Judaism and social justice. Financial aid is available.

Participants:

Work with the Tivnu construction team and community partners such as Habitat for Humanity, learning and applying building skills. No prior experience is necessary – just a desire to contribute and a willingness to get dirty.

Grapple with the complex issues of housing and related social justice issues through general and Jewish perspectives, and learn advocacy and community organizing skills with local non-profits.

Enjoy living together and forge life-long friendships while exploring the treasures of Portland’s eclectic culture and the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

For details, visit tivnu.org/gap-year-program or email steve@tivnu.org.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Friends of the Center Honoree

Mittleman Jewish Community Center centennial dinner honoree Gayle Schnitzer Romain, below, volunteers at the center helping clients in the Inpower fitness program, created and directed by her daughter, Laura Rosencrantz, to help patients use exercise to fight the side effects of cancer treatment. The MJCC Friends of the Center 100th Anniversary Dinner will be Sunday, Feb. 23, beginning at 5 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm. Gayle is currently serving on the center's board for her second decade-long stint. When she was on the board in the late '70s and '80s, she served with her grandfather Harry Mittleman until his death in 1986. The center is named for her grandmother Helen Mittleman. Tickets are \$100. RSVP by Feb. 17: James K. Phelps, 503-535-3594 or jphelps@oregonjcc.org.



Lecture series is "Talkin' 'bout My Generation"

Rose Schnitzer Manor will present "Talkin' 'bout My Generation," a series of lectures about post-World War II generations in America presented by Portland State University faculty. The free lectures will be held at 6:45 pm on Tuesdays in February.

On Feb. 4 "Millennials: The Twenty-Somethings of Today" will be presented by Cindy Koonz, PSU Capstone instructor, Communication - Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Learn about the generation born between 1980 and 2000 and important influences that affect who they are as members of society. A panel of Millennials will discuss some of their personal experiences and reflect on how stereotypes may limit intergenerational interactions.

On Feb. 11 Koonz returns to discuss "Generation X: The Thirty-Somethings of Today."

Learn about the generation born between 1965 and 1979 and important influences that affect who they are as members of society. Koonz will discuss the value of diversity in this generation and the limit of stereotypes in communications.

Feb. 18 will feature a presentation by Kenneth A. Kleszynski, professor of music in the Dept of Performing and Fine Arts.

On Feb. 25 the topic will be "Sociopolitical Development among Young Adults in Oregon" presented by Alma Trinidad, assistant professor in PSU's School of Social Work.

The Cedar Sinai Park Lecture Series is open to residents and community members and features talks on topics such as modern technology, music and culture. A goal of this program is to make lifelong learning easily accessible to residents and community members alike.

Rose Schnitzer Manor is located at 6140 SW Boundary St., Portland. For more information, call 503-535-4004 or visit RoseSchnitzerManor.org.

Feb. 2

Super Bowl Party at Shaarie Torah. Doors open at 1 pm. 920 SW 25th Ave. \$5 includes hot dogs, snacks, beer, soft drinks and door prizes. 503-226-6131

Kol Shalom Sunday Forum featuring guest speaker Lee Gordon, co-founder of Hand in Hand, Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel. 10 am-noon at 1509 SW Sunset Blvd., Suite 1E. info@kolshalom.org or 503-459-4210

Bimah Skills with Rabbi Boris Dolin. Community Education Hot Topics event. 6:30 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E 29th Ave., Eugene. info@tbieugene.org or 541-485-7105

Beth Hamon "Ten Miles" CD Release Party. 4:30-6:30 pm at World Cup Coffee & Tea - 1740 NW Glisan St. \$10; Proceeds benefit Jewish Family & Child Service. beth-hamon-music.com

Feb. 3

Vadym Kholodenko in recital. This Gold Medalist, 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition will perform Medtner's Forgotten Melodies and selected works by Rachmaninov. Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park at Market. Tickets: \$45-\$54. 503-228-1388 or portlandpiano.org

Feb. 4

Neveh Shalom Pre-Passover Wine Tasting Party. 5:30-7:30 pm at Blackbird Wine and Atomic Cheese, 4323 NE Fremont St. \$25/person. RSVP: 503-246-8831

Israeli Folk Dancing 7-8 pm, intermediate instruction, and 8-10 pm open dancing with Allison Victor at Cafe Shalom, 7045 SW Taylors Ferry Road. \$10 for class and open dance, \$5 for open dance only. Repeats each Tuesday. Info: Allison, 503-314-1567 or allisuev@gmail.com

Feb. 5

OJCF Professional Advisors Group Luncheon Meeting featuring Guest Speaker Dr. George J. Brown, Legacy Health president and CEO, who will discuss the Affordable Care Act. Noon-1:30 pm at the Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon St. Free; complementary lunch. RSVP required: gailm@ojcf.org or 503-248-9328

To Be a Jew in the Free World: Jewish Identity Through the Lens of Modern History. First of a six-week course presented by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute. 7:30-9 pm at the MJCC. \$100. Register at myjli.com or call 503-977-9947

Feb. 5-April 20

Sara Harwin-Illuminated Letters: Threads of Connection. Opening reception Feb. 5 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the OJM is free. 503-226-3600 or ojm.org (see page 38)

Feb. 6

Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict with Rabbi Maurice Harris and Professor Reuben Zahler. Community Education Hot Topics event. 6:30 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E 29th Ave., Eugene. info@tbieugene.org or 541-485-7105

Introduction to Judaism Class. First of 18 sessions offered by Oregon Board of Rabbis. Classes are held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 pm and rotate between seven different locations. The fee is \$360 (per student or per couple sharing materials). For more information and registration procedure contact Sheri Cordova, course facilitator, lscord@comcast.net or 503-639-0853

Feb. 6-9

A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff. Boom Arts and Portland Playhouse present the West Coast premiere performances of this song cycle about the spiritual implications of the 2008 financial collapse. Created and performed by Alicia Jo Rabins. 7:30 pm at Portland Playhouse, 602 NE Prescott St. Tickets \$35 (premium reserved seating)/\$20 (general admission). boomarts.org or 503-567-1644 (see page 60)

Feb. 8

Havdalah in Pajamas. 5:30 pm at Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane. Co-sponsored by PJ Library. Open to all and geared toward families with babies through age 6. \$12 adults, \$7 kids, \$42 max per family. tinyurl.com/havpj2014

Feb. 6-March 2

Portraits of the Portland Jazz Festival by Diane Russell. Opening reception 5-8 pm, Feb. 6 at the ArtBar at Antoinette Hatfield Hall, 1111 SW Broadway. dianerussell.net

Feb. 9

Congregation Beth Israel Presents Taste of Temple. Sample specialties from chefs, restaurants, breweries and vintners. 5 pm at Castaway, 1900 NW 18th St. \$72 after Jan. 20. bethisrael-pdx.org or 503-222-1069

Open Hearts = Open Minds, People of Faith Supporting Freedom to Marry. 1-5 pm at Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, 1111 Country Club Road, Lake Oswego. Hosted by Beit Haverim and LOUCC in collaboration with Oregon United For Marriage. 503-568-1241 or 503-635-4348 for more info. (see page 23)

Vintage Israeli Folk Open. 1-2:30 pm at the MJCC. All levels welcome. Pre-registration is required by preceding Thursday. We recommend calling guest services the day of offering to ensure enough participation. Members: Free, \$10 guest fee with member. \$15 guest fee. 503-244-0111

Oregon Kosher Class on Kosher Cheese. 7:30 pm at the Portland Kollel, 6688 SW Capitol Hwy. \$5 suggested donation. portlandkollel.org or 503-245-5420

3rd Annual Rabbi Marcus Simmons Lecture: Professor David Wacks – Jews, Muslims and Christians in Medieval Spain: The Literary Evidence. 4-6 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E 29th Ave., Eugene. info@tbieugene.org or 541-485-7105

Feb. 12

Shalom Ireland. Film at 2 pm at the OJM. General public: \$10, members: \$8, Students: \$5. 503-226-3600 or ojm.org

Feb. 13

Music Under the Dome (see page 44)

Feb. 16

Sara Harwin Artist's Talk. Noon at the OJM. Free with museum admission; includes bagel and lox brunch. 503-226-3600 or ojm.org (see page 38)

My So-Called Enemy. Free film showing at 2 pm at the MJCC. Spanning seven years, this film follows six Palestinian and Israeli teenage girls committed to justice and mutual understanding after participating in a women's leadership program called Building Bridges for Peace. mysocalledenemy.com

Party Like Its Purim. Dancing, live music, a buffet and silent auction with proceeds benefitting Morasha/Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning. 5:30-9 pm at Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane. Tickets: \$12 adult, \$6 teens. RSVP at meltonportland.org/party or call 503-384-2476

Feb. 17-23

Coming Out as a Person of Faith. Multi-media exhibit open during office hours and events at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E 29th Ave., Eugene. Special guest from the wider faith community will speak at Shabbat services on Feb. 21 at 7:30 pm. info@tbieugene.org or 541-485-7105

Feb. 21

B'nai Brith Men's Camp Association Sixth Annual Winter Poker Party. 5:30 pm at Tualatin Country Club, 9145 SW Tualatin Road, Tualatin. Costs vary: \$72 includes dinner, wine and poker buy-in or alternative event; other options available in this Texas Hold-em Tournament. Tualatin Country Club

has a no jeans policy. RSVP by Feb. 12: terri@jprlaw.com or 503-228-1455. Send payment to BBMCA, Attn: Terri, 9400 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, Suite 131A, Beaverton, OR 97005.

Feb. 22-24

Arnaldo Cohen plays Rachmaninoff. With the Oregon Symphony and Women of the PSU Chamber Choir. Feb. 22 and 23 at 7:30 pm and Feb. 24 at 8 pm at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 SW Broadway. Tickets: \$22-\$98. orsymphony.org or 503-228-1353

Feb. 23

Jewish Business Network presents A Day of Hope Fundraiser. The JBN presents its annual night of dinner, entertainment and grand raffle. 5:30 pm: cocktails, raffle tables and musical entertainment by Michael Allen Harrison; 6:30 pm: dinner & comedy entertainment by SARGE at the Hilton Vancouver, 301 West 6th St., Vancouver, WA. \$75. RSVP online at adayofhope.co by Feb. 15. info@thejbn.org

11th Annual Mah Jongg Madness Brunch and Tournament. Sponsored by Neveh Shalom Sisterhood. 11 am-4 pm at Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane. \$25. RSVP by Feb. 18: nevehshalom.org or 503-246-8831

MJCC Friends of Center Dinner honoring Gayle Schnitzer Romain and celebrating the center's first 100 years. (see page 61)

Feb. 24

A Jewish Night at the Museum. 6-8 pm at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, 1945 SE Water Ave. \$10 per family. OMSI will be closed to the general public. (see page 60)

Mechanics of Jewish Sacred Literature. Rabbi Johanna Hershenson of Temple Beth Tikvah in Bend presents the second in the series "A Taste of Judaism," 7 pm at the St Charles Hospital event center, 2500 NE Neff Road, Bend. Also meets March 3 and 10. Classes are \$6 each and open to the public. bethtikvahbend.org/education/adult-education or 541-388-8826

Feb. 27

Heaven and Hell. Community Education Hot Topics event with Rabbi Boris Dolin. 6:30 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E 29th Ave, Eugene. info@tbieugene.org or 541-485-7105

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



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