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# **Table of Contents**





#### June 2013/Sivan-Tammuz 5773 | Volume 2/Issue 5

#### [Cover Story]

- 30 Portland Jewish Film Festival: Enriching the community for 21 years
- 32 "Fill the Void"
- 34 "Besa: The Promise" & "A.K.A. Doc Pomus"
- 35 "The Law in These Parts"

#### [Focus]

UPFRONT 12 Alum.ni builds networks

#### FOOD

- 24 Two dinners from Paris
- 26 Bombay Cricket Club's two cuisines
- 28 Ambacht Brewery adds tasting room

#### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

#### 38 Playwright explores friendship in "Ithaka"

- 40 Summer Reading: The Next Scott Nadelson, The Middlesteins, The Blue Thread and book briefs
- 43 Check out Neveh Shalom's library
  - FOOD FOR THOUGHT
- 46 Festival rated a success

#### SENIORS

IOTO BY LANCE KOUDEL

56 A lifetime of selling savvy

#### HISTORY

58 Jews of Oregon sequel

#### SINGLES

- 64 Dating is a meet market
- 66 MoDox Adventure Shabbaton returns

#### [Staycations/Special Section 14-23]

So many sites to see, Central Oregon adventures, Ashland full of fun, Ansel Adams exhibit, Boards for the gorge and coast, Summer productions

#### [Health-Fitness-Beauty/Special Section 48-53]

Some sun is good for you, Anti-aging tips, Born to ride, Caring for your body a mitzvah, Doctor specializes in variety

#### [Columns]

- 24 Chef's Corner by Lisa Glickman
- 29 Money Matters by Lance VanSooy
- 48 Ageless Advice by Dr Elizabeth VanderVeer
- 52 Traditions
- 54 Fashionista by Kira Brown
- 60 Life on the Other Side by Anne Kleinberg
- 61 An Israeli in Oregon by Natalie Nahome
- 62 An Oregonian in Israel by Mylan Tanzer

#### [Connect]

- 67 Happenings: Previews & Reviews
- 69 Happenings: Faces
- 70 Happenings: Calendar

Cover photos: Selections from the Portland Jewish Film Festival

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#### **Editor's Letter**



#### This summer create a lifetime of memories

hen I was growing up in Michigan, our family had a summer ritual.

The Friday before my dad's two-week vacation began, he would arrive home early from work and we would pile into the car and head west – invariably west.

Sometimes we'd visit the Rocky

Mountains, sometimes we'd swing south and explore the great Southwest, other years we'd get all the way to the Pacific Coast. I fell in love with all the western part of the United States has to offer. It's probably no surprise that when I went off to college, I headed west – to Colorado, though any of the western states I'd visited as a kid would have done just fine.

I remember one year when we drove to California and then headed north through the Redwoods and along the Oregon coast. I remember the noisy sea lion caves and the sand dunes near Florence. Running and jumping and rolling down a sand dune was great fun.

When I got a bit older, I spent most of my summer on my horse. I'd get up early to ride before the heat set in. Sometimes friends and I would get up while it was still dark and ride out to the edge of a huge meadow to gallop into the sunrise as soon as the sun peaked over the horizon. By afternoon, I'd be reading a good book – stretched out on the back of my half-Arabian mare, Shy



Anne. She'd graze in the shade of an old apple orchard and I'd lie on her back facing backwards so I could prop my book up on her rump. Occasionally something would startle Shy, she'd jump and I'd tumble into the long grass. But I'd grab an apple off one of the trees (even if it was still a bit green), crawl back on Shy and keep reading as I chewed the juicy fruit.

Nowadays, the saddle I climb onto for an early morning ride is on my bicycle. And when I stretch out to read a lazy summer afternoon away, I'm more likely to be lying on a lawn chair and enjoying a cold drink along with my book.

Our stories on staycations (featuring many of the places I had to travel a long way to see as a kid) and summer reading took me back to many of those fine memories. I hope they either inspire you to similar fond reminiscences or inspire you to head out and make new memories with your family.

Deborah

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#### Letters to the Editor

#### DEAR EDITOR,

What follows should not be misconstrued as criticism of the story in the May 2013 issue respecting "The Strength of Diversity."

The story is well done and contains much interesting and useful information. But I would like to go further in analysis respecting what was achieved here. Being familiar with the resources, efforts and emphasis of the premiere schools that our Oregon teens competed against, I would say that we are dealing with a result that is virtually impossible. Indeed, I hesitate inserting "virtually" here, except that it happened hence it cannot be actually impossible.

An analogy to what happened is that a disparate group of sandlot baseball players end up winning the little league World Series in competition with teams from schools with impressive athletics programs. The lessons we can learn here are numerous and I would suggest that this happening deserves further publicity and study, beyond Jewish Oregon, because the result that was achieved is not because our team consisted of Jewish teens, but because it consisted of teens with dedication and focus harnessed through exemplary adult leadership. We frequently decry the failures in our school systems and other teenconnected areas. The usual answer is to spend more money. Certainly more money can help. But here we have a case showing what can be achieved without more money, indeed against competition with enormously greater resources.

Of course, the Oregon team of whom all Oregonians, and not only within the Jewish community should be proud, are very capable individuals. But they did not win this prestigious competition because they are smarter than all others, and certainly they did not win because of superior resources. They won because...?? Well, why did they win and how can we harness this secret ingredient for more wins for all our Oregon teens? This is worth publicizing and investigating.

Morris Engelson, Portland

#### DEAR EDITOR,

I was disturbed to read Mr. Schiffman's interview in which he commented that some Jews moved to the Pacific Northwest to "escape" their being of Jewish origin. There is no evidence to support that inappropriate remark. Lack of synagogue membership is NOT a sign of escape from being Jewish. There are at least 6 million ways of being Jewish in the USA given our current Jewish population; the vast majority of American Jews do not attend synagogue and/or belong to one. Most would be surprised not to be considered Jewish if that is the basis of Mr. Schiffman's claim. Additionally, as a four-time visitor to Israel with family living there, I was shocked at his comparison of the current USA to the society described in the old novel, Atlas Shrugged. The implication - intended or not - is that the USA is in decline, which I find inaccurate. I would gently remind Mr. Schiffman that a USA in decline would mean the end of Israel. Israel - after all - does not build advanced war planes, let alone many other weapons that the USA provides, giving Israel the necessary protection it needs.

Michael Kaplan, Portland

#### DEAR EDITOR,

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Alum.ni team – From left, intern Emmanuel Arizmendi joins Alum.ni founders Pauline Vorms, Ori Weiss and Edoe Cohen at a conference about the new online social network to help alumni stay connected with fellow graduates of their alma mater.



#### By Vanessa Van Edwards

The three Jewish co-founders of Alum.ni have moved from Israel to Portland to start their innovative online platform for alumni networks. Alum.ni is an online social network that provides alumni with tools to keep in touch, network and better leverage their connections.

Edoe Cohen, Ori Weiss and Pauline Vorms were tired of inadequate alumni platforms and poor optimization of their graduate networks. Co-founder Pauline Vorms is native to France and graduated from the College of Europe, the European Law School of Maastricht and the Institute for Political Sciences of Lille. She felt that the tools available to her from her universities to contact fellow alumni were useless.

"All of the existing alumni solutions are underused and outdated for real use by alumni," says Vorms.

Fellow co-founders Edoe Cohen and Ori Weiss also felt that alumni networks had untapped potential and simply weren't being optimized by organizations and current online solutions. Cohen, a graduate of Columbia University and the Kellogg School as well as numerous professional fellowships, was especially frustrated with the lack of ability to leverage his alumni networks.

"Our alumni networks are communities we've earned access to. These are communities of trust, where members are eager to help one another and contribute back to their alma mater," says Cohen. And trust is a major part of what makes Alum.ni different from existing social networks. The company's homepage includes a quote from one satisfied user, Agilite CEO Elie Isaacson: "Just wanted to tell you I'm a fan! My request today got me loads of great leads and it wasn't the type of thing I'd feel comfortable posting on Facebook."

Alumni networks have a unique combination of loyalty and camaraderie based on a shared alma matter. The strong sense of connection to fellow alumni was especially relevant to Israeli co-founders Weiss and Cohen, who served in the Israeli army. Cohen served as company commander for an IDF infantry and didn't have an easy way to connect with his fellow soldiers.

The trio decided to start their company in Israel, but quickly found that the majority of their market was in the United States. They began searching for an American city that was highly educated, had a low cost of living and featured a young liberal population. Portland seemed to be a perfect fit, and when they got accepted to the Portland Seed Fund – a local incubator – they decided to make the move.

The team has now joined Portland's Silicon Forest and fallen in love with the community.

"The people here are so willing to pay it forward and help. The community makes it a nice place to live and start a business. People have been extremely supportive of our company," says Vorms.

And the company is off to a great start. Already they have 10 alumni communities and five more are in the pipeline. However, the team is hoping that Alum.ni can tackle bigger issues beyond



"Our alumni networks are communities we've earned access to.... members are eager to help one another and contribute back to their alma mater." – Edoe Cohen

"All of the existing alumni solutions are underused and outdated for real use by alumni." – Pauline Vorms



"We are looking to expand our community of users and to offer Alum.ni to additional communities of trust." – Ori Weiss

just alumni connectivity. They hope the platform can be used by alumni looking for employment and job growth, as well as schools that want to have more fundraising opportunities.

Cohen adds that both universities and individuals could use the support: "In a time of economic stress and uncertainty, the need for a strong network and a tool like Alum.ni is clear."

If Alum.ni can tackle its lofty goals, it would be a win-winwin – a win for alums, a win for schools and a win for Alum.ni itself.

On what kind of help they hope to get from the Portland community, Weiss says: "We are looking to expand our community of users and to offer Alum.ni to additional communities of trust. Any help with intro or connection to alumni communities would be greatly appreciated!"

To get your alma matter on the platform, visit Alum.ni. 👰

Vanessa Van Edwards is an author and techpreneur in Portland. She consults with businesses on body language, human lie detection and communication skills. For more info: ScienceofPeople.org.



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Sela and Ethan Geller splash around at Jamison Square in the Pearl.



Why traverse the globe when Oregon has so much to offer

#### By Rich Geller

In these hard times that have come to be known as the Great Recession, many Americans have been scaling back their travel plans. The staycation, or vacationing near or even at home, has steadily gained in popularity. It may not be as glamorous as a traditional vacation, but there's no reason it can't be a blast, especially if you have young children who are often game for anything.

Oregon is replete with destinations that beckon travelers from around the globe, so why not take advantage of the beauty and wonder right here in our own backyard? Throw a little local Jewish history into the mix, and as Bill Cosby used to say, "If you're not careful, you may learn something before it's done."

If you live in the Portland Metro area, you might want to beat the high price of gas and pay a visit to the many hidden (and not so hidden) jewels that bless the Rose City. Two places that spring to mind immediately are the Portland Children's Museum and the Portland Aquarium. The Portland Children's Museum, located on 4015 SW Canyon Road right next to the Oregon Zoo, is one of the oldest children's museums in the United States. PCM is the perfect environment for young explorers. The Building Bridgetown exhibit will inspire your budding architect or future construction worker to build the city of tomorrow, today! The Pet Hospital is perfect for your little animal lover. After all that hard work, why not head over to the Grasshopper Grocery and Bistro to do the grocery shopping and cook a meal for mommy or daddy? The current exhibit is "Storyland," which promotes child literacy.

If you want to show your kids the Jewish Portland of yesteryear, pick up a copy of Polina Olsen's *A Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Portland*. This slim booklet is usually available at Annie Bloom's Books or Powell's City of Books. Unplug your kid's brains from all their screens and gadgets, get a little fresh air and exercise, and step back in time to visit the surviving remnants of the old South Portland Jewish community. Toward the end of your stroll, you can break for lunch at the Ross Island Grocery Café.

If you're near Beaverton, why not visit the only certified kosher donut shop in town, the one and only Krispy Kreme, and enjoy a sweet treat with the kids? They'll thrill to the sight of donuts being made before their eyes. Krispy Kreme is even running a staycation promotion this spring through late June! Be sure to fill out an entry form for your chance to win a staycation prize pack.

If you're bored with your neighborhood parks, throw the kids in the car

and head up the Gorge. Hood River Waterfront Park is perhaps the most kid-friendly park ever designed. There are climbing rocks that are just the right size for kids, fun tunnels, bridges and slides – even a giant xylophone! The land itself seems contoured for fun, with dips and rises that are perfect for exploring. There is a small beach providing access to the river for kayaking, windsurfing or just playing.

While you're in town grab a bite at Sixth Street Bistro, then stroll through town and browse at Waucoma Bookstore or Artifacts which features good books and bad art. If you're visiting around a Jewish holiday, contact the Columbia Gorge Havurah (coordinator Emilykohner@mail.com), as they celebrate all the major Jewish holidays and do some Shabbat events, as well. They are always welcoming to wandering Jews. If you wish to stay in town overnight, your best bet is the Hood River Hotel. In the morning head over to Hood River Bagels for some boiled and baked goodness.

On the way back to Portland, you can visit the Bonneville Dam, Multnomah Falls or hike up to Wahclella Falls, an easy day hike even with kids. Or why not head toward the Dalles and visit the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center? Discover the rich history of the Columbia River Gorge in a museum almost as epic as the Gorge itself. Prepare to be amazed at the rich pageant of an area that has been continuously inhabited for more than 11,000 years. Explore this dynamic region and embark on a voyage of discovery right along with Lewis and Clark. Learn about the struggles of pioneer families who traveled the Oregon Trail by covered wagon with nothing but pluck, perseverance and faith to keep them alive. Visit the kid's explorer room or check out the raptor experience. This educational program, available on weekdays, allows children to view raptors such as bald eagles up close. In addition to the easy access to hiking trails such as the Lewis and Clark and Oregon Trail, the Discovery Center offers handicap-accessible paved interpretive trails on the museum grounds.

If you can't wait for summer to end, take advantage of the only ski resort in the United States featuring year-round lift-service skiing and snowboarding: Timberline Lodge and Ski Resort. Between May and September come ski or ride on the Palmer Glacier, an epic river of snow and ice located on the south face of Mount Hood and a remnant of the last ice age. If you want a truly unique mountain experience, spend the night at the Silcox Hut. Perched at 6,950 feet and built in 1939, this rustic lodge has a charm all its own. With room for 24 the hut is a great way to have a real adventure.

The Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in McMinnville houses the mighty Spruce Goose, designed and piloted by none other than Howard Hughes himself. This testament to modern engineering and one man's vision has been completely refurbished and restored from nose to tail and is waiting for you to climb aboard. The second exhibit hall houses a treasure trove of NASA and military artifacts.

For a long, strange staycation, take your kids back to the '60s and tune in, turn on, and teach your children well at the Oregon Country Fair – three days of peace and love are held in July in Veneta. With face painting, puppet shows, live music and hippies galore, your kids will experience a freedom that only the Oregon Country Fair can provide. Camping is available.

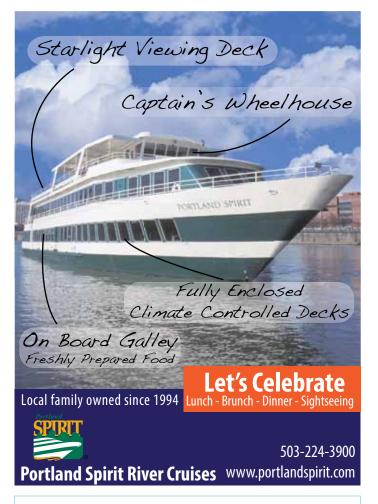
If you're feeling patriotic on Independence Day, head up the Oregon coast for the Fourth of July parade in Gearhart. If you stay overnight, watching the fireworks from the beach will be a memory that will last a lifetime. From Gearhart, head south to Tillamook to visit the Tillamook Cheese Factory. Tour the factory, enjoy an ice cream cone and don't forget to pick up some Tillamook Kosher Cheddar in the gift shop.

From there head south down the coast to Newport, nestled on beautiful Yaquina Bay. Be sure to visit the Oregon Coast Aquarium, one of Oregon's top tourist attractions. Exhibits include sea otters, harbor seals and sea lions, wave-crashed tide pools, a coastal cave featuring a giant Pacific octopus and a nature trail. The aquarium's undersea adventure, Passages of the Deep, includes three large ocean habitats that are home to 3,500 sea creatures connected by a 200-foot underwater tunnel through which visitors can journey safely through shark-filled waters.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, be sure to keep Shabbat on the road. Shabbat away from home can be a very special experience for your children. Be sure to invest in some windproof Neronim candles. Freeze a few Challah ahead of time so they're ready to grab on the way out of Dodge. Stash a pocket-size prayerbook or Torah in your backpack.

Bruce Springsteen astutely notes on his latest album, Wrecking Ball, that "hard times come, and hard times go." Is the staycation here to stay? All I know is some of the best times I've had with my family have been right in my backyard. You don't need to schlep to the farthest corners of the Earth when you live in a state like Oregon. With so many sights to see in the Beaver State, it's best to remember the old adage, "If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there."

Richard Geller is a freelance writer and staycationista extraordinaire living in Portland with his wife and three children.





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# Adventures

**Bend has three synagogues and more types of outdoor recreation than you can count** 

#### By Kerry Politzer

With its pristine environment, breathtaking scenery and wealth of outdoor activities, Bend is one of the most popular vacation destinations in the Pacific Northwest. No matter what the season, visitors can enjoy a diverse range of activities such as cross-country skiing, hiking and even llama-riding. Young professionals, families and active retirees are increasingly finding their bliss in the heart of Central Oregon. In addition, the city of Bend is home to a thriving, growing Jewish community that now includes three synagogues.

Gary Reynolds, an outdoorsman who has lived in Bend for five years, sings the city's praises. "It became the retirement dream," he explains. "There are a zillion things you can do here if you're interested in the outdoors." At 66 years old, Reynolds maintains a vigorous athletic regimen that includes running, biking, hiking and kayaking. He is currently in training for the annual Pole Pedal Paddle, which requires participants to finish a strenuous routine of alpine Lynne Connelley hikes around Smith Rock in Central Oregon with her husband, Ed, and dog, Nikki.

skiing, skate skiing, road biking, running and kayaking. Last year Reynolds placed first in the 65-69 age group. "My time was about two hours and 39 minutes," he says proudly.

Local Realtor Lynne Connelley discovered Bend after seeing a magazine article that ranked the 10 best cities for outdoor enthusiasts. She now entertains her grandchildren there every summer. "It's like grandma and grandpa camp," she jokes. Connelley waxes lyrical about the charms of Bend. "I'm driving west right now, and I see a mountain range, the Cascades, with white peaks, white snow all year round. The Deschutes River runs right through the center of town. You can take your kayak and paddle up and down the river, a couple bands will be playing — it's just a typical summer evening. There's rock climbing, miles and miles of hiking, wilderness, the Deschutes (River) and Ochoco National Forests. It's a healthy culture."

Connelley incorporates her love of the outdoors with charity work. A former horse and llama tour operator, she now donates her services to fundraisers for Temple Beth Tikvah, the local Reform synagogue. "For silent auctions, I will give away a llama hike. We put drinks on the llama packs, pick one of the Cascade Lakes, walk a trail, have lunch and come back. It's called 'The Llama Schlep.'" For real estate perspectives, Connelley may be contacted at lynne@mybendproperty.com.

Fitness author Suzanne Schlosberg and her family find a lot to love in Bend. Previously based in Los Angeles, she has now lived in Bend for nine years. This year Schlosberg celebrated her birthday there. "I had the most awesome Bend day. I went running on the river trail in the morning, went up skiing with one of my boys, and then rode my bike to a coffee place where I worked all afternoon. You can just go up and ski for two hours, and not eat up all your whole day, everything's just so convenient. And there's no traffic and no smog."

When seeking a new place to live, it was important to Schlosberg that she find a Jewish community. "I wanted to make sure that there was a synagogue. I am on the board of Temple Beth Tikvah; we're celebrating our five-year anniversary in June." The synagogue honors residents' love of the outdoors by hosting



Kit Hall and his wife Naomi (in kayak) enjoy the natural beauty of Central Oregon's Hosmer Lake and the quiet and solitude that it offers. "We have been camping there for many years so we know several of the long-term campers that visit Hosmer," says Kit, a board member of the Jewish Community of Central Oregon. "I particularly enjoy being on the water, I can be fishing or we can be gliding over the clear waters in our kayaks, watching the osprey, eagle, otters and a variety of wetland fowl. It is impossible to be in the midst of such beauty and not be in awe of the creator. Our souls are filled by just being present."

a series of Sabbath picnics during summer; Sunday school hours in winter allow for skiing schedules.

Says Schlosberg of her family's experience in Bend: "My twin boys are really into skiing, and they just got mountain bikes. They're in training to be little Bendites. I'm so envious that they get to grow up here, with all the things they get to do. I really can't imagine living somewhere else."

## ANSEL ADAMS DISTANCE AND DETAIL DISCOVERY MUSEUM - WORLD FORESTRY CENTER MAY 26 - AUGUST 18, 2013



Oak Tree, Sunset City, Sierra Foothills, California, Portfolio Four: What Majestic Word, In Memory of Russell Varian (1940-63), 1963. Photograph by Ansel Adams.

WORLDFORESTRY.ORG



Leaf, Glacier Bay National Monument, Alaska, Portfolio Four: What Majestic Word, In Memory of Russell Varian (1940-63), 1963. Photograph by Ansel Adams.



Tree Stump and Mist, North Cascades, Washington (IV of XII from Portfolio Seven), 1976. Photograph by Ansel Adams.



## By Polina Olsen

Beautiful Ashland makes a great getaway with enough indoor and outdoor activities to keep the whole family happy. Home to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival with its Elizabethan stage and variety of plays, the compact city is the perfect place to kick back and have it all.

Browse the shops or sip wine at an outdoor table by the stream. Take a hike in the nearby mountains. You'll find a perfectly preserved Old Western town in nearby historic Jacksonville, which even features MacLevin's Whole Foods Deli known for homemade pastrami and blintzes.

Karolina Wyszynska Lavagnino came to Ashland from Poland to attend Southern Oregon University and stayed on to direct marketing at the Ashland Springs Hotel. Built in 1925 in time for the Ashland Chautauqua, a popular adult education and cultural movement, the hotel is an easy walk from the theater and offers well-priced packages that range from white water rafting to wine tasting. Theater lovers will enjoy the special \$269 "Summer Sundays," which include two A or A+ section tickets to the festival (Sundays only), an overnight stay for two, and a \$30 dining credit toward dinner at Larks

#### Stay and Eat

	Ashland Springs Hotel 212 E Main St, Ashland, 541-488-1700,
0	AshlandSpringsHotel.com. Email concierge
ப	Gigi LaRossa at concierge@AshlandSpringsHotel.com
-	Larks Restaurant 212 E Main St, 541-488-5558,
_	ashlandspringshotel.com/larks-restaurant
0	Lithia Springs Resort 2165 W Jackson Road, Ashland, 541-482-7128 LithiaSpringsResort.com
≻	Morning Glory (breakfast and lunch) 1149 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, 541-488-8636, MorningGloryRestaurant.com
ш	MacLevin's Whole Foods Deli 150 W. California St., Jacksonville, 541-899-1251, MacLevinsonline.com

The Ashland Springs Hotel is easy walking distance to the theater.

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Restaurant, along with the hotel's usual complimentary parking and continental breakfast.

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"Ashland is a wonderful destination, because we have everything in a small place – fantastic theater, great dining, boutique shopping, art galleries and wonderful trails," Lavagnino says. "Our concierge is a walking encyclopedia of Southern Oregon and will customize everyone's stay. Email her ahead of time for suggestions." After a day of fly fishing, bird watching or hiking, the concierge may recommend a soak in the Japanese Ofuro tub or the Vichy shower at the Waterstone Spa and Salon across the street.

See this year's Shakespeare plays, "The Taming of the Shrew," "King Lear" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Other OSF choices include favorites like the musical "My Fair Lady" and Tennessee William's "A Streetcar Named Desire." Check out the backstage tour for a peek behind the scenes. And, don't forget to dress in layers for chilly evenings, especially in the outdoor Elizabethan theater. Wear comfortable shoes for a stroll through beautiful Lithia Park before the play.

#### What to do

111

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, 800-219-8161, osfashland.org Waterstone Spa and Salon, 236 E Main St., Ashland, 541-488-0325, WaterstoneSpa.com

Lithia Park, downtown Ashland, 59 Winburn Way, Ashland 541-488-5340 Science Works Hands-on Museum, 1500 E Main St., Ashland, 541-482-6767 Kokopelli River Guides, 2475 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland 541-201-7694 Hellgate Jetboat Excursions, 966 SW 6th St., Grants Pass 800-648-4874 Emigrant Lake, 5505 Hwy. 66, 541-776-7001

Historic Jacksonville, 541-899-8118, JacksonvilleOregon.org

Crater Lake National Park, 541-594-3100, nps.gov/crla

Oregon Caves, 19000 Caves Hwy., Cave Junction, 541-592-2100, oregoncaves.com

## Ansel Adams iconic photos at Discovery Museum

The World Forestry Center Discovery Museum has an Ansel Adams photography exhibit titled: "Ansel Adams: Distance and Detail" on view through Aug. 18. The exhibit is drawn from the art collection of Bank of America and 30 of Adams' most iconic photographs that show the most intimate details in nature to large, encompassing landscapes.

The exhibit is comprised of black and white prints, mostly gelatin silver, ranging in size from 4 inches x 5 inches, to 51 inches x 39 inches.

"We are thrilled to once again show the stunning photographs of Ansel Adams," says Gary Hartshorn, president and CEO of the World Forestry Center. "This is a different exhibit than the one we hosted in 2006, but equally as beautiful. Our museum visitors will once again be able to view the incredible work of this great American icon here in Portland."

Ansel Adams (1902-1984), photographer, environmentalist and social activist, is recognized as one of America's foremost photographers. The exhibit is included with museum admission: \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62+) and \$6 for children 3-18.

The World Forestry Center, located in Portland's Washington Park at 4033 SW Canyon Road.



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#### By Deborah Moon

It seems obvious that Jeff Hammer's life as a carefree windsurfer and entrepreneur is light-years away from his roots as a Jewish boy from Great Neck, NY. Yet, like his father, he has created a manufacturing company that fills a niche.

His journey took him from New York to Jackson Hole, WY, where he spent twentysome years as a self-described "ski bum." He spent part of the offseason windsurfing in Baja California, before he discovered the perfect winds of Hood River.

"In Baja people told us about the Columbia Gorge where the winds blow 25 to 30 miles per hour every day," says Jeff, who is still known to close up shop to catch that perfect wind. He relies in part on an app, Iwindsurf.com, to keep him up on local wind conditions.

He arrived in Hood River in the early 1980s to explore the windsurfing, and in 1985 he got involved in board-building on





kiing in Jackson Hole. By 1989 he was living in Hood River full time and had built a commercial building with five tenants plus his own board manufacturing space and sporting goods shop. Originally his shop built only sailboards, but as the windsurfing craze passed its peak in the 1990s, his North Pacific Surfboards (northpacificsurf.com) added surfboards and then kiteboards.

He was joined by Art Colyer, a well-known surfboard maker who wanted to leave the California lifestyle. Jeff says his partner was already hand-crafting small surfboards custom built for small-framed Japanese surfers when a new market emerged.

"People wanted small surfboards to kite surf on the waves on the Columbia River," says Jeff. "Everything we do is custom made; so we started making directional kiteboards. We fell into this new market."

For the past eight years, Jeff and his wife Gloria have divided their time between their homes in Portland and Hood River.

About four to five years ago, North Pacific Surfboards also expanded into another craze – stand-up paddleboards. But North Pacific specializes in paddleboards for people who want to paddle out and surf.

"The boards we build are for paddle surfing in the waves," says Jeff, noting surfers like the paddleboards because, "You can surf smaller waves on big paddleboards. Among the aging surfing population, some have switched to stand-up paddleboarding."

The bulk of the business is now surfboards, but every board is custom made.

With the advances in wetsuit technology making cold water surfing more appealing, Oregon has become the latest surf destination.

"We have a few models, but every board is built for height, weight, ability, where you surf and the time of year," says Jeff. "Each board is still handmade in the U.S.A."

So how does that bring him back to his roots? His dad, Robert Hammer, also found a niche market. Robert was transferred from Chicago to New York to run a 500-man manufacturing plant. But he saw a niche that wasn't being met and opened New York Twist Drill to make specialty tools for making holes in the new "exotic" materials of the mid-20th century for the automotive, truck, aircraft, railroad, watch making and shipbuilding industries as well as for emerging industries such as aerospace and defense.

#### WINDSURFING AFICIONADO AND SURFBOARD MANUFACTURER SHARES FAVORITE SPOTS

#### Windsurfing in the Gorge

While Hood River is known worldwide as a top windsurfing destination, local windsurfer and board-builder Jeff Hammer says the winds in the Columbia Gorge peak in different areas depending on the season. He says that the approximately 90-mile stretch from Rooster Rock to Boardman is the focus for Gorge windsurfers. "Depending on the weather, there are surfing spots all along the river."

"In the summer the west winds are the prevailing winds, so surfing is better from Cascade Locks to Boardman," says Jeff. "Places at the west end of the Gorge – Rooster Rock and Stevenson – are best when the winds are from the east. Winter is the strongest east wind; spring and fall are pretty changeable; summer has west winds." He suggests heading east to Arlington and Maryhill for some good spring winds.

Generally, Jeff says the strongest winds are "just in front of the cloud line."

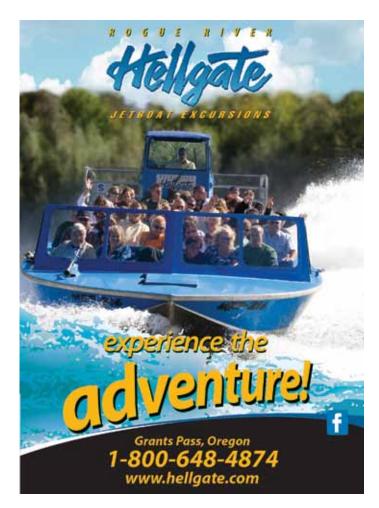
#### **Surfing the Coast**

With improvements in wetsuits increasing the popularity of cold-water surfing, Oregon's coast has become a popular destination for surfers.

Jeff says there are surf spots all up and down the coast, but Pacific City is the most popular as a welcoming and friendly destination for outsiders.

Seaside Point Cove is a world-class spot, with Oswald West State Park also offering good waves. Manzanita is good for kite surfing and wave sailing, he says. "There's really good windsurfing at Pistol River. Newport Jetty is also popular with windsurfers, as well as traditional surfing."

"The best surfing is fall and winter," says Jeff, noting that the water is actually warmer in the winter due to ocean currents.





## Broadway Rose Theatre **Summer Productions**

#### By Elizabeth Schwartz

Fans of musicals can choose between new and old classics this summer, as the Broadway Rose Theatre Company presents Andrew Lloyd Webber's blockbuster "Cats" in July, and Lerner & Loewe's equally beloved hit "My Fair Lady" in August. Alan Anderson, BRT's marketing director, says these two productions fit well into BRT's theme for 2012-13, "Season of Memories." "We're really trying to recreate memories for the audience with these two shows," he says. "We expect our audiences to have memories of these productions, either from having seen them before or growing up with the music. These were the perfect shows to create that conversation about past memories and new memories for audience members who may be less familiar with these shows."

The cast of "Cats" features a number of local performers, including Amy Jo Halliday as Grizabella. Halliday is a BRT veteran, having appeared as Anna in "The King and I." Anderson is a big fan: "She played Christine in the national tour of 'Phantom of the Opera,' and she'll bring some experience to the role of Grizabella, the glamour cat who sings the show's most memorable tune, 'Memory.' For me personally, Amy Jo is special; she's one of the hardest working actresses I



know, but she's also easygoing and totally committed to her work," he says.

"Cats" will be directed and choreographed by Lyn Cramer, who teaches musical theater at the University of Oklahoma. Last season



Cramer directed BRT's "The Drowsy Chaperone." "She knows her stuff," says Anderson. "She moves at the speed of light - we usually have a pretty short rehearsal period, just under a month and expects a lot from her cast."

In August BRT presents "My Fair Lady," the timeless adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," about a man who creates his perfect woman and then becomes infatuated with her - or more likely with his own achievement. "My Fair Lady' is one of the most beloved musicals of all time; the New York Times described it as 'the perfect musical," says Anderson. "Each season we revive an old classic; in previous years we've presented 'The Sound of Music' and 'The King and I.' These shows still resonate; they're part of our musical American history. Parents and grandparents who love these shows bring their kids and share their memories."

Jazmin Gorsline, a native of Vancouver, WA, will play the irrepressible Eliza Doolittle, bringing her experience in leading roles with regional theatres around the country to the production. "We're so pleased she's coming home to do this show," says Anderson. "She was Cosette in our 'Les Miserables.' She has the full package: a wonderful vulnerability in her acting, and when she sings 'I Could Dance All Night,' it's soaring and glorious." Actor Kevin Connell costars as Professor Henry Higgins. "He's a terrific actor and a great brooding presence," says Anderson. "He can also sing, so he'll bring some musicality to the role." Professor Higgins' sidekick, Col. Pickering, will be performed by local actor Tim True, who has appeared with Portland Center Stage, Third Rail and Artists Repertory Theatre. "He'll bring some humor to the show," Anderson promises.

BRT's artistic director and co-founder, Sharon Marone, directs "My Fair Lady." According to Anderson, Marone has a gift for directing old classics with great sensibility and originality. "Because she's also an actress, she understands the actors' process. She encourages actors to bring their ideas to the role and collaborates with them to create their characters. That's what creates the freshness in her productions and makes these old classics feel new." 🤥

> \* BROADWAY ROSE THEATRE \* 12850 SW Grant Ave., Tigard | broadwayrose.org Summer Productions "Cats" June 27-July 21 "My Fair Lady" Aug. 1-18

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# CHEF'S CORNER

## Two dinner options you can cook at home to feel like you're in Paris

#### By Lisa Glickman

What's happening over summer vacation? Most of us ask friends and family this question assuming there must be a reservation pending to an exotic destination resort. However, in this economy, an extended luxury vacation might not be in the budget.

Fortunately there is often much to do right in your own hometown. Sometimes we take for granted the beauty our own city has to offer, so remember that discovering local attractions may allow you to see their city through a different lens. Of course you will have to cook your own meals, but now is the time to get creative with some great staycation recipes.

Staycations are a great way to save some cash, but no one said you have to eat the same boring meals. Think back to some of your favorite foods eaten while on vacation and look for recipes online. You may find recipes from famous theme parks or luxurious hotels that you can make in your own kitchen.

Food and flavors can transport us just about anywhere we want to go. Create a themed meal using recipes from a place you



would love to visit like spicy Jamaica, romantic northern Italy or lusty South America. Chiles, cilantro and lime remind us of sunny Mexico; warm curry, garam masala and mustard seeds allow us to visit India; and pungent fish sauce, soy and kaffir lime leaves evoke thoughts of Vietnam or Thailand.

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With just a handful of out-of-the-ordinary ingredients and a little technique, many of these dishes are prepared easily in your own home. You could even put on some background music like Bob Marley, Bollywood themes or Brazilian jazz to get your culinary juices flowing!

Inspired by a trip to Paris last year, I created this succulent duck a l'orange. Bathed in a flavorful sweet and slightly sour sauce and garnished with fresh orange segments and candied orange rind, it brought to mind memories of a fine French restaurant along the Avenue des Champs-Élysées. I borrowed the recipe from the classic French technique as described by Anthony Bourdain in his Les Halles Cookbook. When recreating this classic dish, I simply followed the recipe for perfect moist

and tender meat, beautifully crispy skin and luscious sauce. Serve along with crispy new potatoes, first blanched, then fried in the excess duck fat and a simple steamed vegetable. C'est magnifique!

For a great vegetarian meal option, imagine yourself lodging somewhere in the French countryside with a chilled bowl of creamy vichyssoise made with sweet, subtle leeks, hearty potatoes and a hint of white pepper. For dessert serve these light and airy profiteroles in a pool of bittersweet chocolate, then filled with store-bought salted caramel ice cream and drizzled with warm caramel sauce. The vichyssoise can be made early in the day and chilled, and although this dessert may look complicated, the batter for the profiteroles, or cream puffs, actually only takes a few minutes to put together; once mastered it is also a great recipe to use with a savory filling for an eye-catching hors d'oeuvre. As a dessert, profiteroles are delectable with any ice cream, pastry cream or flavored whipped cream. Truly

a pièce de résistance.  $\mathbf{Q}$ 

Lisa Glickman is a private chef and teacher who lives in Bend. She has recently made an appearance on the Cooking Channel's "The Perfect Three." She can be reached at lisa@lisaglickman.com.



#### **DUCK A L'ORANGE**

- 1 fresh duck, trimmed of excess fat Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$  orange, cut into 4 pieces
- 1 lemon, cut into 6 pieces
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup red wine vinegar
- 1⁄4 cup sugar
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 3 ounces Grand Marnier
- 2 tablespoons margarine

#### Confited zest of 2 oranges (recipe follows)

Juice of 1/2 lemon

Juice of ½ orange

2 oranges, peeled and segmented Preheat oven to 250 degrees. After thoroughly washing the inside of the duck and removing the giblets, season the duck inside and out with salt and pepper. Cut off the wings tips, place the 4 orange pieces and 6 lemon pieces inside the bird and then truss with kitchen string.

Place duck in a roasting pan and cook for 30 minutes to tighten the skin. Remove from the oven and allow duck to cool to room temperature. Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, combine the vinegar and sugar and bring to a boil. Spin the pan around a bit to keep the sugar from hardening on the sides of the pan. Continue to cook until the sugar has completely dissolved and the liquid has the consistency of a light caramel. Remove from the heat and stir in the chicken stock. Be very careful – this mixture is dangerously hot. Return to heat and simmer for 45 minutes.

Turn oven up to 375 degrees. Raise duck from the bottom of the roasting pan by using a rack to allow the fat to gather on the bottom of the pan. (Keep the fat after roasting the duck ... it makes the best sautéed potatoes!) Cook the duck in the oven for another hour and a half until the skin is deep golden brown. Turn the pan occasionally to avoid uneven cooking. When your duck has finished roasting, remove it from the oven and set it aside on a carving board to rest. Pour the grease from the pan into another bowl for sautéing your potatoes, and place roasting pan on stove. Turn heat to medium high and add Grand Marnier. Watch out: it could flame up and singe your eyelashes! Scrape up all the drippings on the bottom of the pan and pour it all into the

simmering sauce. Continue to simmer the sauce until reduced by half, and then pour it through a strainer into a small saucepan. Taste sauce and adjust seasonings. Bring sauce to a boil and whisk in the margarine, candied orange zest, orange and lemon juice. Carve the duck just like a chicken (but expect less meat) and arrange on a platter sur-

rounded with the orange segments. Pour some of the sauce over and around it and serve the rest on the side. Serves two.

#### Citrus zest confit

- Rind of 2 oranges
- 1 cup water
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup sugar

Use a vegetable peeler to peel orange without getting any of the white pith and thinly julienne slices or use a canneleur, a tool that makes nice strips of zest.

Combine the water and sugar in a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Add the strips of zest and reduce liquid to a simmer. Reduce the liquid in half until it resembles a light syrup. Remove from the heat and allow to cool completely. Strain the zest. Store extra in an airtight container.

#### **CRÈME VICHYSSOISE**

- 2 medium leeks (white and pale green parts only), halved lengthwise and coarsely chopped (2½ cups)
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 medium shallot, finely chopped
- 2 russet potatoes (bakers), peeled, diced and reserved in 2 cups cold water
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1 cup half and half
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup heavy whipping cream
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- Chopped chives for garnish

Wash leeks in a bowl of cold water. Drain well. Melt butter in a 6-quart heavy-bottomed pot over low heat. Add leeks and shallot, cover and cook, stirring occasionally until softened, about 10 minutes. Add potatoes, with water and salt; simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender, 30 to 40 minutes. Add milk and half and half and bring just to a boil, stirring, then remove from heat. Puree mixture in a blender until very smooth, then strain through a fine strainer pressing firmly on the solids (or use a Vitamix). Stir in cream and white pepper. Allow soup to chill in a ceramic bowl in the refrigerator until ready to serve. Taste and season with salt just before serving. Garnish with freshly chopped chives. Serves four.



#### PROFITEROLES WITH BITTERSWEET CHOCOLATE SAUCE, SALTED CARAMEL ICE CREAM AND WARM CARAMEL SYRUP

#### Profiteroles:

- 3⁄4 stick (6 tablespoons) unsalted butter
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup water
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> teaspoon salt
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup all-purpose flour
- 3 large eggs

Store-bought salted caramel ice cream

#### Chocolate sauce:

- 1 cup bittersweet chocolate chips
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup heavy cream

#### Caramel sauce:

- 1 cup sugar
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter

#### For the profiteroles:

Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or a Silpat mat. Preheat oven to 425

degrees. Combine butter, water and salt in a 2-quart heavy saucepan and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat and add flour all at once. Stir and cook until mixture pulls away from the side of pan and forms a ball. Place in the bowl of a upright mixer fitted with a paddle blade attachment and allow to cool slightly. Turn to medium high speed and add eggs, one at a time, until each is fully incorporated. Transfer mixture to a pastry bag fitted with a large round tip and pipe onto baking sheet making mounds about 2 inches in diameter and placing them about 1 inch apart. Wet finger and tap down pointed tops of each profiterole. Bake about 20 to 25 minute until puffed and golden. Remove from oven and cool on a rack.

#### For the chocolate sauce:

Place chocolate and cream in a microwaveproof bowl and heat on high for 20-second intervals until chocolate is melted and cream is incorporated.

#### For the caramel sauce:

Cook sugar in a dry heavy saucepan over medium heat stirring with a fork until melted and pale golden in color. Cook the caramel without stirring, swirling the pan until deep golden brown. Remove the pan from the heat. Carefully pour cream into hot sugar. It will bubble vigorously. Return mixture to heat and stir until sugar is completely dissolved. Add butter and a pinch of salt if desired. To serve, place a pool of chocolate sauce on a plate. Using a serrated knife, split profiteroles and fill with a scoop of salted caramel ice cream. Drizzle with caramel sauce and serve immediately. Serves six.



#### Indian and Middle Eastern cuisines meet without melding at Bombay Cricket Club



#### By Kerry Politzer

Patrons come from far and wide to enjoy the piquant curries and garlicky kebobs at Portland's Bombay Cricket Club. The owners, Karim and Sherri Ahmad, have relatives throughout India, Lebanon and Israel. When the couple opened the restaurant in 1995, they decided to include both Indian and Middle Eastern cuisines on their menu.

"Some people really didn't like the idea that we were playing with different cuisines," Karim says, but adds he and his wife believe, "Indian cuisine really complements Middle Eastern cuisine, and vice versa."

Karim grew up experiencing the culinary pleasures of both worlds. "We used to have hummus, falafel, baba ganoush and all the curries," he remarks. Although he offers both cuisines, he does not serve fusion cuisine. Each dish on the menu is

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part of a long culinary tradition. Says Karim of his homemade flatbreads: "Our naans are the tribal naans – the ones that are made in the Northern territories in India and Pakistan. They complement both the hummus and the Indian food."

When asked which cuisine is most popular at his restaurant, Karim says that customers tend to mix and match the two. "Believe it or not, it's a combination. People eat Indian food and baba ganoush – they tell us we have the creamiest hummus in town." He recommends that new customers begin their meal with vegetable pakoras (fritters), hummus and zathar naan (tandoori-baked flatbread with roasted herbs, olive oil and sesame seeds). For the main course, many diners order chicken tikka masala. "We do 30 or 40 take-out orders of this a night," says Karim. In this dish, chicken is cooked in a tandoori oven and then smothered in a tasty saffron sauce. Another favorite is lamb shahi, in which slowly simmered lamb is sautéed with tomatoes and seasonings.

Diners love to accompany their meals at Bombay Cricket with mango margaritas, which are made with mango pulp that has been imported from India. Karim says that India produces the best mangoes in the world. His commitment to quality ingredients extends from his produce to his spices. "All the ingredients we use are the freshest I can find. Our spices we try to bring in from India, and we try to use them as fresh as possible." Karim explains that the fresher the spice, the more completely its essences and oils are incorporated into the dish. He raves about the quality of the saffron used in his cardamom rice.

The Ahmads say that around 90% of their cus-

tomers are repeat visitors. Interestingly, Karim says, rabbis in Portland frequent Bombay Cricket Club. "Our friends in the Jewish community have helped me the most. They come from New York and Israel. I cannot thank the Jewish community enough."

For those who have not yet visited his restaurant, Karim declares, "You have to come, and we will show you our hospitality."  $\mathfrak{P}$ 

Food and travel writer and jazz pianist Kerry Politzer is a recent transplant from New York. She greatly enjoys the Portland food scene. She has written for WhereTraveler, In New York and Dessert Professional. She publishes a blog on the Portland-NYC culinary scene, The Rose and the Apple.

Bombay Cricket Club: 1925 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland | 503-231-0740 | BombayCricketClubRestaurant.com



## Ambacht Brewery growing up

#### By Gabriel T. Erbs

When you make handcrafted beer in beer-soaked Portland using local ingredients, the only way forward is to simply brew more beer.

That is why Hillsboro-based Ambacht Brewery has moved to a new, bigger location to increase its production volume.

Known in the Jewish community for its matzah-based Matzobraü beer and in the wider community for its creative Belgian-inspired ales, Ambacht brewers Tom Kramer and Brandon Grobart are looking forward to increased brewing capacity and adding a tasting room.

Ambacht's old location lacked a distinct tasting space, which meant that many people were in close proximity to the machinery. In a craft obsessed with cleanliness, customers milling about the tanks can be an issue.

The new brewery is "a real defined space with walls and a bar," said Kramer.

On the heels of receiving a 20-barrel conical fermenter, Kramer and Grobart are anticipating more storage space, as well. It is an exciting development for a start-up brewery that initially used hand-me-down equipment from Hair of the Dog Brewery and the now-defunct Tucks Brewery.

Along with more space for brewing, the new location – which is across the street from Ambacht's original location – will boast a separate tasting room with seating for 16 people.

"We plan to have four taps at the bar – but we'll also pour from the bottles," said Kramer. That will allow customers to enjoy the Ambacht brew of their choosing as opposed to "whatever we have open," said Grobart. The new space it also boast a "real office," a bathroom and an additional 1,200 square feet. While expansion has always been in the Ambacht business plan, Kramer said it was important to start small. "[We] had to get the kinks out before expanding," said Kramer, who also hopes that with the increased production the brewery will become more profitable.



Tom Kramer and Brandy Grobart

The brewery offers limited tasting hours for now. People who are interested in stopping by for a taste and tour can check the website or call for an appointment. A "grand opening" for the new location, the new tasting room and brewery will "probably be around Sukkot," according to Kramer, who added "after the 2013 Matzobraü is finished."

At that time the brewery plans to serve its Farmhouse Golden Ale, as well as some of its more distinct offerings such as the award-wining Golden Rose Ale and other styles.

Until then thirsty customers can find Ambacht ales at New Seasons, the Beaverton Farmer's Market, at most larger bottle shops, and on tap at Milo's City Cafe and Panache in Newport.

Gabriel Erbs is features editor for New Voices, America's only national magazine written and published by and for Jewish college students. He was the founding editor of the Global Jewish Voice blog, a project of New Voices, the American Jewish Committee and the World Union of Jewish Students.

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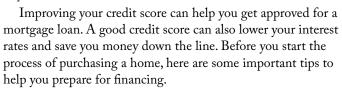
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# MONEY MATTERS

## Good credit scores can expand your home loan options

#### By Lance VanSooy

As the weather warms and the days grow longer, many Oregon residents are venturing out to explore new terrain on the path to home ownership. If you're considering buying or refinancing a home, there has simply never been a better time. Low interest rates provide a unique and timely opportunity to save money on your mortgage, and encouraging economic signs are paving the way for an increase in Oregon home sales. It's a good time to start planning so you can make the most of your investment.



The first step is to sit down with your banker to discuss your goals and options for home financing. You should feel comfortable asking for a personal consultation with someone on your bank team to get you started. Below are some suggestions to consider and discuss.

#### 1. MAKE LOAN AND OTHER DEBT PAYMENTS ON TIME:

Delinquencies on loan or credit card payments can reduce your credit score, which can in turn impact your approval status and the interest rate you could receive on a new mortgage loan.

2. CREDIT CARDS: Reduce your credit card balances, if possible, to less than 50% of your card limit.

#### 3. ANTICIPATE FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE:

Secure your mortgage financing first. Credit inquiries that occur due to applications for credit card, auto loans or other financing can impact your credit score, especially if they are in the months prior to a mortgage application.

4. DOWN PAYMENTS: Save as much as possible so you can make as large a down payment as you are able. Keep your savings in a stable, secure account that provides you reasonable rates of return without potential volatility. Automatic transfers or payroll deductions are helpful to grow your savings. Remember, your down payment will reduce the amount you owe on your mortgage while also reflecting well on your application.



5. UPCOMING PURCHASES: Try not to make major purchases prior to or during the home loan process. Large purchases like a car, furniture and appliances can impact your savings and your qualification ratios. While going through the home loan process, the asset balances you disclose on your application should not decrease, unless it is recommended that you do so.

6. EMPLOYMENT: Before changing jobs, inquire about the impact the change may have on the approval of your mortgage. A verification of employment with your current employer is required prior to funding a loan. Stability of employment is important.

#### 7. CLOSING OR CHANGING BANK ACCOUNTS:

Let your lender know if you anticipate or have significant changes either in or out of any of

your bank accounts that will reflect differently than what appears on your loan application.

8. ASK QUESTIONS: Your lender is there to help and work with you to make your home loan experience positive and successful. Don't hesitate to ask questions or ask for explanations of their programs. There are a large variety of home loan programs to meet the needs of borrowers. It is important that you understand the programs and process, and that you work together to deliver the loan that best fits your individual needs.

Buying a home is one of the biggest investments you will make in your lifetime, so you want to be prepared. In addition to getting your finances in order, you might consider taking a home buyer class to learn how the process works. There are HUD-certified home buyer education programs and agencies that offer workshops, coaching and down-payment assistance for first-time home buyers. HomeSmartOregon.org is a good place to start.

Bank of the Cascades has pledged \$1 billion in credit and loans to support the communities we serve. Our goal is to work with our neighbors to strengthen local economies. Helping residents prepare for and purchase homes is one way we can help make that happen. We invite you to call our Mortgage Center at 541-385-9933 or toll free at 877-385-9933, if you have questions about home financing. We would be happy to talk with you.

Lance VanSooy is vice president and Mortgage Center sales manager for Bank of the Cascades in Oregon and Idaho. He has worked in the mortgage industry since 1985 and served Bank of the Cascades customers for more than 22 years.

# **Portland Jewish Film Festival** ramps up for 21<sup>st</sup> year of enriching community



#### By Deborah Moon

From its origins as a five-film weekend at the coast, the Portland Jewish Film Festival has grown into a two-week festival of 16 films that annually attracts thousands of Jewish and non-Jewish filmgoers.

The 21st annual PJFF is presented by the Northwest Film Center in partnership with the Institute of Judaic Studies June 16-30. This year's festival includes films from seven countries designed to appeal to a wide range of interests. All screenings will be at NWFC's Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park. (See schedule pages 36-37.)

"We screened over 200 films, which we rated as to quality and efficacy for PJFF," says IJS film festival chair Hal Nevis. "Looking at the list of films, I can say that what is most exciting about it is the wide scope of themes and the 'unfamiliar territory' they cover." He is particularly enthused about: "The Ballad of Weeping Spring," which he calls an amazing film that combines music, (classic instruments) with troubadours, a flavor of the wild west and drama; "Life in Stills," a good documentary about a documentarian; "The World Is Funny," an excellent example of Israeli humor; and "Let's Dance," a nice look at the history of Israeli dance.

Joan Sher, former IJS film chair who now assists Nevis in screening and recommending films to the NWFC, is likewise stoked by the films selected for this year's festival.



"I am very excited with this year's lineup, as we have a varied selection of documentaries and narrative features," says Sher. "We also will be showing shorts from the Ma'aleh film school in Jerusalem. I was so impressed when I saw the work of their students and the wide range of controversial subjects that they dealt with; especially interesting to me were the number of talented women filmmakers, many of whom were Orthodox women."

Sher says the Orthodox film school shorts "deal with arranged marriage, women's roles, service in Israeli Defense Forces, settlements, security check points ... the same issues that many of us are concerned about in Israel, but from their perspective as Orthodox, even Hassidic, Jews."

An Orthodox woman also created the opening night film, "Fill the Void," an empathic, positive view of a religious community (see following story).

NWFC Executive Director Bill Foster saw "Fill the Void" at the Toronto Film Festival last September. He calls it, "A wonderful film about an Orthodox Hassidic family in Tel Aviv wrestling with the modern world – at once very Jewish, but universal. It was this year's Israeli submission for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar – a great opening night film for PJFF." The film will screen on Sunday, June 16, and will be preceded by a reception for pass holders and sponsors.

And speaking of pass holders, that is another attractive feature of the festival.

"The price of a pass remains at only \$85. With this unlimited pass, one can see 16 films, which makes the price of each film about \$5," says Sher, who frequently attends Jewish and international film festivals in other cities with her husband, Paul. "We pay far more than that when we attend film festivals in other parts of the country. I think Portlanders are very lucky to have this opportunity." Foster notes that the film center bases its final decisions on the lineup by balancing whether a film fits best into the PJFF or one of NWFC's other festivals such as the International Film Festival, Reel Music or Voices in Action: Human Rights on Film.

"From the center's point of view, we want excellent films that while they speak to Jewish culture and experience, tell more universal stories that can also speak to a non-Jewish audience," says Foster. "Films that are good enough that they play in any context, not just a narrow, subject-driven Jewish film festival."

That goal fits well with what IJS founder, Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, envisioned when he created the festival. "It's really accomplished what I hoped it would," he says. "A high percentage of attendees are non-Jews, which means we are able to provide an understanding of Jewish issues through film that they wouldn't get any other way." He says Jewish attendees also gain new insights thanks to the festival's selection of films from numerous countries, perspectives and experiences.

Marcia Starr, who attended the first coastal film weekend organized by Gloria Olds more than two decades ago, took over as chair of the coastal weekend for subsequent years. "We offered a weekend package that included the films, lodging and food, or portions thereof. From the get-go, people were happy to have a Jewish Film Festival and seemed to accept a less than optimal situation," she says, noting that films were projected on a wall at the motel.

"When the film festival came to Portland, it was thrilling," says Starr – a sentiment that seems to continue to prevail as the PJFF heads into its 21st season.

"We want excellent films that while they speak to Jewish culture and experience, tell more universal stories that can also speak to a non-Jewish audience." - Bill Foster





By Michael Fox

Israeli filmmaker Rama Burshtein's gripping debut, "Fill the Void," focuses on the quietly dramatic domestic lives of religious Jews in Israel.

Even more unusual, however, is that the director is a member of that community, an observant Jew – and, as you probably discerned, a woman.

Born in New York and a selfdescribed "wild child" back in the day, Burshtein became religious while she was studying at the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem. The deeply empathic "Fill the Void," she emphasizes in an interview after the film screened in the San Francisco International Film Festival in May, wasn't made for her community, but for everyone else.

"It's you that doesn't know about us," Burshtein explains. "I did the film out of pain, that we're portrayed only [by] outsiders. No one from within really portrays us, and we have no culture voice in the world, which is crazy because we're 3,000 years old and we're very wise and we're very open-minded, and it's crazy that we don't have a voice. So I made a little squeak, trying to say something from within."

"Fill the Void," which Burshtein calls "a crazy love story" and a journey "from the impossible to the only possibility," is the opening night film in the Portland Jewish Film Festival. The film revolves around Shira (Hadas Yaron, who received the Best Actress prize at the Venice Film Festival), a teenager whose marriage plans are upended when her pregnant older sister dies, leaving a widower and a newborn.

Torn between her dreams and a sense of responsibility to her parents, Shira grapples with the strange, alluring and vaguely frightening prospect of marrying her brother-in-law. Unlike most films set among traditional, cloistered and religious people, the parents and rabbi aren't depicted as agents of repression and suffering.

"I think it's like a secret in life, which of course I did not make up, that if you start seeing the world without villains, then dialogue can start," the 40-something filmmaker muses. "It's very childish to work with villains and good guys and bad guys. So I specifically went [about] opening the dialogue."

Misconceptions around arranged marriage are likewise addressed, with Shira having a definite say in who she marries. In the mysterious and amusing opening scene of "Fill the Void," she and her mother surreptitiously check out a potential prospect – proposed by a matchmaker – in a supermarket.

"This is like a true portrait," Burshtein declares. "This is how it works. Shira would probably meet the guy from the super,



## "It's really accomplished what I hoped it would."

– Rabbi Joshua Stampfer

and he's a good guy and she likes the way he looks, and they will marry and from that commitment they will build generations. She will sit with someone, and if it doesn't feel right, and it doesn't move her in any way, she will not marry him."

Burshtein evinces amazement that the film has traveled as far as it has, being selected last year as Israel's official submission for the Foreign Language Oscar and now receiving a national release in the United States. Above all, she's stunned at the range of ways in which the audiences interpret and respond to the characters.

"There's something very weird about this film," Burshtein confides. "I think if I had really meant it, I would be a genius. But because I'm not a genius, I didn't really mean it. I will not take that feather and put it on my hat because it's really weird. Everyone reads [the film] differently. But really differently. Someone will say this is a war movie, and someone will say it's a peace movie. This is a victims' movie, and someone will say it's a love story. Some think it's so tragic and some think it's so romantic. It's like opposites. I have no idea how it happened. I did not mean that. I meant to do a love story, only very delicate. The real location of the film is Shira's heart, and the journey is to understand what she feels."

Burshtein takes a breath, then acknowledges that her mode of storytelling inadvertently generates tension and mystery.

"[Her heart] is where everything happens. It's a house with rooms. Because she doesn't have the words for it, because I am crazy enough not to [include] a girlfriend so she would tell her what's going on, it's only up to you to decide."



"I think Portlanders are very lucky to have this opportunity."

– Joan Sher

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OREGON JEWISH LIFE | JUNE 2013 33

#### Albanian Muslims keep Holocaust-era "Promise" in terrific documentary

#### By Michael Fox

An important challenge for 21st-century documentary filmmakers is connecting the distant history of the Holocaust to today, and making it relevant for younger audiences.

More often than not, it's the children and grandchildren of survivors, rescuers and perpetrators who supply the necessary link between the past and the present.

In her riveting, revelatory and profound "Besa: The Promise," director Rachel Goslins depicts an Albanian man's extraordinary efforts to fulfill the vow his late father made to the Jewish couple he hid during the war. This marvelously crafted film, with a fine score by Philip Glass, simultaneously honors the broader efforts of the entire population to protect its Jews from the Nazis.

"Besa: The Promise" screens in the Portland Jewish Film Festival on June 25 at 7 pm.

These days, Albania is looked down on as the most backward province in Europe, but the country deserves a better rep. Just before Mussolini's troops invaded and drove him into exile, King Zog granted citizenship to every Jew living in Albania.

Following their beloved king's lead, and in keeping with their highly developed code of honor, the populace assumed the responsibility of sheltering its Jews. Some 70% of the Albanians who saved Jews were Muslim, and "Besa: The Promise" is intended in part as a rebuke of the conventional wisdom that Muslims and Jews are natural enemies.

Admittedly we're not talking large numbers of Jews, but every life and every act of conscience counts. That's the attitude of Norman Gershman, a tireless American who embarked a decade ago on a campaign to find, photograph and extol the Albanians who aided Jews.

"Besa: The Promise" artfully weaves the historical overview and the aging Gershman's solo crusade with the fascinating, nearly unbelievable persistence of an unassuming toy seller named Rexhep Hoxha. Born in 1950, he grew up hearing his father's story of hiding a Bulgarian Jewish couple and infant during the war.

When the family fled, they left three prayer books - treasured family items that would have betrayed their Jewishness if they were stopped en route - in their benefactor's care. He promised to return them after the war, but to his dismay he was never able to locate the family, nor did anyone show up to reclaim them. After his death, Rexhep inherited the "besa."

What gives the film its tension is the mysterious behavior of the Jews, whose inexplicable failure to seek out and thank their rescuers after the war (of greater importance, arguably, than recovering their property) contrasts with Rexhep Hoxha's unwavering, Internet-aided persistence.

The trail eventually leads to Israel, where we watch apprehensively to see if the people of the book will be embarrassingly and insultingly cavalier about Rexhep's remarkable commitment to return their precious books, or if they will match the singular character of the Albanian (and his son) we've come to admire.

Goslins, a lawyer-turned-filmmaker who graduated from UC Santa Cruz and is married to FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski, has made a terrific, galvanizing film. One wishes, though, that she hadn't gone all Ken Burns with slow zooms in on Gershman's mesmerizing black-and-white portraits, and had the faith in her audience to allow us to absorb the quiet power and beauty of his compositions.

That's the smallest of quibbles for a rare film that lets us spend an hour and a half awed by the best qualities of human beings and inspires us to manifest our own.  $\mathbf{Q}$ 



### Singer-songwriter Doc Pomus beats the blues

#### By Michael Fox

James Brown was Soul Brother #1. Surely Jerome Felder deserves an equally affectionate moniker.

Felder, who died in 1991, is better known as Doc Pomus, the stage name he adopted when he began singing in New York City blues clubs as a teenager. He's known primarily, however, for writing dozens of hit songs like "Save the Last Dance for Me," "This Magic Moment" and "Can't Get Used to Losing You."

Peter Miller and Will Hechter's marvelous documentary, "A.K.A. Doc Pomus," produced with Pomus's daughter, Sharyn Felder, summons the spirit of a remarkable talent and an extraordinary man. The film screens in the Portland Jewish Film Festival June 23 at 4:30 pm.

Felder grew up in Brooklyn in the 1920s and '30s amid prevalent anti-Semitism and the squeeze of the Great Depression. He had another disadvantage: Felder contracted polio and lost the use of his legs when he was 6.

"He's a person who has to deal with a world that's completely inhospitable to people with disabilities, and in many ways hostile," Miller said during an interview last summer, hours before the film's world premiere at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival.

"All of this, does it make him bitter?" Miller continues. "No, it makes him one





of the most humane and thoughtful and compassionate people that I've ever encountered. Doc Pomus is a mensch of the first order. He's a mensch who comes to that through challenges."

Imagine a Jewish teenager on crutches in the 1940s driven to haul up and down stairs to catch elevated trains to Harlem to sing the blues at African-American nightclubs. When he gravitated to songwriting, Pomus maintained his friendships with black artists like Joe Turner and Jimmy Scott, and added performers like Dion, Dr. John and Lou Reed to his circle.

Pomus's colorblindness hearkens to the heyday in black-Jewish relations. Miller observed, in his terrific previous doc, "Jews and Baseball," that Hank Greenberg was one of the first players to reach out to Jackie Robinson.

"I think that as Jews in America, we do understand what other people have gone through who have been discriminated against, who have been mistreated, who have not been welcomed, who've been considered outsiders," Miller asserts.

Even taking that into account, Miller is convinced that Pomus, who expended enormous energy in later years to procure gigs and unpaid royalties for Turner and Scott, was special.

"Does Doc come to his passion for social justice because he's Jewish? I'm sure that's part of it," Miller muses. "I think he comes to it because of all of the things that made him who he was, and I'm certain that a large part of that had to do with his Jewish background."

"I look at a story like Doc Pomus's and see someone who has so many lessons for the way we should live today."

## Israeli filmmaker traces evolution of "Law" in the Territories

By Michael Fox

Israel, like the United States, prides itself on being a nation of laws. But even the best intentions and the best minds can produce a system of imperfect justice.

In the wake of the Six-Day War, the Israeli government found itself in control of a little over a million additional Palestinians. An ad hoc legal structure was set up for the territories, evolving and expanding over the course of four decades.

"The Law in These Parts," the revelatory documentary by Israeli filmmaker Ra'anan Alexandrowicz, painstakingly traces this history through interviews with several retired Israeli military judges and prosecutors.

"The film wants to open up for discussion some very basic terms, like justice and law, the rule of law, all kinds of words that have to do with the democratic principles which Israelis believe in or think they believe in," Alexandrowicz said in an interview when the film played the S.F. International Film Festival last spring.

"The Law in These Parts," named Best Documentary at the 2011 Jerusalem Film Festival and winner of the World Cinema Jury Prize in Documentary at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, screens in the Portland Jewish Film Festival June 24 at 7 pm.

The articulate, unemotional and tough-minded former jurists who agreed to be interviewed by Alexandrowicz had to balance Israel's security needs with the rights of Palestinians under international law. The stakes were high if they erred, especially during times when suicide bombers were a pervasive threat.

But judges frequently had to take the word of army officials in ascertaining if a defendant was guilty, and weighing a sentence, because evidence was classified and witnesses were unavailable on grounds of national security.

"One of the things the film examines is what does security stand for exactly," says Alexandrowicz.

In conversation, he suggests a parallel between Israel's dilemma and the U.S. war on terror, which has had civil liberties' repercussions.

The filmmaker questions the legal framework, but he does not judge those who developed it over time.

"Those people are no different than me," Alexandrowicz says. "I cannot, no way, say that in their situation I would have done better."

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#### JUN 16 SUN 7 PM FILL THE VOID

ISRAEL 2012

DIRECTOR: RAMA BURSHTEIN

The winner of Israeli Academy Awards for Best Film and Best Actress, FILL THE VOID is a nuanced portrait of an Orthodox Hasidic family living in Tel Aviv. Eighteen-year-old Shira and her family are struck by tragedy when her older sister dies in childbirth. As her sister's husband is pressed to remarry, her mother makes a startling proposition. Torn between her heart's desire and religious and family obligation, Shira must decide her future. This year's Israeli submission for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar. (30 mins.)

#### FOLLOWED BY

#### THE RABBI'S DAUGHTER ISRAEL 2012

#### DIRECTOR:RACHELI WASSERMAN

Racheli Wasserman's telling of her and her three sisters' search for different paths than those of their parents. (33 mins.) Join us at 6 PM for a pre-film reception in the Portland Art Museum's Andrée Stevens Room.



#### JUN 17 MON 7 PM OMA AND BELLA Germany/US 2012

DIRECTOR: ALEXA KAROLINSKI

Oma and Bella are two friends who live together in Berlin. Having survived the Holocaust and subsequently staying in Germany after the war, Oma and Bella now remember their childhoods, maintain a bond with each other, and answer questions of heritage, memory, and identity by cooking sumptuous meals together. As the film follows them through their daily lives, a portrait emerges of two charming women with a great sense of humor, vivid stories, and a deep fondness for good food and friendship. (75 mins.) Sponsored by Zeitgeist Northwest.

#### PRECEDED BY

#### BARRIERS ISRAEL 2011

DIRECTOR: GOLAN RISE

A short drama which follows two young officers at a checkpoint confronted by two women from a "Watch" organization intent on disruption. (22 mins.)

#### JUN 18 TUES 7 PM Melting Away Israel 2011

DIRECTOR: DORON ERAN

The first Israeli feature film to address the issues of transgendered people and their families, MELTING AWAY follows a family drawn into crisis when the parents learn that their son is a secret crossdresser. Years later, as the father is dying, his wife tracks down their estranged son, only to find a lovely woman. How will everyone cope? MELTING AWAY is a heartfelt, moving drama of family, love, and understanding. Winner of the Audience Award at the Boston Jewish Film Festival. (86 mins.) Mature subject matter.

FOLLOWED BY THE DIVIDE

ISRAEL 2012

Director: Tzvi Yehuda Herling A young army officer must choose between his ideals and the reality that his family's home in a settlement near Nablus is slated to be destroyed by the military. (20 mins.)



#### JUN 19 WED 7 PM HAVA NAGILA US/UKRAINE/ISRAEL 2012

DIRECTOR: ROBERTA GROSSMAN

One hundred and fifty years of Jewish history and culture come to life in this joyous exploration of the famous tune that represents both Jewish kitsch and continuity, "Hava Nagila." Grossman traces the roots of the song from its Eastern European Hasidic melody, through its journey to the kibbutzim of Palestine and the song's enormous popularity in America. Through lively film clips and interviews featuring such diverse personalities as Harry Belafonte, Larry David, Mel Brooks, Julie Andrews, Bob Dylan, and more, HAVA NAGILA offers a spirited and intelligent look at the shaping of postwar American Jewish identity. (75 mins.) Sponsored by Oregon Jewish Museum and Portland Chapter of Hadassah.

#### FOLLOWED BY

#### **CARRYING THE LIGHT**

UK 2012

#### DIRECTOR: GUY NATANEL

A London rabbi makes a spiritual journey on foot from the Frankfurt Synagogue in Germany, where his father was the rabbi before the Holocaust, back to London so the eternal light of one sacred place can light that of another. (56 mins.)



#### JUN 20 THURS 7 PM GYPSY DAVY US/Spain/Israel 2011

DIRECTOR: RACHEL LEAH JONES

When an American white boy with Alabama roots becomes a Spanish flamenco guitarist in Andalusian boots, what happens along the way and behind the scenes? GYPSY DAVY wryly tells the story of David Jones, stage name David Serva, through his five women and five children—one of whom is the director. After all, who knows the man who came and saw and conquered, "strumming their pain with his fingers," better than they? Part duel and part duet—between a guitar-wielding father and a camera-pointing daughter—Jones offers a personal and political portrait of a man, a family, and a generation. (96 mins.)

#### JUN 22 SAT 7 PM

#### THE BALLAD OF THE WEEPING SPRING ISRAEL 2012

DIRECTOR: BENNY TORATY

Torn apart by tragedy, a legendary band reunites to play an emotional final concert in THE BALLAD OF THE WEEPING SPRING, a stylized homage to Spaghetti Westerns, samurai epics, and South American mysticism, shot entirely in Israel but set in a mythical time and place. The film's story centers on the brooding Jossef Tawila, once the leader of a Mizrahi band, who lives a hermit-like existence in the wake of a terrible accident. In a series of quirky vignettes across stunning exotic locations, Tawila brings together his old musician buddies to grant the last wishes of a dying friend. Nominated for nine Israeli Academy Awards, with wins for Best Original Music, Best Original Soundtrack, Best Production Design, and Best Costume Design. (105 mins.)

#### FOLLOWED BY

STAND UP! ISRAEL 2011 Director: asi Tzobel Dudi, a distracted young yeshiva student, secretly dreams of being a

stand-up comic, but it's a secret that may have a price. (25 mins.)

#### JUN 23 SUN 4:30 PM A.K.A. DOC POMUS

DIRECTORS: PETER MILLER, WILLIAM HECHTER

Doc Pomus's dramatic life is one of American music's great untold stories, despite his being the only member of the Rock and Roll, Songwriters, and Blues Halls of Fame. Paralyzed with polio as a child, Brooklyn-born Jerome Felder reinvented himself first as a blues singer, renaming himself Doc Pomus, then emerged as one of the most brilliant songwriters of the early rock and roll era, writing "Save the Last Dance for Me," "This Magic Moment," and dozens of other hits for everyone from Ray Charles and Elvis to The Drifters and Marianne Faithfull. Packed with incomparable music and rare archival imagery, A.K.A. DOC POMUS features interviews with his collaborators and friends, including Ben E. King, Dion, Leiber and Stoller, and B.B. King. (98 mins.)



#### JUN 23 SUN 7 PM THE WORLD IS FUNNY ISRAEL 2012

**DIRECTOR: SHEMI ZARHIN** 

Blurring fantasy and reality into a multi-layered, tragicomic exploration of past traumas and catharsis, THE WORLD IS FUNNY is now Israel's alltime box office champion, earning a record-breaking IS Israeli Academy Award nominations. The central characters are estranged siblings who have endured childhood abandonment only to face new challenges in adulthood: a widow whose older son has just awakened from a lengthy coma; a radio producer and his terminally ill Russian girlfriend; and a travel agent whose daughter was killed in an army accident. As these narrative strands and diverse personalities comingle with countless others, what may seem unrelated will prove anything but. (122 mins.) Mature subject matter.



#### JUN 24 MON 7 PM THE LAW IN THESE PARTS ISRAEL/PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES 2011

DIRECTOR: RA'ANAN ALEXANDROWICZ

A Grand Jury Prize winner at the Sundance Film Festival, THE LAW IN THESE PARTS is an unflinching examination of Israel's contorted legal framework for governing Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and the complex moral and legal dilemmas therein. Since the 1967 war, inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been subjected to what was intended to be a temporary system of military rather than civilian justice, overseen by the Israeli Defense Forces. Alexandrowicz places now-retired judges, attorneys, and generals on a cinematic witness stand. Can a country sustain a prolonged military occupation without eroding its democratic values? Winner of the Best Documentary Award at the Jerusalem International Film Festival. (100 mins.) Sponsored by J Street Portland.

#### JUN 25 TUES 7 PM OUT IN THE DARK Israel/US 2012

#### DIRECTOR: MICHAEL MAYER

One night in Tel Aviv, Nimr, a Palestinian student, meets Roy, a young Israeli lawyer, and they fall in love. Being a gay Palestinian is not easy for Nimr, and despite Roy's efforts, Israel refuses to grant Nimr citizenship and a haven from his unaccepting family. Both young men are faced with difficult choices and sacrifices to ensure their love will prevail. (96 mins.) Mature subject matter. In Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles.

#### JUN 26 WED 7 PM BESA: THE PROMISE

DIRECTOR: RACHEL GOSLINS

During World War II, Albanian Muslims provided shelter for thousands of Jewish refugees from Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria. Invoking the ancient moral code of besa (a vow to care for anyone facing danger), many people in Albania including Muslims, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians sheltered, hid, and protected Jews from the occupying Germans. BESA addresses the broad history of the rescues by following two characters affected by the experience: Rexhep Hoxha, a Muslim Albanian storekeeper, and Norman H. Gershman, a Jewish-American photographer. Featuring Gershman's striking portraits, award-winning cinematography, and an original score by Philip Glass, BESA is "a story like no other."—Huffington Post. (90 mins.)



#### JUN 27 THURS 7 PM LET'S DANCE! Israel 2010

DIRECTOR: GABRIEL BIBLIOWICZ

This extraordinary window onto Israeli society explores how the need to move, shift, and be in constant motion has produced generations of great dancers and choreographers who have turned the country's modern dance community into an international success story. Through the works of leading choreographers Ohad Naharin, Rami Be'er, and Yasmeen Godder, the film delves into the exotic and vibrant world of Israeli dance culture to create a unique and surprising view of Israeli society and one of its most exciting and joyful aspects. (52mins.)

#### FOLLOWED BY JUN 27 THURS 8:15 PM LIFE IN STILLS ISRAEL/GERMANY 2011

DIRECTOR: TAMAR TAL

At the age of 96, Miriam Weissenstein never imagined that she would be facing a new chapter in her life. But when "The Photo House"—her late husband's life's work—was destined for demolition, she knew she needed help. Miriam and her grandson Ben join forces to save the shop and its nearly one million negatives that document Israel's defining moments. Winner of the Best Documentary Award at the Docaviv Film Festival. (60 mins.) In Hebrew and German with English subtitles.



#### JUN 29 SAT 8 PM The other son France 2012

DIRECTOR: LORRAINE LEVY

Joseph, an 18-year-old preparing to join the Israeli army for his mandatory military service, lives at home in Tel Aviv with his parents. A blood test for Joseph's military service reveals that he's not their biological son. During the Gulf War, Joseph was evacuated from a clinic along with another baby, and the pair was accidentally switched. While Palestinian Joseph went to Tel Aviv with the Silbergs, their actual Jewish son Yacine was brought to the West Bank by an Arab couple, Said and Leila. The revelation turns the lives of the two families upside down, forcing them to reassess their respective identities, values, and beliefs. (IO5 mins.)

#### JUN 30 SUN 4:30 PM Portrait of Wally

US/AUSTRIA 2012 Director: Andrew Shea

"Portrait of Wally," Egon Schiele's portrait of his mistress, Walburga ("Wally") Neuzil, is the pride of the Leopold Museum in Vienna. But for 13 years, the painting was locked up in New York, caught in a legal battle between the Austrian museum and the Jewish family from whom the Nazis seized the painting in 1939. Shea's film traces the history of this iconic image—from Schiele's gesture of affection toward his young lover, to the theft of the painting from Lea Bondi, a Jewish art dealer fleeing Vienna for her life; to the postwar confusion and subterfuge that evoke THE THIRD MAN; to the surprise resurfacing of "Wally" on loan to the Museum of Modern Art and the legal battle that followed. (90 mins.)

#### PRECEDED BY

#### **WOODY BEFORE ALLEN**

FRANCE/RUSSIA/USA/GERMANY 2011 Director: Masha Vasyukova

An adventurous meditation on past and present: two former Konigsbergs – a man and a city that no longer use the same name, one a Russian city which was renamed Kaliningrad, another a film director who changed his name to Allen. (14 mins.)

#### JUN 30 SUN 7 PM POLICEMAN ISRAEL 2011

DIRECTOR: NADAV LAPID

"A boldly conceived drama pivoting on the initially unrelated activities of an elite anti-terrorist police unit and some wealthy young anarchists, POLICEMAN is a striking and controversial debut feature from writerdirector Nadav Lapid. Provocatively timely in light of recent unrest tied to social and economic inequities in Israel, this is a powerfully physical film in its depiction of the muscular, borderline sensual way the macho cops relate to one another, as well as for the emphatic style with which the opposing societal forces are contrasted and finally pitted against one another. Although the youthful revolutionaries come off as petulant and spoiled, their point about the growing gap between the Israeli haves and have-nots cannot be ignored, even by the policemen sent on a rare mission to engage their fellow countrymen. (IO5 mins.)

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## Fowler/Levin Prize enables playwright to explore friendship



#### By Elizabeth Schwartz

There's been a lot of news about women in the military recently, particularly women who have experienced sexual assault. But that's not what inspired playwright Andrea Stolowitz to write Ithaka, her newest play, which won the newly established Fowler/Levin Prize and is being produced by Artists Repertory Theatre this month.

Ithaka centers on Lanie, a Marine who served in Afghanistan, and her subsequent re-entry into civilian life. The play follows Lanie's emotional journey through the American landscape, as she is forced to either face her demons or be consumed by them. Stolowitz describes the play as an exploration of "the intensity of human connections in a war zone and at home. [This is] a play for our times about war, friendships, guilt, being human and staying alive."

Stolowitz, whose plays have been produced in New York, Connecticut, Los Angeles and San Diego, as well as Portland, describes Ithaka as the story of the dissolution of a friendship. "I'm 40 now and I'm no longer friends with some folks I knew when I was 20," she explains. "Why in one time and place is someone important to you, and then why does that bond go away in another time and place? That's what interested me."

Stolowitz conducted extensive interviews with approximately 20 female veterans and their families at the Portland Veterans

Center. "I was afraid I wouldn't be able to tell the story well, because I didn't know anything about the military," she explains. "At first I was worried that the veterans would say I didn't have the right to tell the story, but they didn't feel that way at all. Everybody was so open and sharing that I realized I had to write about it. One person said, 'Anytime these stories are put out into the public sphere, it's a success."

"There's this big divide between people who've experienced war and people who haven't, and that divide doesn't have to be there," Stolowitz continues. "We have this feeling as civilians that we can't possibly understand war, that we have no business asking about it. And then these other folks who've experienced it have no way to integrate their experiences into civilian life." The women Stolowitz interviewed told her how difficult it was

#### WORLD PREMIERE

WHAT: ITHAKA, by Andrea Stolowitz

- WHEN: May 28 June 30: Tuesdays-Sundays at 7:30 pm; Sundays at 2 pm
- WHERE: Morrison Stage, Artist Rep Theatre, 1515 SW Morrison St., Portland.

TICKETS: 503-241-1278; artistsrep.org

to return from war and instantly shed their military identity as officers and combat veterans. "Suddenly they had to be a woman fulfilling a role. How should they dress, be, act; these are very different gender stereotypes in civilian and military life."

"I gave the soldiers a lot of rein to direct the interviews, and they took it to some pretty dark places. All the women I spoke to said the military is an unfriendly place for women, but promotions and pay scales are more equitable. All of these women were clear that you have to stand up for yourself in the military, that it's a sexist place to be and that contributes to PTSD. These women feel alienated from their own military units, simply because there aren't as many women there to share their experiences."That feeling of alienation and isolation contributes to the friendship that is the focus of Ithaka, and to its eventual disintegration.

Reviewers have noted Stolowitz's attraction to challenging themes in her other plays, and she agrees. "I'm drawn to difficult subject matter, because those are questions I'm actively examining," she says. "I tend to write about transformative experiences that characters can use to change or grow. Death is one subject I ruminate on; it has become prominent in my work. People in my life are beginning to die, and that makes me ask the big questions: What am I doing here? Can't we all get along?"

For Stolowitz, the best thing about Ithaka winning the Fowler/Levin Prize is that her play gets produced. "It's hard to produce new plays because they don't make money, and even nonprofit theaters have to bring in enough revenue to keep their doors open," she explains. "Since there's so little subsidy for the arts, plays have to be commercially viable in order to get produced. The reason I write plays is to have the live experience with the audience. It's awful to write a play and have it win lots of awards and then not see it staged."

In a press release from ART, Producing Artistic Director Allen Nause says, "We are grateful to Stephanie Fowler and Irving Levin for supporting Artists Rep's longstanding commitment to new work with their tremendously generous gift."

Levin and Fowler are members of Congregation Beth Israel. Levin is CEO and chairman of Genesis Financial Solutions and chairman of Digital Divide Data. Fowler is an award-winning journalist and psychotherapist.

Stolowitz also recently received a Fulbright scholarship to work in Berlin, where she'll write her first play about Jewish identity. "All I can say is that Judaism 100% fits into my identity, but I can't say how, exactly," she explains. Her mother's side of the family escaped Germany in the late 1930s. "They were mostly secular Jews in Europe, but they felt strongly about not forgetting the Holocaust," says Stolowitz. "I never figured out how to be Jewish when I was growing up, because I was always dealing with the Holocaust rather than Judaism in and of itself." Stolowitz also acknowledges that her penchant for asking questions is inherently Jewish, as is her sense of humor. "The humor in my plays comes from being Jewish. Having a history of terrible things happening and always facing death means you have to laugh at it."

Elizabeth Schwartz is a Portland freelance writer and co-host of KBOO's Yiddish Hour.

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## Thursday, June 13 4:00 pm

**Cedar Sinai Park - Zidell Chapel** 6125 SW Boundary, Portland

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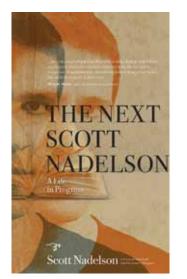


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# Summer is a great time to stretch out in the grass with a good book



The Next Scott Nadelson, A Life in Progress by Scott Nadelson, © 2013, Hawthorne Books & Literary Arts, Portland, \$16.95, original paperback

#### Nadelson cooly weaves loss and grief into hope and transformation By Paul Haist

After the 2004 publication of his first collection of short stories, Oregon writer Scott Nadelson, a New Jersey native, still questioned whether he would ever do something worthwhile.

No matter that his first book, Saving Stanley, won the Oregon Book Award and two coveted national awards.

The sense of achievement and satisfaction that should have accompanied one's first book was tainted – perhaps obliterated – by his fiancé having left him for a woman a week before the book's publication, just a month before their wedding day.

Jami Attenberg. Photo by Michael Sharkey

"I was left reeling and broke, living in a furnished attic apartment whose ceiling was infested with squirrels. Not long after, my car's brakes went out, and I discovered my cat was dying," he writes in his latest book, his fourth, a memoir he calls *The Next Scott Nadelson, A Life in Progress*.

The above passage reminded me of the James Kirkwood Jr. play/novel/movie *P.S. Your Cat is Dead*, which features a dying cat and the eventual transformation of a man who has just been dumped by his longtime girlfriend and who otherwise finds his life hopeless.

But any similarity between Kirkwood's and Nadelson's stories ends with those coincidences.

Nadelson's story of his years in Portland immediately after the disintegration of what he thought his life would be is a chronicle of and meditation on loss, grief, regret, despair, hope and eventual transformation – but don't let that scare you away. It all seems written to a cool score by Townes Van Zandt and is a book that is hard to put aside.

Nadelson explores his own character and experience with the same incisive sensitivity that made so vivid the many and diverse characters in his three collections of short stories.

Philip Roth usually comes to mind when I read Nadelson. Maybe it's the two writers' New Jersey connection or that there is something vaguely alike in the studied gravitas of their author photos. Or maybe it's that Nadelson riffs on Roth in the memoir.

I mention the Roth comparison because I think Nadelson is better compared with another writer, not Jewish.

With Nadelson's help, I suggest Ivan Turgenev, whom Nadelson mentions in his memoir, as a foremost candidate for a helpful insight into Nadelson.

Nadelson especially admires Turgenev's facility and proclivity for creating drama in which the central conflict is internal, within oneself. (See Nadelson's online American Literary Review essay "Don't Look Now: The Drama of Seeing," english.unt.edu/alr/nadelson. html).

Good examples of internal conflict are found in Turgenev's novella *First Love* and more clearly, for me, in his short story, "Meeting," which left me astonished by its method's deceptive simplicity. Nadelson sheds light on this technique and these works in his memoir, which is largely about internal conflict.

Turgenev may be a model for Nadelson, who shares the master's Russian heritage, but Nadelson makes what he likes about Turgenev into something of his own.

Nadelson is a pleasure to read. I like his wry wit, irony and his gift for deep reflection and introspection. He is modest and candidly intimate and seems, like Turgenev, a meticulous craftsman who seeks and occasionally finds the sublime.

Readers of *The Next Scott Nadelson* may often see and hear themselves in the book's central character and exult over the rediscovery – however maddeningly ephemeral – of our potential for selfrealization, finding our authentic self – whatever that may be; I can't remember.

Reading Scott Nadelson makes me want to read more Turgenev, but only while I eagerly await the next Scott Nadelson.

Paul Haist outlives his usefulness day by day on the Oregon coast.

# By Elizabeth SchwartzWriter Jami Attenberg has discovered<br/>another way to revisit her past: capture it<br/>in words. Attenberg's most recent novel,

Author seeks to inspire family conversations with The Middlesteins

author Thomas Wolfe's posthumous novel, You Can't Go Home Again. The passage of time, the fixed nostalgia of our childhood memories, and our own emotional and mental evolution prevent us from returning to where we grew up, even if its physical location remains largely unchanged. Writer Jami Attenberg has discovered another way to revisit her past: capture it in words. Attenberg's most recent novel, *The Middlesteins*, is set in the Chicago suburbs where she was raised. It has taken Attenberg 20 years of distance, both physical and emotional, to return to Buffalo Grove, IL, but she manages it through her characters, a multigenerational Jewish



Jami Attenberg and The Middlesteins

Reception & Reading June 26 in the Pearl Room at Powell's City of Books, 1005 W Burnside St., Portland RECEPTION: 6:30-7:30 pm. No charge. Co-hosted by Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Reservations requested: 503-245-6219 READING: 7:30 pm. For more information about Attenberg, go to jamiattenberg.com.

40 JUNE 2013 | OREGON JEWISH LIFE

family struggling with the problems of aging parents, dysfunctional relationships, challenging family dynamics, obsessions, denial and, of course, food. Attenberg, who now lives in New York, will read from *The Middlesteins* at Powell's City of Books on Northwest 10<sup>th</sup> and Burnside, Wednesday, June 26.

"I'm interested in telling stories that express a notion of compassion," Attenberg declares. "I also like telling American stories. One review described me as 'embarrassingly American,' which I took as a compliment." Attenberg's humor, sympathy and razor-sharp realism illuminate her story of marriage, family and obsession. The dust jacket of *The Middlesteins* says the book "explores the hopes and heartbreaks of new and old love, the yearnings of Midwestern America, and our devastating, fascinating preoccupation with food."

Although the Middlesteins live in Attenberg's home burb, they are Attenberg's creation, not thinly disguised versions of Attenberg or her family. "The Middlesteins are characters. I have an understanding of who they are and their perspectives on the world are true to them, but I'm not any of them." At first Attenberg saw the book as an exploration of a place and a family rather than an overtly Jewish story. "When I was writing the book, I thought of it as a family drama, and I didn't plan to write a 'Jewish book,' " Attenberg explains. "I thought I wanted to write a family drama set in the suburbs of Chicago, but I never thought, 'I'm going to make them Jewish.' "

*The Middlesteins* embodies Midwestern perspectives, right down to family surname, while also tracing the different responses of one Jewish family to its faith. "Jewishness doesn't mean the same thing to everybody," says Attenberg. "For some of the characters Jewishness is very inherent, but one character has rejected it, while one accepts it blindly. They've all got different responses to it."

"They're sort of average people," Attenberg adds. "I think people who read the book will feel familiar with them, because they know people like them." Attenberg wants *The Middlesteins* to serve as a springboard for deeper conversations. "I want people to communicate better with family members about difficult subjects. When you see a family member in distress it's really hard. Sometimes it's too late and we don't have these conversations and that's unfortunate."

# Ruth Tenzer Feldman's *The Blue Thread* shows dedicated Jewish women continuing the tradition By Polina Olsen

Standing next to a life-sized image of Hadassah founder Henrietta Szold, author Ruth Tenzer Feldman brought the stories of past



generations of Jewish women to an audience that ranged from toddlers to octogenarians. Her latest book. The Blue Thread, which recently won the 2013 Oregon Book Award for Young Adult Literature, provided the perfect platform for Portland's historic and long-lasting Zionist group's Dor I' Dor (generation to generation) April 28 event held at Elephants Deli on Northwest 22nd Avenue.

The Blue Thread begins in 1912 Portland, and tells the story of teenager

continued next page

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Miriam Josefsohn's passion for the women's suffrage movement. A mysterious stranger named Serakh guides Miriam to her greatgrandmother's Jewish prayer shawl, which provides passage back to the ancient holy land when the daughters of Zelophehad became the first women to own property in the Bible. This inspires Miriam to control her own destiny and champion causes she believes in.

"I had written 10 books of nonfiction, and I wanted to lie," Feldman says. "One of my last books was on Calvin Coolidge. I was trying to learn a lot about him, but I kept thinking, 'suppose he did this instead?'

While the book's characters are fictional and the story magical, Feldman's research into early Portland Jewish life is meticulous. Upper-middle-class Miriam lives in the Northwest, attends Congregation Beth Israel and shops at Meier and Frank. Her father belongs to the Concordia Club, an elite organization for Jewish businessmen. Feldman writes about the South Portland neighborhood where Eastern European and Sephardic Jews made their home.

The Hadassah women were delighted to learn about the role Jews played in the Oregon suffrage movement, a subject Feldman stresses in her book. The Oregon campaign started in 1871 when Abigail Scott Duniway and Susan B. Anthony organized the State Equal Suffrage Association. In addition to serving as president of the National Council of Jewish Women-Portland Chapter, Josephine Mayer Hirsch founded the Portland Equal Suffrage League. "She named herself president and invited the most prominent people in the city to join for \$1 a year," Feldman says. "Her gatherings made the society page."



Hadassah board member, Tamar Boussi, addressed the group: "I met Ruth a year ago at the Jewish Book Club organizing event. She's an attorney, an editor and a dog lover. She writes about pivotal moments in history, public schools, presidential biographies and American wars. Her curiosity about the world is fascinating. Her new book, *The Blue Thread*, shows the strength of women and their ability to do what's right despite the consequences – like Henrietta Szold."

*The Blue Thread*, Ooligan Press, Portland, 2012, is available in local bookstores and online. For more information, visit ruthtenzerfeldman.com. For more information about Hadassah, visit portlandhadassah.org or call 503-244-6389.

## -Briefs-

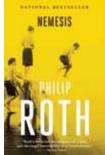
#### NW BOOK FESTIVAL

The Fifth Annual NW Book Festival will be 11 am to 5 pm, July 27, at Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland.

Book festival organizer Veronica Esagui grew up in Portugal as a minority among less than 20 Jewish families in a largely Catholic country, and came to the United States in 1962. She is the author of *Veronica's Diary, The Journey of Innocence*. Esagui says, "I'm hoping that ... this year we can have a better presence of Jewish authors and Jewish literature."

Applications from authors and writing organizations that would like to sign up for the festival are now being accepted. For more information, call 503-913-6006.

#### JEWISH BOOK MONTH SELECTION



The Portland Jewish Book Month committee has selected Philip Roth's book *Nemesis* for the November 2013 One Book, One Community program. This will be the third year the community has created a series of events centered around one book to celebrate Jewish Book Month. Take some time this summer reading Roth's 2010 book exploring the 1944 polio epidemic in New Jersey and how it affected the families in the close-knit area. *Nemesis* focuses on a young man who works at a city playground and is a hero to his young charges before he flees the epidemic to take a job at a rural summer camp. This short novel explores questions common in Roth's other recent novels: What kind of choices fatally shape a life? and, How

does the individual withstand the onslaught of circumstance?

#### RABBI STONE'S NEW BOOK



Portland Congregation Shir Tikvah Rabbi Ariel Stone draws readers along a life-changing journey into their very souls with her new book, *Because All is One*. Rediscover yourself with this postmodern Kabbalistic guide to integral spiritual life. Join the author in climbing the ancient ladder of the Sefirot, creating a meaningful relationship with God and integrating your life and identity. Explore the teachings of the Kabbalist sage Rabbi Joseph Gikatilla. *Because All Is One* reaches the deepest questions of spiritual life in the 21st century as it embraces the abundant wisdom of mystics and academics within a vast vision of ultimate unity. Derusha Publishing LLC: DerushaPublishing.com.

#### EUGENE MAN'S SECOND BOOK

# MERIBAH

through CreateSpace (Amazon.com) his second book, *Meribah*, a novel based on the Bible's *Book of Exodus*. A Huffington Post blog notes, "What's important is that *Meribah* is much more than a love story. It's a fascinating meditation on great questions of morality and religion, some first confronted by Judaism." Mokin's first book, *IRONCLAD: The Monitor & the Merrimack* was published by Presidio Press (Random House). For more information on the author and his books, visit arthurmokin.com.

Eugene resident Arthur Mokin recently self-published



Neveh Shalom Librarian Hilde Jacob, left, and library committee chair Martha Decherd enjoy sharing the city's largest synagogue library with the community. Behind the two is a new cozy reading corner where parents frequently sit and read or use the library's wi-fi while their children attend Sunday school classes at the Conservative synagogue. Photo by Deborah Moon

#### [ARTS/SUMMER READING]

# **Check out** Neveh Shalom's library

#### By Elizabeth Schwartz

Where is Prusice (formerly Prausnitz), Poland? When did the British withdraw from Palestine? Looking for a children's book about Passover? Need help finding a long-lost ancestor? The answer to all these questions and many more can be found in the Neveh Shalom Feldstein Library, one of the best-kept secrets in Jewish Portland.

Most of the larger synagogues in town have libraries, but Neveh Shalom's is by far the biggest with some 10,000 items, including an extensive collection of children's books. This valuable resource is available for use by the entire community, and library staff are eager to help everyone who walks through the doors.

Celebrate Summer at **OJM's Annual Meeting** JUNE 19 11:45am at the Multnomah Athletic Club

Guest Speaker: Prof. Natan Meir, the Lorry I. Lokey Associate Professor of Judaic Studies at PSU.

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#### "Our collection has a depth that other libraries probably don't, partly because it's been around a long time and also because Hilde (Jacob) has worked hard to build it up."-Martha Decherd, library committee chair

Neveh Shalom's library precedes the creation of Neveh Shalom itself; the library was part of Ahavai Sholom, which merged with Neveh Zedek in 1961 to create a new congregation. Librarian Hilde Jacob remembers, "My predecessor Becky Menashe ran the library at Ahavai Sholom, which was very small and used mainly by teachers preparing Sunday school classes. Becky supervised the library's move to the then newly built Neveh Shalom building, and I came on board in the 1980s after Becky stepped down." Libraries are Jacob' second home; she has worked in several since her high school days, although her college degree is in chemistry. "I learned how to run a library by osmosis," she jokes.

Jacob shares library duties with Martha Decherd, chair of NS's library committee. Three years ago, when

Decherd retired from her job as librarian at David Douglas High School, Neveh's executive director, Fred Rothstein, invited her to get involved with the synagogue library. "Since then, I've been the chair of the library committee and chief volunteer," says Decherd, who supervises the automation of the library's everexpanding catalog. "Our collection has a depth that other libraries probably don't, partly because it's been around a long time and also because Hilde has worked hard to build it up." The library's catalog is available to browse online at library.nevehshalom.org, and Decherd updates it weekly.

Jacob is particularly proud of the library's children's section. "We have the largest collection of children's books for all ages, from board books that young kids chew on to books b'nai mitzvah

students use to understand the parsha of the week." Neveh Shalom also houses the Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon's materials, which are available for everyone to use on site.

Members of Neveh Shalom and anyone taking a class sponsored by the synagogue can check out materials at no cost. Other Jewish institutions in Portland can purchase institutional memberships to Neveh's library for \$180, while individuals not otherwise affiliated with NS can pay a one-time-only fee of \$36. "We hope the institutional membership will increase our visibility in the community," says Decherd. Individuals can check out up to three items at a time, while families can borrow up to 10.

In addition to its children's holdings, the library houses a broad collection of materials on just about everything

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Jewish, including current Jewish fiction, non-fiction and magazines; complete sets of Talmud, Torah and Bibles in English as well as Hebrew; travel books, a large Holocaust section; Jewish philosophy; history; how-to holiday books and cookbooks. Neveh Shalom also owns a small but growing art and music collection.

The library recently added a reading corner furnished with comfortable chairs for people to sit and relax while they browse. "It's a quiet space to lounge, work, study and do research," says Decherd. "With the new furniture and our wi-fi connection, parents have begun to use the library to relax and read while their children are in classes." A small conference room, the Beit Midrash, can be reserved for meetings, classes and a variety of other purposes, Jacob adds.

During the school year, the library is open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 8:30 am to noon. The library is also open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 6 pm and Wednesdays from 4 to 8 pm. For summer hours call or visit nevehshalom.org. "We are always open by arrangement," says Jacob. "People can always call me to set up time for evening use or other times when the library isn't usually open."

Both Decherd and Jacob have longterm plans for increasing the library's presence in Portland's Jewish community. "We'd like to expand our children's programming and reach out to teachers and parents with specific children's activities, like storytelling and field trips," says Decherd. "School tours are open to all, and Hilde loves to show kids around the library."

As a member of the Association for Jewish Libraries, the Neveh Shalom library has access to information and materials from Jewish libraries around the country. "We'd like to build new partnerships with other synagogues, Jewish institutions and libraries," Decherd adds.

# Spring Science at The Gan







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To donate materials or funds, or to volunteer, contact Martha Decherd at Decherd@comcast.net or Hilde Jacob at hjacob@nevehshalom.org.



#### Festival succeeds in stirring minds and feeding hungry

#### By Amy R. Kaufman

All of Portland was the stage for the nation's first Food for Thought Festival, an ambitious event that fulfilled its promise. Launched on April 18, the four-day Jewish celebration and learning experience attracted 2,500 participants and raised more than 10 tons of food for the Oregon Food Bank.

On opening night, 600 people converged on Portland Art Museum to enjoy the combined wit of top comedians David Steinberg and David Javerbaum, moderated by Oregonian columnist David Sarasohn. It was a rare performance, and one fan was particularly thrilled. Mitch Rofsky said, "I remember seeing Steinberg in the late '60s on the Smothers Brothers and Johnny Carson's 'Tonight' show. He hasn't done much standup in the last 25 years because he's been focused on TV directing, so for Portland to get him was very special. And the Daily Show David was extremely sharp and every bit as interesting."

Portland embraced the idea of the festival: food for thought for people of diverse interests, each bringing food for people in need. Laura Golino de Lovato, OFB's director of development, said that when she arrived on opening night, "The thing that really struck me was the number of bags of food in the lobby. There must have been 40 bags of food, and a barrel that was overflowing. Usually, when it's an evening event that's a bit formal, people don't want to lug around a bag of food. We also received \$3,000 in cash donations."

"People were really, really generous, and we were thrilled," said Jean Kemp-Ware, OFB's public relations director. "During the festival, our people were coming back and saying the tables were overflowing. Ten tons is 20,000 pounds and close to 15,000 meals. That's going to help a lot of people."

In his keynote speech at the festival's "Limmud PDX" program, Stephen Trachtenberg seemed to refer to the very challenges that prompted the Food for Thought Festival. The prominent attorney and author, professor of public service and president emeritus of The George Washington University, described himself Food for Thought Festival opened April 18 at the Portland Art Museum with a seriously funny conversation with legendary comedian David Steinberg (center) and Daily Show alum David Javerbaum (right) with The Oregonian's David Sarasohn asking the "tough" questions. Photo © LeeAnn Gauthier

as "a first-generation boy from Brooklyn, raised by parents who emigrated from Russia ... after the 1918 revolution."

Trachtenberg said Jewish institutions must recognize the changing needs of the Jewish community and "remember that Jewish organizations are in the business of consumer services; we aim to serve as many people as we can."

In contrast to the Jewish world of the last century, when "the most significant markers that defined participation in Jewish life were synagogue membership and donations to Jewish philanthropy," he said today's Jewish community is a "patchwork" of individuals who "find a personal, not a collective, avenue into Jewish experience."

To build community, Trachtenberg advised, "Change your vocabulary. Membership is a turnoff. Young

About 170 dancers participated in the Portland Israeli Folk Dance 40th Anniversary Celebration, which featured a full day of dance sessions including this party in the MJCC gym. Israeli folk dancing began in Portland in the 1960s at Reed College. In 1972 Marna Kleinman started dance classes and Ayalah at the MJCC. The current teachers and performers are ensuring the joyous Jewish tradition continues.



46 JUNE 2013 | OREGON JEWISH LIFE

people do not join – they do things, but they do not join. ... Organizations are working three times as hard just to keep even. You keep your program as a hub, but you think out of the box. You have to go to them. ... Remain flexible and pliable. ... Evolution and dissolution, changing course, can be not only healthy, but essential to survival."

Trachtenberg said, "It is imperative, in these changing, radical and destructive times that we hold tight to definitions of values and old traditions. You don't know change unless you understand what you're changing from. ..."

"I have long conversations with my sons about Judaism, which is different from yiddishkeit. I think to myself, 'They are Jewish, but they're not Yiddish.' ... A lot of the things I know, I know on the basis of personal knowledge, and many of the things they know on information and belief. So that when I talk Middle East politics with my children ... I talk about [Israel] because it's something I remember. ... My children have a different view of Israel. Less romantic, I think, and they judge it more harshly."

Trachtenberg said he will be leading 15 university presidents on a mission to Israel next month, and they plan to visit with political leaders and businessmen. "Because of my sons, I've insisted that the group also be exposed to Palestinian leaders and members of the Israeli-Palestinian community," he said. "And I think that that balance will make the entire trip, which is meant to make friends for Israel, a far more plausible and successful initiative."

Trachtenberg concluded, "I am overwhelmed at what I have had the blessing to witness today, to be allowed to participate in this community."

Then the audience dispersed to the program's 14 breakout sessions.

All day and into the night of April 20, more than 170 Israeli folk dancers rejoiced at the Portland Israeli Folk Dance 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. World-renowned choreographers, Elad Shtamer of Israel and Nona Malki of Vancouver, British Columbia, flew in for the event, according to Sue Wendel and her dance festival committee.

Gary Fox, an expert Israeli folk dancer in the Portland community since 2005, attended a special session in which Shtamer taught several of his own dances. "He gave a very moving explanation of a dance, Ilan, he created with words from the Talmud as a memorial for his father," said Fox. "Marna Kleinman, who started Israeli folk dancing at the MJCC in 1972, came in from Israel to participate. ... Dancers came from parts of Oregon, Seattle, Los Angeles, the Midwest, Israel and possibly other places."

There were many new faces in the audience at Jewish Theatre Collaborative's April 21 performance of "Naftali, Story Voyager on the Yiddish Sea," noted JTC Artistic Director Sacha Reich, who created the play. She said elementary schoolchildren learn about the shtetl, the old world and "humor as a survival tool" in this "entertaining introduction to the world of Yiddish through the stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer." That afternoon storytellers recounted the stories of beloved Yiddish writer Sholom Aleichem and "wonderful [klezmer] musicians played to a packed and delighted crowd" of 100, she said. "This was the kind of cultural vibrancy we'd like to see happen on the east side."

For Cheryl Tonkin, winner of JFGP's "Next Great Jewish Idea Contest" in 2011, the event was a dream come true. "The festival was truly all I hoped it would be," she said. "We achieved our goals of raising food and raising awareness. We created a tremendous amount of goodwill throughout the community, and we had a lot of fun doing it."

Marc Blattner, CEO and president of JFGP, said he was delighted by the diversity of the festival participants. "Jewish communal life is different today than it was in the past, and we want to be at the forefront of that," he said. "The festival has reinforced my belief that we're on the right path."

Ed Tonkin, presenting sponsor, and the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, leadership sponsor, headed a roster of more than 60 sponsors, partners and supporters, representing every sector of the Portland business community, individuals, institutions, and organizations. This extraordinary outpouring of support, together with advertising donated by four major media sponsors and the efforts of more than 150 volunteers, enabled festival presenter JFGP to fund events at little or no cost to the participants and to dedicate the power of community to a shared goal – ameliorating hunger in Oregon.

Amy R. Kaufman is a Portland journalist, book editor and publisher.



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Sunrise, Sunset: The day has come to get some sun!

#### By Elizabeth VanderVeer

Special Section

The fountain of youth includes inner health and wellness as well as outer health. Medicine is advancing at the speed of light, and it is hard to keep up on the latest recommended supplements, diet or food fad, and the best exercise regimen. What doesn't change over time is the fact that we all must age – at least chronologically. Optimal health is what we all seek, and everyone I know wants quality of life in their individual quantity of life.

One way to augment our health is to make sure we are replete in all of the essential vitamins, minerals and micronutrients. As science advances, we learn more and more about the crucial levels needed for peak health. In the last decade, researchers have learned a great deal about vitamin D and the role it plays in our overall health.

Vitamin D, often called the "sunshine vitamin," is a fatsoluble vitamin that can only be obtained via food; exposure to

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sunshine combined with healthy kidneys; and supplementation. In our sun-starved climate combined with an overall indoor lifestyle, it is nearly impossible to obtain the proper dose of vitamin D to maintain adequate levels from sunshine exposure alone. Likewise, virtually all of us will not consume enough vitamin D in our regular diet – for we would need to eat two large servings of fatty salmon or mackerel every day.

Vitamin D is an essential vitamin that must be taken by mouth or produced in our skin by direct sunlight. In the Northwest, we are severely vitamin D deficient. We have known for decades that low levels of vitamin D are associated with low bone density – or osteoporosis – and with poor dentition, hence the encouragement to "drink your milk." What has recently been elucidated is how low levels of Vitamin D can significantly impact many other diseases and medical conditions.

Vitamin D was discovered early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by a Nobel Prize-winning chemist who made the link between lower rates of problems with bones (rickets in children) and the consumption of certain fats. Soon after its discovery, vitamin D was added to milk and dairy products. Subsequent to that, all then-known diseases related to inadequate levels of vitamin D began to fall. Presently, vitamin D is recommended to all ages – including children – and most of us need supplementation to achieve the right levels of this vital vitamin.

Medical research shows a strong association between low levels of vitamin D and psoriasis, type I diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, muscle weakness, depression, flu, obesity and even certain types of cancer. It even appears that high levels of vitamin D can significantly slow the growth of breast cancer. Most physicians now routinely check a vitamin D level in our annual blood work, and make sure you know your numbers. I believe your vitamin D level is as critical to know as your cholesterol.

When asked "How high should my vitamin D level be?" I suggest maintaining your blood level at the high end of normal, not the low end. My patients often ask me how much vitamin D should I take, and how should I take it? I recommend a liquid or gel caps of "D3," the most bioavailable form of the vitamin, and have my patients take as much daily vitamin D as needed to optimize their levels.

I recommend that my patients get 10 minutes of daily, direct sunlight to their body as often as possible. Ironically, use of sunscreen can drastically diminish the production of vitamin D from exposure to UV light! So, it is important to leave some uncovered, exposed skin to soak up those rays. Of course, I recommend a zinc-based sunscreen for the face, neck, chest and hands.

So, a little sun really is good for you. Your doctor said so. **9** 

Elizabeth VanderVeer, M.D., is a board-certified internist and president/medical director at VanderVeer Center. A native Oregonian, she is a fourth-generation doctor who has dedicated her practice exclusively to aesthetics for many years and specializes in nonsurgical cosmetic medicine.





# Anti-Aging from the Inside Out

#### By Christie Winkelman

Want to age gracefully, but aren't sure what steps to take? As we get older the body goes through many changes; some we welcome, some we don't! Fortunately there are many ways to keep the body feeling and looking young naturally. As naturopathic physicians, we specialize in creating radiant health for our patients. One of the byproducts of health, along with high energy, good sleep quality, balanced moods and hormones, and optimal weight, is looking young for your age.

One major contributor to aging is hormonal balance. Hormones are responsible for almost every aspect of how our bodies function on a daily basis. Ensuring that they are balanced is essential to feeling young and healthy.

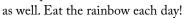
Cortisol, aka the "stress hormone," is the primary hormone responsible for your daily energy. It wakes us up in the morning feeling rested and refreshed. If we find ourselves wanting more sleep upon waking, or in an energy slump at 2-3 pm, cortisol is likely out of balance. Most people who are tired reach for that extra cup of coffee or sugary food, which in turn, drains our bodies of even more cortisol, causing the cycle to repeat. One way to start addressing this is to keep sleep and mealtimes consistent daily; nutritional and botanical therapies are also powerful in this arena.

In contrast, growth hormone is the opposite of cortisol, and is highest during sleep. It is needed for cellular (read skin!) repair and nightly detoxification of the body. High-quality, deep sleep every night is the answer! A good rule is to try to be in bed by 10 pm, as every hour of sleep before midnight is worth twice every hour after midnight. If you have insomnia, night waking or find yourself easily awoken from sleep, your cortisol and growth hormone levels may need rebalancing.

The sex hormones such as estrogen, testosterone and progesterone are a crucial part of the aging process. As we age the sex hormones decrease in production during menopause (women) and andropause (men), putting pressure on the adrenal glands, which make cortisol. If cortisol is out of balance before entering menopause or andropause, hot flashes, weight gain and libido changes may make an appearance. A high-quality daily B-complex vitamin is a start to providing better energy and balanced hormones. Saliva testing is the gold standard and is often indispensable to sorting out the puzzle of hormonal symptoms.

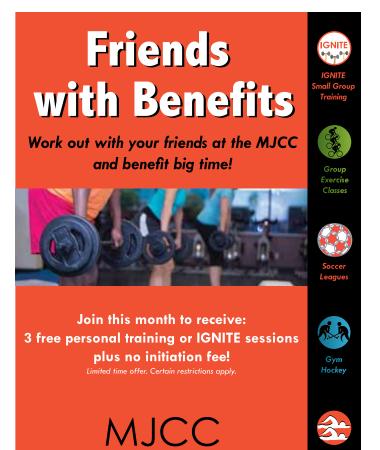
Another aspect of feeling young is skin, hair and nail health. Adding good fats to the diet is essential to the vitality of these tissues. We hear quite a bit about essential fatty acids (EFAs), but what exactly do they do? EFAs help support every tissue in the body by balancing inflammation in cells. This balance allows cells to repair, promoting strong hair and nails and younger, healthier looking skin. Iron and thyroid balance and certain nutrient deficiencies are also factors we consider with hair loss or prematurely aging skin.

Antioxidants are peerless; increase your color variety of fresh fruits and vegetables – not only for anti-aging effects, but for cancer prevention,

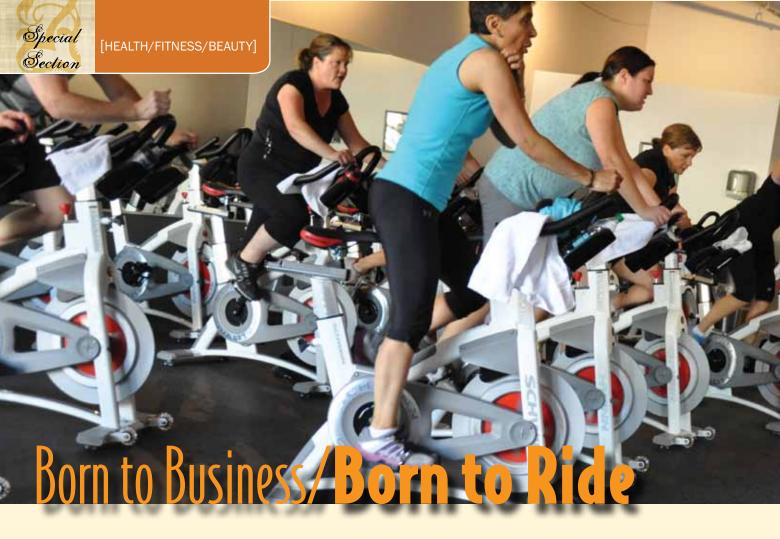


The recommendations in this article should be discussed with your doctor. A visit with a naturopathic physician will yield an individualized care plan to meet your specific health goals – so you can live your best life. 2

Dr. Christie Winkelman is the owner and director of Insights to Health Clinic in Multnomah Village (InsightsND.com), a four-doctor family naturopathic and neurofeedback clinic specializing in sustainable weight loss, chronic pain, depression, anxiety, insomnia, ADHD, fertility and hormone balancing. She and her husband, Gil, are members of Congregation Neveh Shalom, and their children attend Portland Jewish Academy.



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#### Story and photos by Deborah Moon

A new generation prompted lifelong athlete, Paula Garfinkle Reed, to begin teaching fitness classes, and previous generations inspired her to open her own gym – Born To Ride Cycle & Fitness.

When Paula's children were toddlers, she realized she could get paid to exercise if she was teaching classes while her children played in the local fitness center's kids club. As they moved into preschool at Neveh Shalom's Foundation School, Paula had more time and her fitness career evolved. She began training other instructors and managing programs. With daughters Kaela and Adrienne now 15 and 12 respectively, her attention turned to a familiar family path – owning a small business.

"We're an old Portland family," explains Paula's mother, Debbie Caldwell. "My grandfather, father and uncle owned men's clothing stores in downtown Portland. My grandmother, Paula Lauterstein, started the local Hadassah."

On the other side of the family, Paula's father and brother, Drs. Richard and Judah Garfinkle, are also small business owners – they own their own orthodontic practice in Hillsdale.

So April 6, Paula joined the family tradition and opened her own fitness studio where she offers spin classes and cycle bootcamps seven days a week. Monday to Friday there are classes morning, noon and evening, with morning classes on the weekends.

"Cycling is good on so many levels," says Paula, ticking off the benefits: low impact, easy on the joints, good way to recover from injury, excellent cardiovascular, builds strength in lower body and even strengthens the core.

"It's a great workout for every skill level," says Ray O'Bannon, who has been cycling on the road about 10 years and "mixes it up" with spin classes. "You can rock out and kick it too."

Sally Olsen, 61, says she was nervous about trying a spin class because she knows so little about cycling. "I didn't have to know anything about bikes or how to change gears," she says, adding she's been riding at Born to Ride about twice a week since it opened. "It's one of the best workouts I've ever had other than running, and Paula makes it fun. It's important to me to have a good time."

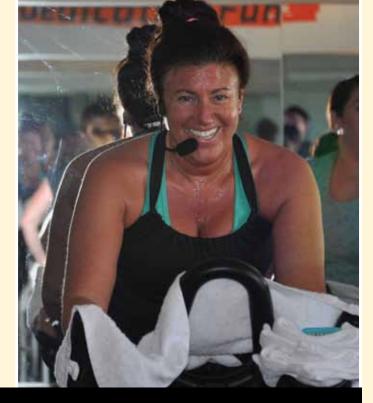
Paula says a lot of indoor cycling is driven by the music and camaraderie of the gym that builds a sense of community.

Community is important to Paula, and having left the corporate world, she says, "Now there's nobody to say 'no' to my ideas." She says she wants to offer fundraising and

Born to Ride: 8233 SW Cirrus Dr., Suite 16-J, Beaverton | 503-469-8444 | borntoridenw.com

team-building opportunities to groups, and has already offered spin time to members of the Candlelighters, who are training for Cycle Oregon as a fundraiser to support children with cancer.

She says her husband, Scott, is very supportive of her efforts and helps ensure their kids get to Wednesday Night School at Congregation Beth Israel, where Adrienne will follow in her sister's footsteps and become a bat mitzvah next year.



Paula Garfinkle Reed leads a spin class at her new business Born to Ride Cycle & Fitness. Pedals on the spin bikes at Born to Ride allow riders to use SPD bike shoes that clip in, or flip the pedal over and ride with tennis shoes and toe clip.

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#### "What does Jewish tradition say about our responsibility to take care of our body?"



RABBI YOSSI CHAITON

Chabad of Oregon, shaliach, associate rabbi Portland Jewish Academy, Hebrew and Jewish studies director

"Maintaining a healthy and sound body is among the ways of G-d," but just tell a friend of your plans and you will be inundated with good, helpful advice – most of it contradictory.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe, M.M. Schneerson,

emphasized the importance of one's emotional, mental and even spiritual wellbeing. Does the stress of a diet or exercise cancel out the perceived health benefits?

What should a person do?

In Mishneh Torah, Maimonides code of Jewish Law says, "The two extremes of each trait, which are at a distance from one another, do not reflect a proper path. The straight path involves discovering the midpoint of each and every trait that man possesses." This clearly indicates that the Torah advocates for a sensible and balanced approach to a healthy lifestyle – a diet and exercise plan balanced to take into consideration your overall wellbeing.

A person can find such balance by following the advice in Pirkei Avot, "Assume for yourself a master, acquire for yourself a friend." We each need a good friend or mentor, someone we respect and trust, someone who truly understands us and knows us well and has our overall wellbeing at heart. This person helps us implement a healthier lifestyle so we can "live long and prosper."



#### RABBI ALAN BERG

Beit Haverim, Reform Lake Oswego

Debbie Friedman created two fascinating modern musical settings for Jewish prayer, "The Angels Blessing" and "Mishebeirach." Each asks God for purpose and blessing for our bodies.

The opening three lines of the "Angels Blessing" speak poetically to our purpose in living:

"May our right hand bring us closer to our Godliness.

May our left hand give us strength to face each day.

And before us may our vision light our paths ahead."

These words explain our obligation to care for ourselves: Our bodies are God's vessels for mitzvot. Our hands are the hands of God, our eyes are God's eyes in the world. Our eyes re-enact God's first words "Let there be Light!"

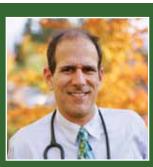
Debbie's "Mishebeirach" acknowledges another reality of our bodies: we can become ill, we are hungry, we hurt or we are emotionally at sea.

The first verse of the "Mishebeirach" calls upon us to avoid despair, to have the courage to push through suffering to continue to do mitzvoth: "Help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing."

The second verse asks God to heal us: "Bless those in need of healing with r'fuah sh'leimah, The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit."

Debbie Friedman was a modern prophet. Her eloquence about the physical reality of the human condition is unmatched.

Together these prayers can guide us toward the purpose of our physical selves and direct us toward healing when we are sick, hurt or lost.



Dr. Gil Winkelman, ND, MA

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# AMILY **PRACTICE** This doc specializes in variety



#### By Elizabeth Schwartz

In today's medical world, specializations dominate. Doctors aren't just doctors; they're endocrinologists, adolescent medicine specialists, neurologists, pulmonologists or even otolaryngologists (the fancy name for good ole' ear-nose-n-throat docs). But when was the last time you met a garden variety GP?

At Pacific Medical Group in Beaverton, family practitioners (formerly known as general practitioners or GPs) are front and center. The practice consists of three family doctors and one nurse practitioner. PMG's Beaverton clinic, one of five in the Portland metropolitan area, opened its doors in the early 1990s. Dr. Burton Silverman, one of its three doctors, joined the practice in 1999, after relocating from Houston. "I came to Portland for the weather," says Silverman. "No, really! I was tired of the heat and humidity and giant cockroaches."

Silverman sees a wide variety of patients, both adults and children. He performs annual checkups, diagnoses all kinds of ailments and also does minor outpatient surgery. Silverman is a pioneer in family medicine, and has spent more than 45 years, his entire career, as a family practice doctor. "I did one of the first family practice residencies, before the board certification was established in early 1970s," he says. Silverman was always interested in medicine; "I love knowing about the body, how we function and the explosion of information about how our bodies work," he explains. "I particularly like family medicine because of the additional in-depth interaction with the patients."

At PMG, the doctors focus on the whole patient, rather

PACIFIC MEDICAL GROUP 4510 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton | 503-644-1171 PacificMedicalGroup.com than a set of symptoms or ailments. Silverman explains, "The whole company has been involved with developing the concept of 'medical home.' This comes from federal recommendations for patients, who will be cared for with more group cooperation. It also anticipates the new national health care legislation, popularly known as Obamacare, which will take full effect in 2014. Multiple medical personnel are available to help the patient to coordinate their total care." Silverman adds that this approach reduces overall costs for both patients and the medical practice, while providing quality care. Patients can also continue to receive individual evaluations from specific doctors, as well as from their team of medical providers. "Group visits with patients are helpful, both for educational purposes and the coordination of methodology of care, particularly for diabetics or heart issues, which tend to have multiple symptoms in need of treatment," says Silverman.

Practicing medicine fits in well with Silverman's understanding of Jewish attitudes about life. "We live a good life as Jews because this is what we're here for; we're not preparing for some better afterlife after we die," he says. "That outlook pervades my approach to relating to people in a positive or helpful way. We're here. Life is good. Don't waste it."





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# **FASHIONISTA**

# Take cover this summer By Kira Brown

As summer creeps up and the cringe factor of donning a bathing suit for a poolside afternoon starts to badger the back of my mind, I realize that summer should not be just about stripping down. It should be about covering up, too.

Summer fun often means more time in the harsh summer sun, and at every age, it's prudent to protect our skin from its harmful rays. Covering up doesn't have to mean being frumpy or unstylish with a bright white zinc-painted nose! In fact, just the opposite can be true with some carefully chosen sun-blocking products that amplify your summer style.





#### WRAP IT UP

Swim covers are a must! My swimwear strategy is this: I purchase solid-colored suits when necessary (every few years usually) and invest in new covers each summer. Covers, stylish wraps and even swimsuit-covering jumpsuits can be worn by the pool and beach, for casual dining and even to summer barbecues and parties. And they make a great outfit to keep cool when lounging around the house on hot summer days.

Becca Swim, one of my favorite swimwear designers for bodies of all types and ages, offers adorable swim covers, wraps and jumpsuits to wrap it up this summer. beccaswim.com



#### BRIGHT EYES

One of my favorite summer pastimes is to catch up on the latest and classic books. But wearing contacts near the sand and fumbling with clunky readers or glasses isn't always the most fashionable or practical choice. But the sun readers by Eyebobs are both chic and sleek for beach or poolside reading with 100% UV protection for your precious eyes. Eyebobs, for both men and women, come in a wide selection of funky (not clunky!) frames and colors. eyebobs.com



#### THE ROOT OF SUN PROTECTION

One place that often gets missed when applying thick sunscreens or sprays is the top of our head! The scalp is a delicate area and is exposed to the sun a lot, even during the normal course of a day. MoniMay Sun Shadz and other powder-form products are a great way to protect your scalp while offering hair styling benefits, as well. Sun Shadz is the first sun protection blend that is patented specifically for the hair and scalp. It is the first all-natural, micronized mineral powder formula that offers a solution to greasy or alcohol-based sunscreens. Just a quick swipe of the powdery brush and that's it! Another great way to use a powder sun protectant is to brush it on your children's heads and faces before school or the beach, especially if they dislike sunscreen creams and sprays. monimay.com

#### HATS OFF TO SUMMER HATS

Or rather, hats on for summer for the entire family with a protective sun hat. Sun hats are a must and offer the delicate skin on your face, head and ears protection from the sun's harmful rays. Sun hats come in a wide variety of colors, fabrics and functions to mix and match with any summer outfit. What I look for in a sun hat is whether it's packable. Shopping on coolio.com, I look for hats that pack well, even just for my summer pool bag, so my hat will last and not crumple and bend.

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.



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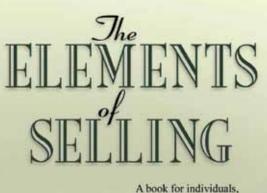
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# **Alan Zell**: Sharing a lifetime of selling **savvy**





businesses, and organizations

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By Liz Rabiner Lippoff

When my sweetie popped the question back in 1975, I was the first of my friends to get engaged, so I had no engagement playbook. Here's what I did know: you tell your family and friends, you get a ring, you pick a time and place, and then ... I had no idea.

Telling people in those days – long before Facebook! - meant a lot of phone calls. Check.

The ring? My father-in-law owned Morris Rogoway Jewelers in downtown Portland, where the Columbia Store now stands. Check.

"Pick a date and find a place." My husband grew up at Neveh Shalom, my dad golfed at Tualatin Country Club and our next vacation started the week of June 20. Check, check and check.

For the rest, though, being still pretty new to town, I relied on my Portland family and friends to steer me. They were quite clear: "Register at Zell's."

Register? Evidently engaged people get to pick out china, silver and glassware they love, register the wish list at a store, and family and friends then go there and buy them exactly what they want! Also evidently, "the" place to do that was Zell Bros Jewelers. I had so much to learn.

If the customer understands exactly why something is right for her and can then explain it to others, you have done a good job.

Founded in 1912 by Julius, Dan, Harry and Milton Zell, Zell's lived most of its life on the corner of Southwest Eighth and Morrison. Even though the Zell family sold the business in 1973 to Bailey, Banks and Biddle, the store retained its name and much of its management, its staff and, most important, its sales philosophy.

Alan Zell was one of the architects of that philosophy. He hung out in the store as a boy, worked there for years on the floor and, although I didn't know him at the time, he was the manager of all the stuff I'd be shopping for: anything that wasn't jewelry. Alan later became a sales consultant, lecturer and the author of The Elements of Selling, nineteen of them to be exact.

According to Alan, "Selling is asking someone to accept and adopt what you want them to do."To do this, Zell's was all about the customer's experience. The store must be beautifully arranged, every detail perfect. The staff must be attentive to each

customer and completely knowledgeable about the products and services.

It seemed gracious and effortless to my mother and me, but Alan says it was a science as well as an art. For example, it is the bride who is the customer because it will be her table and her home. "Seat the mother next to the sales clerk at the table," Alan says, and put the man, if he was brave enough to be there, to the side as well. That way the clerk is speaking primarily to the bride herself, explaining to her and gauging her reactions.

If the customer understands exactly why something is right for her and can then explain it to others, you have done a good job. He calls it "third party selling." If she is confident, she will go forth and spread Zell happiness. (My words, not his!)

At 82 Alan still keeps very busy. He attends Torah Study at Congregation Beth Israel, reads voraciously, works out at the MAC and enjoys his wife and children. But retire from selling? Not possible. He volunteers for SCORE, coaching small business owners in sales. He does occasional speeches and workshops. He still watches people and learns from them.

"We bought our china and glassware at Zell's," I reminisced during our interview. "I still love it."

He couldn't help himself. "What pattern did you pick?"

Liz Rabiner Lippoff is a Portland freelance writer and a medical marketing specialist at Liz, ink: LizInk.biz. Her china is Black Contessa by Gorham, and her crystal is Rhapsody by Orrefors, in smoke.



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Ellen Eisenberg photo by Sura Rubenstein

# **Ellen Eisenberg** selected for Jews of Oregon historic sequel

#### By Sura Rubenstein

Ellen Eisenberg, whose interests span everything from Jewish gauchos to Japanese internment, is excited about her newest project: writing about Oregon's Jewish community from the 1950s on.

Eisenberg, the Dwight and Margaret Lear professor of American history at Willamette University, has just been selected to write what could be called "the sequel" or a companion to Steve Lowenstein's landmark book, *The Jews of Oregon:* 1850-1950.

"I greatly value Steve's work, and I use it a lot in my own work," she says, pointing to a well-marked copy on her desk at the Salem campus. But whereas Lowenstein's work, published in 1988, had a sharp focus on Oregon, Eisenberg wants to make stronger connections linking developments in Oregon to a regional and national context.

"I want to look at how regional or national trends in the American Jewish community were experienced by Oregon Jews, and how broader western and Oregon developments shaped the community," she says. Of course she'll keep a focus on the Oregon Jewish community and local trends.

The general scope and themes of the book are clear: There's been a lot of change in both the Jewish community and the world since 1950, including everything from economics to migration patterns to the roles of women.

Eisenberg has already explored many of the topics she expects to cover in the course of researching various journal articles, speeches and several books, including as a co-author of *Jews of the Pacific Coast: Reinventing Community on America's*  *Edge*, published in 2009, and a forthcoming book, tentatively titled *Oregon's Jews*, to be published by Oregon State University Press, slated for the end of 2014.

The final chapter of *Oregon's Jews* focuses on the post-World War II period, and, as she noted in her proposal for the new book, "I would be able to move seamlessly from my current project to this one."

"We are really lucky to have a historian of Ellen's caliber take on this project," says Judy Margles, executive director of the Oregon Jewish Museum and a member of the selection committee. "The changes in the Jewish community since 1950 are extraordinary – and Ellen can give us a deeper understanding of how the West Coast Jewish experience is exemplified in the history of the Jews of Oregon."

This newest initiative in capturing Oregon Jewish history owes a tremendous debt to Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, rabbi emeritus of Congregation Neveh Shalom. Stampfer had encouraged Lowenstein to write the earlier book, and he organized a committee to see to it that recent history also got its due.

"I was inspired by Steve Lowenstein's book," Rabbi Stampfer says. "He did a superb job of placing before us an understanding of the early history of our community."

Stampfer, who came to Portland in 1953, believes the tremendous changes in the community since the 1950s – many of which he witnessed and in some cases helped effect – also need to be documented. "Especially right now," he adds, "when we can still talk to many of the people involved and get their stories."

Stampfer's committee interviewed prospective writers and decided on Eisenberg. The next steps will be to decide on a publisher and to raise the approximately \$50,000 needed for the first phase of the project.

"Ellen has done a lot of excellent work already," Stampfer says. "I'm really looking forward to this project."

Eisenberg, who moved to Oregon in 1990, has been a participant as well as a chronicler of recent Oregon Jewish history.

After receiving her doctorate in American history from the University of Pennsylvania, she and her husband, Ami Korsunsky, moved to Salem, where they quickly became involved with Temple Beth Sholom. Salem is where they raised their two sons, Alex, now 23, and Ben, who is graduating from South Salem High School this spring.

The couple met in Israel when Eisenberg was taking some time off from her studies. Korsunsky – whose grandfather had been one of the Jewish gauchos in Argentina that Eisenberg later wrote about – had made aliyah by himself at the age of 16. Today he teaches second grade in a Spanish immersion program at Salem's Grant Elementary School.

Eisenberg couldn't visit Oregon before taking the Willamette post because she was pregnant with her first son, but her parents – who had spent a year in Salem – assured her that it was a lovely place. Her father, Meyer "Mike" Eisenberg, had been a law clerk for William M. McCallister, chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, from 1959-67. Eisenberg gained a connection with Oregon Jewish history long before her arrival from her father's time in Oregon. Her father was among the group of young Jewish lawyers whom Gus Solomon, then the chief of the U.S. District Court in Oregon, would send out to interview at major Portland law firms – many of which then did not hire Jewish lawyers.

However, her parents returned to the East Coast, where her father worked for the federal government.

A native "East Coaster," Eisenberg immediately noted differences between the Oregon Jewish community and those on the East Coast. This wasn't just the greater informality of the West versus the East, but also differences in the immigration stories, the influence of the older "German" immigrants, the ethnic landscape and other areas.

"Communities in the East Coast were overwhelmed by the Eastern European immigration," she says. On the West Coast and in Oregon, the migration was slower because of time and expense, and the "established" Jewish community, generally

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German-Jewish, was not overwhelmed in the same way.

Many immigrants who came to Oregon and other West Coast states had already learned English and were merchants – perhaps peddlers, but still merchants. "There weren't the class tensions out West that there were back East," Eisenberg says.

And in terms of "the ethnic landscape": On the East Coast, there was more concern about Italian immigration; in the West, it was Chinese and Japanese immigration. "Jews out West were accepted as part of the white community," she says.

Eisenberg adds that there's been a growing interest in regional Jewish history, particularly in the West and the South. "For a long time, American Jewish history was bounded by the Hudson River," she says, referring to the New York/East Coast focus.

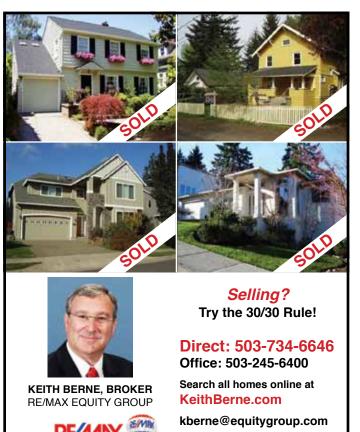
She expects to concentrate on the new project during her sabbatical, scheduled for the 2014-2015 school year. She wants the book to have a broad appeal: "I like to write books so that people enjoy reading them."

She's also looking forward, as she puts it, to "a new project and a new era."

Eisenberg, who is a fan of crossword puzzles, is especially looking forward to doing more research in, for her, unexplored territory.

"I like," she says, "putting the puzzle together."

For more information, or to make a contribution to the project, contact Rabbi Joshua Stampfer at 503-246-8831. Sura Rubenstein is a Portland freelance writer.



Outstanding Agents

IR

■ [ISRAEL]

The author samples vinegar in New York.

So maybe polemic is a bit of overkill. Is balsamic battle better?

Here's the thing ... my raison d'être for endorsing Israel as a culinary haven has always been the balsamic vinegar story. It goes something like this: "I came to this country 20 years ago and what a gastronomic wasteland! I had to drive to Tel Aviv, to the most expensive mall in the country, to an esoteric boutique grocery, in order to pay a fortune for a bottle of balsamic vinegar. But now? OMG - there are six different brands on my local grocery shelf! That's progress!"

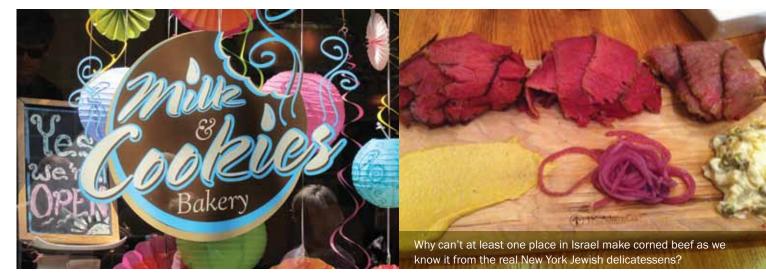
Forget it. I am so over that argument. I just came back from New York (my first and always homeland) where I participated in a food tour. You want balsamic? I'll give you balsamic! How about white balsamic vinegar with oregano for a start? And to think that we in the Levant could win this war. We can't even touch it!

Who knew gelato pops came in so many flavors?

Don't get me wrong - we do have great food in Israel. Really. Fresh, abundant and delicious. But can it compare to what I found in the New York? No!

My participation in the Foods of NY foodie tour, specifically "The Original Greenwich Village Food and Culture Walking Tour," (foodsofny.com) once again opened my eyes to how fabulous and varied the foods of New York can be. From pizza to cannolis and everything in between, I was in hog heaven (just an expression, no pork products eaten - I promise). I shlepped through the Village, learning and noshing all the way.

And besides that amazing food tour? Tons of fabulous restaurants, eateries, stop-in shops for quick bites. Oh my god - even a chopped salad place! Choose your ingredients and they chop it up before your eyes and scoop it all into a large plastic bowl and you're off. How about a charming grilled sandwich place





Sephrah (left) served up Famous Joe's Pizza hot and fresh.

that you can get almost anything you want smooshed between two pieces of bread, your choice of cheese added in and all that toasted to oozy deliciousness.

Can we talk desserts? I'm not complaining about what we have here, but c'mon guys – get creative. Practically every restaurant in Israel now has a version of the exploding, lava-like chocolate cake – warm chocolate cake that oozes out a chocolatey syrup as soon as you put your fork into it. Can we move on already? Give me a good old-fashioned chocolate layer cake with real chocolate buttercream any day over these ersatz creations.

And tell me please, why can't at least one place in Israel make pastrami the way it should be made? Corned beef as we know it from the real New York Jewish delicatessens? Don't think so.

So I guess I'll keep living in Israel, because I love it here, but will always consider New York the #1 place for food experiences.

## Israel celebrates Earth Day

#### By Natalie Nahome

In 1970 American Senator Gaylord Nelson called for a day of protest and learning on April 22, as a response to what he felt was a looming environmental catastrophe.

Over 20 million people participated in that event. This year on April 22 the world celebrated the 43<sup>rd</sup> "Earth Day."

Communities, governments, groups and organizations all over the world declared their concern toward planet Earth's well-being and called for awareness and action.

Israel celebrated Earth Day as well. For the last few years, as a symbolic act of saving energy and raising awareness, cities have shut down their electric power completely for a few hours. Jerusalem decided to join to this initiative and shut down the Western Wall lights and city lights for a whole day.

Public live band shows in Tel Aviv got their necessary electricity from an alternative energy supplier – for instance, the whole audience might pedal on bicycles to create electricity. In Haifa the science museum tried to demonstrate global warming to the public by creating a water vapor cloud. In the south the day was marked by sending up an air balloon to see the amazing landscape and view that needs to be conserved. In other parts of the country, energy-efficient lightbulbs were given away. Schools all over the country participated in a recycling competition that caused students to become excited and want to take part in the cause.

Being a state that needed to invent solutions nonstop since the day it was established, Israel had to develop ecological and environmental inventions that work all year long. For example, to save water a smart drip system is installed and small holes are strategically placed along irrigation pipes to deliver water directly to each plant. They can also measure the hourly water flow quantity. Combined with a solar irrigation computer, they can set the exact amount of water they want to use during the most efficient hour of the day. Another example is the solar heater, which is being used almost in every household in Israel to save electricity.

Let's make a decision to keep "Earth" clean and save our resources all year long!



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.

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



OREGON JEWISH LIFE | JUNE 2013 61

# Boston **bombing** elicits sense of connection and shared fate

#### By Mylan Tanzer

When word of the Boston Marathon bombing hit the news, it riveted me and a majority of Israelis to the TV and Internet. Beyond the fact that it was clearly an important story and one that needed to be understood, the fact it occurred in the United States, in a location that many Israelis have visited, made the concern more pronounced.

What made the first moments of the Boston bombing most dramatic for us is our empathy with the citizens of the country that Israel is closest to and the understanding that arises from our very extensive and tragic experience being victimized by this exact kind of savage and cowardly brutality. This was the first manifestation after the news broke – the connection and shared fate that Israelis feel with Americans.

Obviously we were anxious to know who the murderers were and their motivations, but in the immediate aftermath of the attack, the information most sought was the extent of the casualties and how the situation was being handled medically and psychologically. From our experience, these questions are the keys to gaining a semblance of control in an otherwise anarchic and horrific situation. Getting this early handle on the destruction allows the situation to quickly transition from one of carnage, to mourning while investigating and then to defiant rebuilding.

It was clear from the initial response in Boston that everyone involved knew what they were doing. A Jerusalem Post editorial two days after the attack stated: "Judging from afar here in Israel, the reaction in the U.S. to the atrocious violence carried out this week during the Boston Marathon is exemplary. While vowing, as President Obama did, to 'find out who did this' and make sure they 'feel the full weight of justice,' Americans, as Israelis do in similar circumstances, seem determined not to give in to fear and despair as the perpetrators of this heinous crime would have them do."

Not only did we feel a close psychological connection to this reaction, there was a very real practical connection between America and Israel that came to the fore. Though American preparedness for attacks is part of the legacy of Sept. 11, Israel has helped Americans respond to such violence. During the waves of attacks by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Fatah-affiliated al-Aksa Martyrs Brigades and other terrorist groups starting in the late 1990s, Israeli doctors gained unique experience dealing with the injuries caused by bombs packed with nails, ball bearings and scrap metal such as the ones that went off at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. Israeli triage expertise, gained on the streets of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and elsewhere during the second intifada, was shared with Massachusetts General Hospital, one of several medical centers that treated victims of the Boston bombings. Israeli physicians also helped set up the hospital's disaster team to better prepare it for responding to such attacks.

Due to the deep feeling of sympathy and almost vicarious pain, many of us anxiously followed every move and report in the hope that this was an isolated incident and to see if the immediate American response would be similar to ours. Because compared to Israel, the United States still has relatively little experience in dealing with terror. Even though we haven't found all the answers, we've developed successful security strategies, some of which are considered controversial, but lives are saved and democratic checks and balances oversee all of this.

On a psychological level, after suffering so much terror, we have figured out how to live with this contradiction: Something terrible could happen at any moment, and there's no reason to let fear dictate how you live.

This response is perhaps best described in the book *Burning Land* by senior NPR reporter, Greg Myre, and his wife, Jennifer Griffin, when they write: "We were consistently amazed at how quickly Israelis returned to places that had been bombed. The police, the rescue teams and the cleanup crews restored a bomb site to an outward semblance of normality within hours of an attack. Debris was swept out. Hoses washed away blood from the sidewalk. Shattered windows were replaced. The yellow police tape came down. The next day, Israelis placed flowers and candles at the scene. By the time those flowers wilted, the street tended to be as busy as ever."

For Israelis, combating terror is not just a security question. It's a social, cultural and psychological issue, and the whole country is required to play its role. It's often measured in symbolic acts, like going back to the cafe or restaurant that was attacked. In 2002 alone, more than 50 suicide bombings were perpetrated against Israel, and population-wise, Israel is not much larger than Massachusetts. In a sense, Israel endured the equivalent of a Boston Marathon bombing every week for a year. After almost every blast, cell phone frequencies are taxed to the limit as everyone calls family, relatives and friends to make sure they are all right. In a country where it sometimes seems that everyone knows everyone, Israelis know they might be connected in some way to the victims. But this also helps us cope with this tragic and bizarre reality.

In McGill University Professor Gil Troy's blog entitled "America and Israel: Targeted by Totalitarian Terrorists, United in Love of Life," the strong American-Israeli connection becomes even closer at the time of a disaster to which Israelis can relate so personally. He writes: "But as we in Israel knew long before the trail reached to Chechnya and Dagestan, this kind of terrorist crime is an intensely international event – and involves us directly. We are proud – and should be – that the Israeli fingerprints on this event were all positive … And we are appalled – and should be – that in Gaza, members of Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad danced in the streets and distributed celebratory candies – as they also did on 9/11. It may not be politically correct to say it, but there is a moral difference between us and our enemies. I know of no Palestinians or anti-Zionists who denounced that despicable Gazan spectacle, when some of their bloodthirsty brothers delighted in the deaths of Martin Richard, Krystle Campbell and Lu Lingzi."

As we know, these "victories" by terrorists, become pyrrhic victories in the end due to the resilience of people like Americans and Israelis who love life and fight for democracy.

Besides the deep personal identification we felt with the victims of the Boston bombing, the fate Israelis and Americans share as the victims of terror and de-legitimization became apparent with the supporters of terror drunk in the joy of striking at the heart of the free world. While the casualty count paled in comparison to America's murder rate, or even to the Texas fertilizer plant explosion, the psychological effect of the bombing, and the ensuing and unfathomable lockdown of Boston, will be manipulated by terrorists as a victory.

As Chemi Shalev wrote in Ha'aretz, "This was terrorism's great victory, its spectacular triumph, its abhorrently glorious day in the sun. Never, in the history of violence aimed at innocent civilians, have the lives of so many been disrupted so much by the relatively amateurish actions of so few."

As we know, these "victories" by terrorists, become pyrrhic victories in the end due to the resilience of people like Americans and Israelis who love life and fight for democracy. While these are perceived as weaknesses that terrorists try to exploit, they are actually the reason we emerge stronger after every attack and that terror has achieved nothing.

Finally, the American-Israeli connection is prominent in the sick justification used by today's totalitarians, the Jihadists and the Islamic nations and regimes that back them, who lump both of our nations together as a two-headed ogre. These fringe ideologies of hatred have come in from the cold by astonishingly and successfully striking a nerve with many Western intellectual forces and co-opting the United Nations.

Troy continues in his blog, "Israel's and the Jewish people's involvement runs deeper. In explaining what prompted these two brothers to turn to terror, we see how anti-Americanism festers in the same totalitarian swamps that breed today's anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. Among radical Leftists as well as Islamists, prejudice against Israel and the U.S. seems to be the last legitimate bigotry, the only hatred acceptable to air in polite circles. Both anti-Americanism and anti-Zionism transcend anger at specific policies, which could dissipate. Instead, they express an enduring, irrational hatred, repudiating each country's essence. "

The unshakable bond between America and Israel is felt by Israelis in times of calm and prosperity, and even more so in times when our common enemies strike at our freedom, openness, tolerance and acceptance. One can only hope that the necessary conclusions will be drawn from this tragedy as they have been drawn from so many tragedies in Israel so that future attacks can be avoided as much as possible. If these steps are taken, and in a country as vast with so many soft targets it is not easy, and if Americans have no illusions regarding what we are all up against and what must be done, then terror against America will be futile.

This column is dedicated to the memory of my late older brother, Marc Tanzer  $\zeta^{,,1}$ , 1954-2013.

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.





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# Looking for Love Dating is a meet market

#### By Ellen Gerst

Marketing and dating – they're not so different! After all, aren't both of these about clearly communicating with another person in an attempt to forge a relationship?

Let me review the 12 most persuasive words used in marketing – discovery, easy, guarantee, health, caring, money, new, proven, results, safety, savings and you – and illustrate how they apply to dating.

#### DISCOVERY

Discovery is the most fun of all in the dating process. It provides an opportunity to increase your sphere of knowledge. Although dating can be nerve wracking, it's also fascinating to learn about different ideas and hear about varied experiences. And dating via the Internet gives you the opportunity to connect with someone you might never have encountered in your normal walk of life. In this way, you get to discover unknown territory – especially if you have to travel to get together.

#### EASY

Most people like experiences to be sans stress and complications. Allow dating to be easy and enjoyable by incorporating the following behaviors into your style: make straightforward arrangements to meet; be emotionally honest with dates; remain open to hearing about different ideas without judgment; go with the flow; and leave your grandiose expectations at home.

#### GUARANTEE

Although there aren't any guarantees in life, you can make a promise to simply enjoy yourself – in life and on a date.

#### HEALTH

In any situation, self-preservation is always a big motivator. Incorporate healthy behaviors into your life, which includes claiming some "me" time. So, even if your date is not a good match, remember that you still got dressed up and out of the house, saw a movie, had a nice dinner and so on.

#### CARING

Caring and being the recipient of caring behaviors while on a date makes each participant feel seen and heard. These behaviors can include courteousness, respect, laughter (with another or at yourself) and active listening.

#### MONEY

It's not necessary to spend a lot of money to have fun on a date. You can go on a picnic, take a walk, visit a mall or go to a free street fair. Sometimes planning a robust activity for a first meeting is less tension filled than sitting across a table while struggling to fill in the silences. Walking, looking around and doing something will give you ample fodder for conversation. It also gives you an in-depth peek into a person's personality; for example, by their stride, you can observe the pace at which a person walks through life. Keep your eyes and ears open, because actions often foretell more than words.

#### NEW

New is always exciting! Maybe you're a first-date junkie, meaning you like the excitement of meeting new people all the time. Another way to approach dating is to find ways to make every date (with the same person) new or innovative.

#### PROVEN

Most everyone likes a tried-and-true approach. Discover if your date has had previous relationships and the cause for their demise.

#### RESULTS

A lot of people are just interested in the bottom line – or what is in it for him or her. The best way to approach dating is without great expectations. In this way, you always have a great bottom line or result.

#### SAFETY

Safety is important, especially when dating via the Internet. Rather than being afraid to date, a better approach is to remain aware of danger and take the necessary precautions.

#### SAVE

Everyone loves a bargain! Be mindful of another's purse; it's easy to be a cheap date, and this will be appreciated. Also, save the gory details of your life until you've made it past the first couple of dates.

#### YOU

Finally! Dating allows you to learn about another, but it's also one of the best forums to learn about yourself. When you see yourself reflected in another's eye, you learn how you're projecting your personality. If you aren't receiving the response you're hoping for, it may be time to re-examine your body language. Check to see if your words and actions are in sync.

There you have it – the similarities of the words important in a marketing campaign and how they may be applied to dating. This is not to say that dating is a meat market where the participants are only out to sell themselves. I prefer to think of it more as a meet market or a venue where you can encounter a diverse group of people in your search for the one with whom you can find a special connection. Remember, dating is a numbers game. The more people

you meet, the better chance you have of discovering those with whom you have a base upon which to build a relationship.



Ellen Gerst is a relationship coach, author and workshop leader. Visit LNGerst. com. To ask Ellen a question to be answered in a future column, email her at LNGerst@LNGerst.com

## We love that Gan Israel has given Joshua (age 9) a variety of Jewish experiences and always supported campers from different backgrounds.

Every summer Joshua looks forward to new activities and he feels like he's spending the summer with family.

- Anna Davis and Scott Weinrobe



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# Modern Orthodox invited to experience adventure in Oregon

#### By Deborah Moon

Modern Orthodox young professionals ages 26-42 are invited to Oregon June 26-July 1 for Portland's third MoDox Outdoor Adventure Shabbaton.

The first Shabbaton in 2011 drew 56 participants, with 74 young adults turning out in 2012. Portland's third MoDox Outdoor Adventure Shabbaton already has attracted registrants from Israel, Toronto, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Florida and Oregon, and it's still early in the registration process.

"This is amazing to see people that live all over, from this specific modern Orthodox demographic, all coming together to share in a trip that focuses on an area of common interest – outdoor adventure," says organizer Jodi Berris. "I like how the itinerary covers the outdoors with daily hikes, options to ski in the summer on Mt. Hood's glacier or mountain bike. We also have a variety of speakers across Judaic and secular subjects. It's like a variety trip with a theme. Sort of like a birthright Israel trip, but in Portland."

This year's Shabbaton includes a tour of Nike World Headquarters,

where Jodi works; skiing; Alpine slide; mountain biking; brewery and brandy distillery tours and tastings; hikes; soccer tournament; visits to the Oregon coast and Columbia River Gorge; Portland nightlife; and, of course, a Shabbat program and kosher meals.

Jodi came up with the idea for the Shabbaton after a MoDox ski trip in Italy. She organizes the events with support from Cafe at the J, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Portland Kollel, Kesser Israel, Chabad of Oregon and Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

The low registration fee of \$99 until June 5, \$199 until June 15, and \$299 thereafter (if space is available) includes meals, most activities and home hospitality.

Jodi says that many people who have come before ask to come back a second time, but she considers it primarily an introduction to Portland for first-timers. "Given the demand of people wanting to come versus the limited supply of host families in the Orthodox community to accommodate everybody, it will get harder to accommodate those that want to come back for a round 2 or 3," she says.

The 2012 MoDox Adventure Shabbaton, organized by Jodi Berris (inset), drew 74 young adults to Oregon.

"I'm doing this the third time because people continue to express interest in coming here and those that have come have had great experiences," she says. "Some just walk away having had fun with the activities. Others have made new friends, gone out on dates from it, or conquered a fear presented by an outdoor type of physical challenge. Since the focus is on the adventure, the social just falls into place naturally. People who live one block away from each other in New York and see each other at Shul weekly but never really talk, become social out here."

"Although I am highly sleep deprived prior to and during the event, I still take moments to sit back and smile as I watch people engaging and enjoying the activities I have exposed them to in such a beautiful environment that I call my home," Jodi grins, adding Portland "probably wasn't even on their radar to visit until this Shabbaton began."

For registration and a detailed itinerary, visit portlandjewishevents.com. For more information, contact Jodi at jodiberris@aol.com or 248-760-0743.



YOUTH FOUNDATION – Members of 2012-2013 Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, above, take the stage at the OJCYF 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Benefit held May 2 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. At left, Jordan Schnitzer gave the keynote address. Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation was a lead sponsor of OJCYF. Below, Student band "Surviving Yesterday" (from left) Seth Greenberg, Jake Perris, Ethan Brenner, Zach Price, with band supporter Josh Spector entertain the some 200 attendees at the dinner. Gross proceeds from the benefit dinner exceeded \$53,000, which enables the 39 teens to fund grant requests from Jewish and secular community nonprofits. Before the dinner they had allocated \$6,000 to Jewish and secular organizations they visited during the year. Dinner co-chairs were seniors Danielle Spring and Maayan Agam (back row center holding flowers). Photos © LeeAnn Gauthier

#### FOUNDATION TO HONOR MIN ZIDELL JUNE 11

At its annual reception June 11, the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation will honor outstanding OJCF Legacy Society Member Min Zidell, who recently established a generous endowment fund for the benefit of Hesed Shel Emet, the Oregon Jewish Indigent Burial Society.

Hesed Shel Emet recognizes that all Jews deserve to be buried with dignity regardless of their financial circumstance. The program, which was founded by Cedar Sinai Park chief development officer Debbi Bodie in 2009, is led by Steering Committee Chair Rabbi Ariel Stone, the Oregon Board of Rabbis, and a committee of community leaders. It is administered by Bodie with the support of Cedar Sinai Park.

Daughter Charlene Zidell recalls: "From the time I was very young, I remember mom speaking of the sanctity of death and the importance that all Jews, regardless of their circumstances in life, receive the same burial treatment. Establishing an endowment for Hesed Shel Emet provides mom the great pleasure and satisfaction of knowing that all Jews in our community will receive equal respect and dignity upon death."

This is the first permanent endowment for Hesed Shel Emet. The ultimate goal is to have the financial needs of the program met through endowment funds like this. That way, our community can be secure in knowing that every Jewish individual can be buried according to the traditions and practices of Judaism.

"On behalf of all of the recipients who will benefit from your amazing gift of generosity, thank you, Min Zidell, for your ultimate act of love and kindness," said Bodie, who has seen firsthand the meaningful impact this program has had on many families.

"It is our responsibility as a community of Jews to show this reverence to those among us who have died. I'm grateful for the kindness of Min Zidell in making this generous endowment gift and the difference it will make in our ability to care for those who need this support. On behalf of OJCF's board of directors, we are honored to be entrusted with this wonderful gift of the heart," said OJCF Executive Director Julie Diamond.

OJCF's Annual Reception will be held on Wednesday, June 11, at 5 pm in Zidell Hall at the Rose Schnitzer Manor, 6140 SW Boundary St., Portland. Come see friends, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine, participate in the approval of the 2013-2014 Board of Directors and learn more about what's ahead for the Foundation. There is no charge to attend and there will be no fundraising at this event. RSVP by June 7: 503-248-9328 or janets@ojcf.org.

#### OREGON AREA JEWISH COMMITTEE TO HONOR PROMINENT PORTLAND ATTORNEYS

The Oregon Area Jewish Committee will present its prestigious Judge Learned Hand Lifetime Achievement Award to Jonathan A. Ater and the Community Leadership Award to Trung D. Tu. The award presentation will take place at a luncheon at the Benson Hotel on June 2511: 45 am-1:15 pm and will include remarks by Oregon Community Foundation President and CEO Max Williams.

Since 1999, the OAJC Judge Learned Hand Awards has honored leaders in the legal field for professional excellence and contributions to the community. Judge Hand was famous for the extensive range of decisions which he rendered in more than 2,000 cases, especially those centering on questions of constitutional rights and antitrust legislation. Award recipients are people who embody much of what Judge Hand represented: the rights of the individual and the importance of democratic values in an orderly society.

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Jonathan Ater, senior partner at Ater Wynne, LLP. For more than 40 years, he has provided strategic advice to business enterprises and public bodies. Best known for his work as a health care lawyer and health policy expert, he is an experienced arbitrator and mediator. He is listed in Best Lawyers of America and Super Lawyers.

The Community Leadership Award will be presented to Trung Tu, partner at McEwen Gisvold, LLP. Trung is a highly recognized litigation and appellate attorney who has garnered such awards as National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's "Best Lawyers Under 40," and Oregon Super Lawyers' Rising Star. He has been with McEwen Gisvold since 2003, becoming a partner in 2009.

"Attorneys Jonathan Ater and Trung Tu epitomize true leadership in our community; exemplifying high standards in the legal profession and dedication to the broader





Trung Tu

Jonathan Ater

community served. OAJC is thrilled to honor both with the 2013 Judge Learned Hand Awards." remarked Elise Brickner-Schulz, OAJC board President

Tickets are \$75 per person. For reservations contact 503-295-6761, info@ oajconline.org or oajconline.org.

#### EUGENE GALLERY HOSTS ONE-WOMAN SHOW

Seven paintings of European Shtetl scenes created by Renate Dolinger, 91, will be on display at Eugene's Temple Beth Israel Gallery June 2-Aug. 24. The one-woman show features new work by Dolinger. The gallery is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 5 pm; Friday 10 am to noon; and whenever Temple is open for public events. Temple Beth Israel is located at 1175 E. 29th Ave. Eugene. For more information, call 541-485-7218 or visit tbieugene.org.



#### Sunday, June 9 9:30 am - 12:30 pm at the MJCC Register at www.oregonjcc.org/registration \$36/family Code: CG302

A New and Expectant Parent Workshop offering a Jewish perspective on childbirth, adoption and early parenting education.

#### with

#### Caron Blau Rothstein, MA/MSW

PJ Library/Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

#### Mohel Rabbi Tzvi Fischer Portland Kollel

Corinne Spiegel, M.S. Spec. Ed. Jewish Family & Child Service

Call the MJCC for more information at 503.244.0111











CARING COMMUNITY – Left, Jewish Family and Child Service Board President Michael Millender and Executive Director Marian Fenimore welcome 408 people to the May 9 JFCS's Celebrating Our Caring Community Luncheon, chaired by Gloria Hammer. The lunch raised a total of \$94,905. Filmmaker Ken Klein with wife, Christine, fills out a pledge card, even though he had already contributed by creating a video for the lunch that highlighted JFCS services. Above right, lunch keynote speaker former Starbucks President Howard Behar and his wife, Lynn, are flanked by longtime friends Sy and Carol Danish. Next year's Caring Community lunch will be May 8, 2014. Photos by Deborah Moon



CAMP FIRE AWARD - Erin David has successfully earned Camp Fire's highest honor, The WoHeLo Award. The WoHeLo Award is an intensive, individualized leadership project that allows youth to identify and advocate for social causes of their choice, study the modern relevance and 103-year history of Camp Fire, and hone skills they will need as they enter into adulthood. WoHeLo is made up of the first two letters of the words work, health and love. Erin, a senior at Clackamas Middle College, a charter high school in the North Clackamas School District, is the daughter of Robin Kay and Jeff David and has been a Camp Fire member for nine years. She taught confirmation and advanced Hebrew to youth at Beit Haverim, served as a volunteer at Namanu in the City Day Camp and led a committee of youth to organize a council-wide ceremonial event.

DANCE CHAMPIONS – Dance instructor Anya Klimova-Preston poses with Alena Budko, 7, and Lazar Isakharov, 8, after the young dancers won eight gold and silver medals at the National USA DanceSport Championships in Los Angeles in early April. The Izakharov family attend Chabad Jewish Center of Hillsboro. Lazar has attended Chabad of Hillsboro Hebrew School for the past four years. His sisters, Luda and Rona, attend classes too. "All the students at Hillsboro Chabad, and their families are so proud of Lazar and his accomplishments;" says Chaya Rivkin, director and teacher at Chabad Hillsboro Hebrew School. "Lazar values his Judaism, and puts effort into his learning - as he does into his dancing."





TEEN VOLUNTEERS – Portland-area teens at J-Serve 2013, an International Day of Jewish Youth Service on April 28. Teens volunteered to beautify the Ritzdorf Court Apartments, a REACH CDC affordable housing property. Above, teens prep to paint indoor common areas including library, lobby and "living room;" while those at right shovel mulch to create a container garden for residents on the building's terrace. The Portland J-Serve project was hosted by BBYO, Tivnu: Building Justice, Portland Mitzvah Network, MJCC, Portland Jewish Academy, BB Camp, OJCYF, NCSY, Shaarie Torah, Havurah Shalom, and REACH CDC. Sixth- through 12th-grade teens explored the Jewish values of gemilut chasidim, acts of loving kindness; tzedakah, just and charitable giving; and tikkum olam, the responsibility to repair the world.

#### STAMPFER AWARD

 Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, right, presents the award that bears his name to James H. Winkler.
Winkler received the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Rabbi Joshua Stampfer
Community Enrichment Award
April 11 at an awards dinner at the Benson Hotel.



#### Through June 30

World premiere of Ithaka, written by Andrea Stolowitz. New play commission Fowler/Levin Prize. May 28 – June 30 at Artists Repertory Theatre, 1515 SW Morrison St. (See story, page 38). 503-241-1278

#### Through Sept. 29

The Immigrant Experience in Oregon. Multimedia exhibit explores waves of immigration to Oregon in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and today. OJM presents Settling In now through Sept. 29. Tuesdays through Thursdays 10:30 am-4 pm, Fridays 10:30 am-3 pm and Saturday/ Sundays noon-4 pm. \$6 adults, \$4 students/seniors, and free for members and children under 12. 503-226-3600 or palma@ojm.org

#### June 2

Let's Stir it Up! Celebrating Jewish Traditions & Food. Annual Gala. OJM raffle for a fournight Brooklyn vacation including breakfast; only 125 tickets sold at \$100 each. Buy raffle tickets at 503-226-3600 or palma@ojm.org. Silent auction at 5 pm, dinner at 6:45 pm at Tualatin Country Club. Tickets: ojm.org, 503-226-3600

European Shtetl scenes: new paintings by Renate Dolinger. Eugene's Temple Beth Israel Gallery June 2-Aug. 24. Gallery is open M/W/Th 10 am-5 pm, Fri 10 am-noon and when Temple is open for public events. 1175 E. 29th Ave., Eugene. 541-485-7218

#### June 6

OJM Talk: Immigration Past and Present. Sokhom Tauch, executive director at the Immigration Refugee Community Organization, discusses current immigration issues drawing upon his experience as an immigrant from Cambodia. Professor Ellen Eisenberg of Willamette University focuses on immigration in Oregon at the time the Russian and Eastern European Jews arrived in the first decades of the 20th century. Jackie Peterson, Emeritus history professor at WSU Vancouver, moderates. Public \$5; OJM members free. 7-8:30 pm at OJM. Tickets: 503-226-3600

#### June 8

Learners' Congregation Hillel Shamai Shabbat. Have you heard Hillel and Shamai arguing? If not, this is your chance. Free. 10 am-noon. Congregation Shaarie Torah, 920 NW 25th Ave. Dorice Horenstein, education@shaarietorah.org or 503-226-6131

Join us for Portland Jewish Academy/Hillel Academy's Annual

## ALUMNI & FRIENDS Spaghetti dinner

Sunday, June 9, 2013, 5:00 pm Spaghetti dinner, raffle & children's activities at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center

#### Register Now! www.pjaproud.org/spaghetti

Tickets: \$18 adults in advance/\$25 at the door \$8 children 4-12 in advance/\$10 at the door

Register online, at the PJA office or by mail. Questions: 503.535.3539 or alumni@pjaproud.org

EVERYONE WELCOME! PJA Proud

lt's Kosher with meat and vegetarian options. "Oh Those Gershwin Boys!" Debut of New Gershwin Revue created for the Portland Chamber Orchestra. Take a musical journey celebrating the 1930s when George and Ira contributed mightily to the "Great American Songbook." Conducted by Maestro Yaacov Bergman. June 8-Phil Barnekoff Auditorium, Century High School, Hillsboro, 7:30 pm. June 9-Agnes Flanagan Chapel, Lewis & Clark College, 3 pm. Tickets: portlandchamberorchestra.org or 503-205-0715

#### June 9

2013 PJA/Hillel Academy Annual Reunion and Spaghetti Dinner! Enjoy a delicious kosher dinner with meat and vegetarian options; visit with alumni, current students, faculty and staff. Advance tickets \$18 adults/\$8 children under 12. At the door: \$25 adult/\$10 children. No-host bar, silent auction/raffle, and children's activities at 5 pm, dinner and program at 6 pm. MJCC. Register: portlandjewishacademy.org, 503-535-3532 or alumni@pjaproud.org

A Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Portland In the early 1900s, Eastern European and Sephardic Jews settled in South Portland. Join Polina Olsen, author of *Stories From Jewish Portland*, for a guided walk around the old immigrant neighborhood. This \$10 tour is a benefit for the JFGP. 10 am-noon. RSVP: ojfas@comcast.net

#### June 11

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Board Meeting and Reception. See story page 67. RSVP by June 7 at 503-248-9328 or janets@ojcf.org

#### June 15

Memories in the Making<sup>®</sup> Art Auction benefits Alzheimer's Association. **\$75 or 2/\$140**. Tickets 503-416-0212 (Kate). 6 pm at Urban Studio, 935 NW Davis St.

#### June 16-30

21st Annual Portland Jewish Film Festival. \$85 festival pass at nwfilm.org/festivals/ jewishfestival or schedules at pdxjff.org. NW Film Center, 1219 SW Park Ave. (See schedule, pages 36-37.)

#### June 19

OJM 2013 Annual Meeting. Guest speaker, Professor Natan Meir, discusses "Creating Moscow's New Jewish Museum: A View from the Inside." \$25. Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon St. 11:45 a.m. 503-226-3600

#### June 20

Past, Present, Future Relationship between America and Israel. Portland Chapter of Hadassah & MJCC – Support Any Friend, JFK's Middle East and The Making of the U.S.-Israel Alliance by Warren Bass. Warren Bass takes readers inside the corridors of power to show how John F. Kennedy's New Frontiersmen grappled with the Middle East. MJCC Café, 6:30 pm. RSVP: tboussi@gmail.com or 503-244-6389

#### June 24

Summer Hebrew Intensive. three years of modern Hebrew in nine weeks at PSU's World Languages and Literatures Department. "Summer Sequence" – levels 101, 102 and 103, from June 24-Aug. 24, noon-3:15 pm Mondays through Thursdays. Information and enroll at pdx.edu/summer/. Course content info: contact Professor Moshe Rachmuth at rachmuth@pdx.edu

#### June 25

Oregon Area Jewish Committee presents Judge Learned Hand Awards to Portland attorneys to Jonathan Ater and Trung Tu. Awards luncheon includes special remarks by Oregon Community Foundation President and CEO Max Williams. 11:45 am-1:15 pm. Benson Hotel, Mayfair Ballroom, 309 SW Broadway. \$75. Info@oajconline.org, oajconline.org or 503-295-6761

#### June 26

Author Jami Attenberg reads from The Middlesteins. Powell's Books on West Burnside. Reception 6:30 pm (reservations requested 503-245-6219), reading 7:30 pm. Free.

#### June 28

North Coast Shabbat led by Neil Weinstein. All are welcome. Bev Eastern, 503-244-7060. Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

Add your event online at OJLife.com. Click on add an event at bottom right corner of home page.

OJM is the Oregon Jewish Museum, 1953 NW Kearney, Portland. 503-226-3600 MJCC is the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland. 503-244-0111

# **PJA Graduates are Mensches!**

Kol HaKavod to the PJA Class of 2013 graduates who are ready and excited to move on to area High Schools! We are **PJA Proud** of your accomplishments!



Not pictured: Estee R.

We are **PJA Proud** that so many of our 2009 alum are graduating high school with honors. We look forward to following their stories and success, whether they are doing a Gap year in Israel, backpacking through Alaska with an outdoor leadership group, or attending colleges in Oregon, Washington, California, Colorado and beyond!



Not pictured: Barkley S., Sydney R. and Gabe W.

These children in our community think for themselves and work for the world. Doesn't every child deserve a PJA education? Limited openings are available, call 503.535.3599.



# **PORTLAND JEWISH ACADEMY**

www.pjaproud.org



## Are you ready for vacation?

Creating a legacy is one of the most important things we can do in life. Yet most of us spend more time planning a vacation than we do creating our own personal legacy. The good news is, it isn't hard. Your will, estate plan or endowment gift make it possible.

Protect the Jewish heritage you love. Leaving a bequest to support our Jewish community enables you to create a permanent charitable legacy that will keep our community strong... forever.

Call Julie Diamond at 503.248.9328 to learn how you can help preserve Oregon's Jewish community and your most cherished organizations for future generations.

#### Create a Jewish legacy.





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#### **OREGON** JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION LEGACY SOCIETY

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

Anonymous A Asa & Adrienne Arnsberg\* Jeff & Sandy Axel **Gloria Bacharach** Max Birnbach\* Lynn Bonner Barbara Brown Eden Rose Brown Alicia Byerley Milt Carl Margery Cohn Sid & Ruby Conroy\* Julie Diamond Stuart & Leah Durkheimer\* Jill & RichardEdelson Evelyn Findl

Marilyn Forse **Ruth Friedel** Morris Galen **Burton & Bernice Gevurtz** William Gittelsohn\* Gerel & Henry\* Blauer Jonathan Glass & Sarah Kahn Glass Ben & Janice Isenberg Garry & Judith Kahn Albert Kailes\* Chuck Karsun\* Priscilla Kostiner Arthur Krichevsky\* Roy Lambert & Mary Maxwell Jacob Lewin Rita & Louis\* Lubliner Harold Nadler Marvin & Leah Nepom

Mimi & Ze'ev\* Orzech Clara Paige\* Harold & Jane Pollin Lois Poplack **Rita Philip** Irving Roberts\* Gayle & Paul Romain Steve Rosenberg & Ellen Lippman Eric & Tiffany Rosenfeld **Rosemarie Rosenfeld** Betty Rosenfeld\* Laurens & Judith Ruben Arlene & Harold\* Schnitzer **Dina Schnitzer** Jordan Schnitzer Lois Schnitzer Mardi Schnitzer

Sandra Schnitzer Arden & Lois Shenker Richard B. Solomon & Alyce Flitcraft Ruth & Manton Spear\* Leah Spellman\* Jerry & Helen Stern **Jack Straus** Rebecca Tarshis\* Sada Tarshis\* Larry & Elizabeth Volchok Sharon Weil Robert Weil\* Gary & Carolyn Weinstein Bertha Woolach\* Merritt & Cookie Yoelin\* Min Zidell

\*Of Blessed Memory