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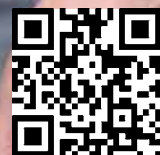
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STAYCATIONS

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and Fun Places for Kids

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JUNE 15-29



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IMAGES BY FLOOM

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Cover photo: Karen Twain. Photo by Deborah Moon

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Editor's Letter



When I moved to the Pacific Northwest 22 years ago, I quickly became enchanted by the easy access to both beautiful mountains and ocean. I enjoyed many lazy days reading a book on the beach and frolicking with kids and dogs in the waves. I hiked many a trail exploring out of the way waterfalls in the gorge. And I marveled that everything is so green!

But I still missed the rugged, arid beauty of Colorado's front range. Then about 15 year ago, a journalism conference in Bend introduced me to Central Oregon. The piece I'd been missing was right here in Oregon!

Oregon truly does have something for everyone.

Sometimes we forget to look in our own backyards for exciting adventures. If you think adventure requires a long plane ride, think again.

As we head into the lazy days of summer, Oregon Jewish Life features a variety of activities and fun places to keep you entertained. Our combined June/July issue offers staycation and summer fun suggestions to keep you busy this summer.

In addition to our staycation stories, our Arts and Entertainment section includes more close-to-home fun. The 22nd annual Portland Jewish Film Festival offers 17 films spread across more than two weeks.

And after you've staycated and relaxed your way through the summer, our August Resource Guide will be just the thing to get you connected with all the organizations, congregations and businesses you need for a productive and meaningful new year.

The August Back to School section will profile a diversity of schools to help you decide where your child's needs will best be met.

Speaking of students, our cover story profiles educator Karen Twain, who has agreed to lead the Governor's Reading Initiative designed to get all children reading by third grade. Karen has a long history of helping struggling students, beginning with her own elementary school days when she was a peer tutor for students with special needs. As the principal at Metzger Elementary in Tigard, she turned a highly diverse, struggling school into an award-winning institution.

Karen believes the state has plenty of wonderful, dedicated teachers who truly want to see all children succeed. She hopes to help them get the tools and support they need so every child will become a reader.

I was especially interested in this initiative since my son Josh graduates from the UOTeach program this summer and is looking forward to beginning his career as a primary teacher. When he was a child, Josh once told his brother that in order to truly love reading you have to become part of the story. I'm happy he'll be teaching in a state that will allow him to become part of the story of creating a generation of readers.

Deborah



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at Congregation Beth Israel

Shabbat on the Plaza begins on June 13! Join us all summer long on the Temple lawn as we welcome Shabbat under the Portland summer sky (weather permitting). Bring your family and friends along with a blanket and your own picnic supper. *Services begin at 6:00 PM.*

JUNE 13

JUNE 27

JULY 11

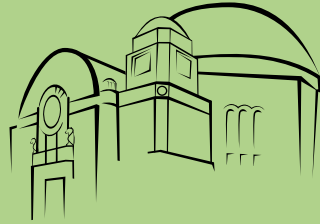
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Throughout the aging process, from parenthood and beyond, we have important conversations about life's decisions. But none is more urgent among the people of our community than finding the best way to respond to the needs of elders and our own families as we face the issues of aging.

WHAT IS AGING IN PLACE?

Nearly 75 percent of seniors these days want to stay put. That means living in a home with the right support systems to accommodate their advancing years. But wanting it and making it happen are two different things!

Aging in place isn't just about creature comforts — it's about avoiding falls, ways to be connected to the community and mobility. Not to mention the right appliances, proper lighting, emergency services — and so much more.

AGING IN PLACE SUCCESSFULLY

It takes expertise and effort to turn the family house into a proper aging-in-place home, but it also takes access to services like home care and effective medical rehabilitation when it's needed.

At Cedar Sinai Park, we want to be an active part of this important conversation and are working to fulfill the desires and meet the needs of our seniors.

Look for exciting announcements in upcoming months about how we are making successful aging a reality for you and our community.



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For many of us, aging at home is a strong desire. And when that's not possible, privacy and a residential environment are essential. Cedar Sinai Park is proud to announce that we are well on the way to accomplishing both with two exciting new projects. But the work ahead remains significant. In the coming months, we will be calling on all our friends to help raise the remaining one-third of funds needed to reach our goal. With your help, our future looks bright.

WE'RE ALMOST THERE. See how you can help by calling (503) 535-4303 or visiting www.CedarSinaiPark.org.

CAN a SITCOM CHANGE SOCIETY?



Rabbi Ariel Stone, Tracy Poust and David Sarasohn

Story by Elizabeth Schwartz | Photos by Gary Teasdale

On April 12 Congregation Shir Tikvah marked Passover with a rather unusual event. While most Jews spent the holiday celebrating our long-ago liberation from slavery in Egypt, Shir Tikvah spotlighted a contemporary story: the celebration of American society's shift in attitude toward equal rights for all, particularly those in the LGBTQ community.

"This program is connected to Shir Tikvah's core mission," says Rabbi Ariel Stone. "We see ourselves as a congregation that is open and affirming, and we felt that this event gave us a chance to further the goal of equal marriage rights."

The program, billed as "Timeless Stories of Transformation Bring Moses, Will & Grace to Portland," featured Oregonian columnist David Sarasohn interviewing award-winning sitcom writer Tracy Poust (rhymes with Faust) at the Wieden + Kennedy atrium in the Pearl District. Poust, along with her writing/producing partner Jon Kinnally, is best known for writing and producing the groundbreaking sitcom "Will & Grace," which Vice President Joe Biden singled out as the most important reason for the shift in Americans' opinion on gay marriage. Poust and Kinnally also have produced "Ugly Betty," "Love Bites" and their latest comedy, "The Crazy Ones," starring Robin Williams.

Sarasohn and Poust discussed the evolution of sitcoms, and how universal stories and characters – whether drawn from ancient or modern life – help people gain perspective on their

own and others' humanity. Poust demurred when asked if she agreed with Biden's assessment of "Will & Grace," but she did acknowledge the importance of the show in helping to change peoples' attitudes. "We were a part of it because we were on prime-time TV and people realized that these characters were just like us, except funnier. We helped create a hit show about gay guys and a woman who loved a gay man, and that made people realize they knew people who were gay." "Will & Grace" debuted on prime-time television in 1998. It went on to become the highest-rated sitcom from 2001 to 2005, and over the course of its nine-year run, the show garnered 16 Emmy awards and 83 nominations.

...because Jews see any fight for civil rights as analogous to our own struggles.

Rabbi Ariel Stone suggests "Will & Grace" played a more nuanced role in the change of minds and hearts about gay rights. "Was 'Will & Grace' a harbinger? Was it part of the cause of the shifting attitude or simply a reflection of it?" she asks. "It's possible that the real work of changing opinions is being done by many committed activists, people who have spent generations lifting up love. When you realize that someone you love is gay, you begin to think differently about gay people. That change of heart can happen very quickly."

Like anyone trying to succeed in the cutthroat world of network television, Poust and Kinnally started out hoping to




Oregonian columnist David Sarasohn interviews award-winning sitcom writer Tracy Poust before a full house in the Wieden + Kennedy atrium in the Pearl District.

write a funny show that would resonate with audiences. But Poust, who's been in the business 20 years, says there's more to good comedy than jokes. "Comedies that last are the ones that have heart, where you care about the characters. They need to be more than just funny," she says. "Comedy has to be personal."

Proust goes on to explain that the writers have to care about the comedy they write, beyond merely wanting to make people laugh and score high Nielsen ratings, and the work itself needs to touch something personal in viewers, so they can both relate to and care about it.

"When we started, no one knew what public reaction would be to W & G," Poust recalls. "Little by little we got reactions; people were oddly supportive of the show and we got lots of positive letters, but we certainly didn't know at the time when we started that we were making a difference in American opinions. It wasn't an 'issue of the week' kind of show." Over time, especially after its first Emmy nomination, "Will & Grace" made being gay an everyday aspect of life.

Poust and her sister, Julie, a member of Shir Tikvah, were raised assimilated, without much connection to formal Judaism. Observant or not, Rabbi Stone thinks Jews as a group tend to be more supportive of gay marriage than other people of faith, because Jews see any fight for civil rights as analogous to our own struggles. "We've been there; it rings a bell for us," she explains. "This is true of Jews from the middle of the political and religious spectrum all the way to the far left. It may also be true of Jews on the political and traditional right, but their rabbis are struggling to find the religious language to express that acceptance and the religious theology to back it up. They haven't found a way yet, through halacha, to reach that place of acceptance."

The audience of several hundred people packed the benches in the Wieden + Kennedy atrium, and less than half were members of Shir Tikvah. "We were surprised by how diverse the audience was beyond our congregation, but the most important result of this event was to see how far we've come," says Rabbi Stone. "It was a night for celebrating and supporting the morale of people whose hearts are in the right place." 



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www.shalomlife.com/health/22891/israeli-researcher-makes-significant-brain-cancer-discovery/

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BIZ INS & OUTS



Rabbi Eve Posen to join Neveh Shalom in August

Rabbi Eve Posen will join Congregation Neveh Shalom as youth director and rabbinic educator in August. Rabbi Posen was born and raised in the suburbs of Detroit. She attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she received a B.A. in Judaic

Studies. She was ordained by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University and also received her master's degree in Experiential Education from the Fingerhut School of Education at the AJU.

Rabbi Posen worked for five years with Los Angeles Hebrew High School developing curricula and coordinating retreats. She has given keynote presentations on experiential education and worked for many years in Jewish summer camps and supplementary schools. Rabbi Posen received the Schechter Residency in Educational Leadership fellowship in 2010. Most recently, as the campus rabbi of Ann and Nate Levine Academy, she taught and inspired students from 3 months through 8th grade. Rabbi Posen, her husband, Duncan Gilman, their daughter, Shiri, and dog, Stanley, are thrilled to be joining the Neveh Shalom community this August.



Rabbi Bradley Greenstein takes post with Moishe House headquarters

Congregation Neveh Shalom bid farewell to its associate rabbi, Bradley Greenstein, who has accepted a position as rabbi and director of immersive learning with Moishe

House at its new headquarters in San Diego. He will be working with Jewish young adults around the world, building a new educational vision and overseeing retreats.

Rabbi Greenstein served as an associate rabbi at Congregation Neveh Shalom for more than eight years. During his tenure he was instrumental in working with the "Hinenu" group comprising 20- to 30-year-old young adults, leading Chesed for congregants in need of care, supervising the youth activities program and teaching students of all levels from Foundation School, where his daughters attended preschool, through Tichon High School seniors and adult education classes. His wife, Sarah, and three daughters, Adirah, Talia and Sami, who were born in Portland, are excited to be closer to their family in Southern California.



A change in leadership at Shaarie Torah

After seven wonderful years, Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman of Congregation Shaarie Torah has decided to pursue other activities. During Rabbi Zuckerman's tenure as senior rabbi at Shaarie Torah, the congregation has made tremendous progress toward becoming more egalitarian and recently joined the Conservative movement.



"All of the congregants at Shaarie Torah will always remember his thoughtful sermons and incredible outreach to congregants and other individuals in the community in their time of need," Shaarie Torah co-presidents Richard Cohen and Jordan Schnitzer said in a joint statement. "On behalf of all of the

members of Congregation Shaarie Torah, we wish Rabbi Zuckerman and his lovely wife, Simi, all the joy that life offers in their future endeavors."

Effective July 1, Rabbi Joshua Rose, a Portland native, will be assuming the role of senior rabbi of Congregation Shaarie Torah. The congregation had previously announced (April OJL) Rabbi Rose would join Rabbi Zuckerman as an additional senior rabbi in July. shaarietorah.org | 503-226-6131



Rabbi Joshua Boettiger joins Big Tent Judaism

Temple Emek Shalom Rabbi Joshua Boettiger of Ashland has become a member of the sixth North American Cohort of Big Tent Judaism Professional Affiliates of the Jewish Outreach Institute.

He is an alumnus of Rabbis Without Borders, writes for Parabola magazine, teaches Mussar and Jewish meditation, and continues to work as a builder of ritual structures. He and his wife, Vanessa, live in Ashland with their daughter, Paloma.

Rabbi Boettiger will learn to develop programs such as "Passover in the Matzah Aisle" and "Hands-on Hanukkah" in shopping malls foster relationships.

The program is a training series and collaborative network for Jewish communal professionals who want to "expand the tent" of the organized Jewish community by reaching and serving less-engaged Jews, including unaffiliated intermarried families.

Joi.org | emekshalom.org



Ben Sandler accepted to prestigious program

Congregation Beth Israel Education Director Ben Sandler has been accepted to the prestigious Executive M.A. Program in Jewish Education at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

"This program is ideally suited for professionals like me looking to expand their professional learning, but who cannot enroll in HUC-JIR's full-time programs due to employment and location," says Ben, who is in his 10th year as CBI education director.

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

"I will emerge from this innovative program with enhanced knowledge, honed pedagogical skills and strengthened leadership capacity that will enhance my role as a Jewish educator and positively transform Jewish education at our congregation," says Ben.



Rita Philip to receive Kipnis Award

Rita Philip will receive the Lion of Judah 2014 Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award at the biennial International Lion of Judah Conference. Since 2004, the award has honored extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and

volunteerism. Lion of Judah is a program of the Jewish Federation of North America Women's Philanthropy Board.

Over several decades Rita has chaired numerous events and campaigns for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, including the women's campaign, annual campaign, President's Club, Lion of Judah, Super Sunday, allocations and gala.

In 1994 Rita introduced the concept of Connections, and chaired that successful women's event in its first and 10th years. Under Rita's leadership, the Women's Division campaign topped \$1 million for the first time.

Rita and Gayle Romain were the first sisters to serve together on the United Jewish Communities National Women's Board. Together they initiated the Lion's endowment program in Portland.

Locally, Rita also was active in the Russian Resettlement Program and has served on the boards of her congregation, National Council of Jewish Women, American Jewish Committee and Hillel at the University of Oregon. She and her husband, Bob, have two children and one grandchild.



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Friday, July 18th, 6:30pm Washington Park, by the children's playground below the rose garden, under the covered area.

Saturday, August 9th, Havdalah Under the Stars, 7pm, Waterfront Park, in the bowl area by the RiverPlace Hotel across from Marriott.

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STAYCATIONS

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The Astoria-Megler Bridge has spanned the Columbia River for 48 years.
Photo courtesy of TravelAstoria.com

Festivals abound
across Oregon **14**

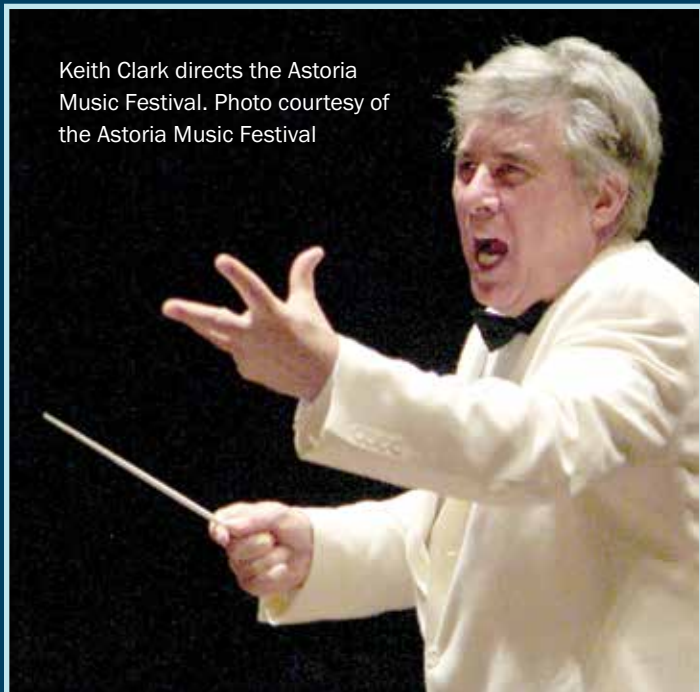
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Keith Clark directs the Astoria
Music Festival. Photo courtesy of
the Astoria Music Festival



to offer, this year

By Deborah Moon

With cultural options, wonderful food and natural beauty so prevalent in our state, you don't have to go far from home to take a vacation this summer. Be sure to check out fun destinations and activities for children and families in our J Kids & Teens too section, where our staycation coverage continues.



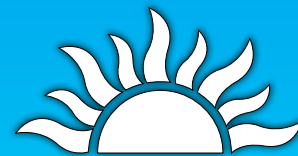
The Portland metro area is host to numerous museums, theaters, galleries, music venues and festivals including the Rose Festival every June and the Waterfront Blues Festival July 3-6. But the rest of the state also has well-known and unexpected festivals that enrich the summer options.

Ashland serves up the popular Oregon Shakespeare Festival (osfashland.org). The festival's 79th year began in February and continues through Nov. 2. The season features 11 plays, including four of Shakespeare's classics.

While you're in the area, check out the Britt Classical Festival (brittfest.org), Aug. 1-17 in Jacksonville, just 20 miles north of Ashland. Read our feature on the festival's new artistic director, Teddy Abrams, in this section.

If you head to the north coast this summer, remember that Astoria has two music festivals in June.

Back for its fifth year, the Tenor Guitar Gathering (tenorguitarathering.com), June 5-8 will feature the largest number of tenor guitar performers convened in one location. Professional tenor guitarists from Montreal to Nashville will travel to Astoria for a weekend of performances, parades, activities, singing and workshops taking place at various venues and impromptu locations downtown.



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Central Oregon IS Overflowing WITH Fun

“Central Oregon is overflowing with wonderful places to take out-of-towners to see; places we locals go regularly,” says Alice Huskey, a member of Shalom Bayit/Jewish Community of Central Oregon.

Alice asked other Shalom Bayit members about their favorite places to take their visitors or spend time themselves, and here's what they came up with: Tumalo Falls is a beautiful, easy hike; Sparks Lake for canoeing and fishing; Todd Lake (the old growth grove is magical); High Desert Museum is great for all ages; Rafting on Big Eddy; Bike riding in Sunriver; Floating/paddle-boarding the Deschutes River from Farewell Bend Park to Drake Park; Smith Rock for climbing or just taking in the amazing “grand canyon” of Central Oregon; and Taking the “magical mystery tour” –The Funny Farm and Petersen Rock Garden in Tumalo.

Free music venues were high on the list too. They included: Munch n' Music on Thursdays, Les Schwab Summer Concert Series on Sundays and Alive After 5 in Bend's Old Mill District on Wednesdays during the summer.

It's hard to find a week or weekend in Bend in the summer where there isn't some festival – Children's, Balloons over Bend, Bend Summer Festival and bike races galore!

Visitors to nearby Sisters can find a rodeo, quilt, car and craft shows. Central Oregon is also a great home base for exploring the Painted Hills, Crater Lake the Cascade Lakes and mountain trails, according to JCCO folks.



Woman and dog standup paddleboarding in the Old Mill District in Bend. Photo by Craig Zagurski/Visit Bend

Lighting up the marquee of the Liberty Theater June 13-29, the Astoria Music Festival (astoriamusicfestival.org) will host more than 26 classical, opera and chamber music performances from world-class stars and ensembles rarely seen outside of the largest U.S. cities. The gala's opening act will feature renowned singer and sold-out performer Angela Mead from New York City's Metropolitan Opera in Verdi's sweeping tragedy “La Traviata.” The most prominent Jewish performer this summer is tenor Allan Glassman, who has been a member of the New York Metropolitan Opera for many years and sings all over the world. In addition to his past performances at the Astoria Music Festival, he recently starred as soloist at Portland Opera. In Astoria this summer Glassman will star as Bacchus, the God of Pleasure and Wine, in Richard


Strauss's romantic “Ariadne auf Naxos” (7:30 pm, June 18). Astoria Music Fest Director Keith Clark says that Bacchus is considered the most difficult heroic tenor role in all opera, and he is looking forward to hearing Glassman in the role.

While you're in Astoria, visit the beautiful new Garden of Surging Waves, which recognizes Chinese influences that helped shape and drive Astoria's economy over the past 200 years. Founded more than 200 years ago, Astoria is the oldest American settlement west of the Rockies. The town's roots trace back to John Jacob Astor, who established the Fort Astoria trading post near the mouth of the Columbia River in 1811.

While many travel to Central Oregon in the summer for the wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities, Bend also offers a summer art and music festival July 11-13. The Summer Fest (visitbend.com)

draws artists and performers from all around the Pacific Northwest and features top national musicians. The streets are also filled with a wide array of family activities, wine and gourmet foods, a food court and Deschutes Brewery libations.

One way to explore the state's natural beauty is to visit one of Oregon's 197 state parks (oregonstateparks.org). Read the story in our J Kids section about Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Let's Go Camping program, which organizes weekend camping trips for families new to camping. They even supply the tents and other equipment.

To find more fun places to visit, check out traveloregon.com. 



Trail running near Broken Top in central Oregon. Photo by Pete Alport/Visit Bend



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Where do you take out of town visitors?

I'm a developer so I take people to Division Street where we've built a lot of properties. We built Salt and Straw Ice Cream, so we always take visitors there.



Eric Cress
At the MJCC Centennial Gala
Portland

I love taking people to beautiful parks. First on my list is Mt. Tabor, across the street from my house. Also Forest Park - amazing. And hikes along the gorge in the fall to see the salmon return.

We like to take guests to the gardens in Portland including the Japanese, Chinese and Rose Garden. We like to explore neighborhoods too: the Pearl, Alberta, Ladd's Addition, SE Division and Hawthorne.



Rachel Duke Eliana Temkin (on right)
At Impact At Impact
Portland Portland



I would show them the food carts downtown. Some have food you wouldn't find any other place.



Sunriver is really pretty. We have a house there and I like to bring family and friends.

Alexis Mendelsohn Sophie Blauer (on right)
At OJCYF Dinner At OJCYF Dinner
Portland Lake Oswego



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We take them to our home in Cannon Beach and look at "our rock." It's a fabulous view.



Linda Georges
Congregation
Beth Israel
Portland

I take them on a loop along the coast – down Highway 6 to Tillamook, where we stop at the cheese factory, then north to Seaside or Astoria and back to Portland. Then I take them to the Oregon Jewish Museum and tell them about the current exhibit and have lunch next door at Mel's Café.



Sharon Weil
Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland
Portland

Todd Lake, in the old growth stand, is a spiritual place.



Rabbi Jay Shupack
Shalom Bayit/JCCO
Bend

NEXT:

"What would you like to cast off (personally or societally) for Tashlich?"

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J Kids

& Teens too

A child friendly resource for parents

A family enjoys a tent supplied by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for a weekend Let's Go Camping experience last summer. Most of the equipment that the parks department provides for the weekends has been donated by REI or is from grant purchases via The North Face. The tents are easy to set up, waterproof and well ventilated.

Summer Fun.



PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

Cool off on hot summer days by finding a splash pad (Essex Parks Splash Pad pictured) at portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/454927! Splash pads, park fountains, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, day camps, and many other fun activities make Portland Parks & Recreation synonymous with summer fun. Find summer fun right in your neighborhood, including Parks and Rec's wildly popular Summer Free For All - the citywide series free movies, concerts, lunch and playground programs in city parks - at PortlandParks.org. Photo courtesy of PP&R





can choose to arrive on Friday afternoon after 4 pm or by 10 am on Saturday when activities begin. Events end by noon on Sunday. One vehicle is allowed per family.

These are very secure events with ranger-led activities, staff members and trained volunteers on hand to assist families around the clock. These events have been very popular with single parents, families on a budget and seniors. Families bring their own food. No pets, alcohol or electronic games. Come have fun and make some great memories with your family outdoors.

Cost for the entire family is \$30 for the weekend. Registration is available during business hours.

Preregistration and payment are required. To register, call 1-888-953-7677. More information is available at oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=thingstodo.dsp_letsGoCamping.

There are also new Let's Go activities this summer in nearby Oregon state parks. Your family can go and try out kayaking, canoeing, hiking, stargazing, birding or fishing for a few hours. The equipment, instruction and leadership are provided, so you can relax and enjoy the day. These activities are open to ages 8 and up (children under 14 need an adult with them), and almost all are free! To find upcoming activities near you, go to oregonstateparks.org and click on Things to Do or call 1-800-551-6949. These are activities the whole family can enjoy! ♻️

Want to experience new family adventures?

Let's Go have fun at state parks

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department brings you Let's Go Camping! This fun-filled weekend camping adventure is for families new to camping or those that could use a refresher. For families without their own equipment, the parks department provides tent, sleeping bags, sleeping bag liners, mattress pads and use of a camp stove for the weekend at no extra cost. There are 12 weekend events at various state parks. Campers



from left:

PORTLAND AQUARIUM FUN

There is lots of fun to be had at the Portland Aquarium. Kids can see and interact with fish, reptiles and tropical birds. Feed a Lorikeet as it sits on your finger. Daily Talks educate visitors about a multitude of species. Kids also enjoy birthday parties, field trips and Sleep with the Shark activities. Experience the soft skin of a ray as he swims by the edge of the touch tank. portlandaquarium.net | 16323 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Milwaukie

SCIENCEWORKS BRAVERY

These brave girls are trying to catch the attention of a life-size T-Rex in the Prehistoric Predators exhibit at ScienceWorks Hands-on Museum in Ashland. Visitors travel back in time to the Cretaceous Period where technology brings the past to life with incredible animatronic dinosaurs, controlled by state of the art interactive software. Prehistoric Predators is open through Labor Day. Summer hours are 10 am to 6 pm daily. scienceworksmuseum.org

OREGON COAST AQUARIUM

Immerse your family in a marine science adventure at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Connect with creatures that inhabit the underwater world off Oregon's coast through interactive exhibits developed for visitors of all ages. Sea otters, sharks, puffins, jellies and octopuses are just a few of the 15,000 animals that earn this attraction recognition as one of the 10 best aquariums in the United States. aquarium.org | 541-867-FISH Photo courtesy of the Mail Tribune



photo by Leslie Geller



Are you READY for the summer?

Emu at Wildlife Safari

By Rich Geller

“Are you ready for the summer?” is more than just the musical question posed by the classic summer comedy “Meatballs.” For parents it is a call to arms; soon school will be out and kids all across America will begin uttering the dreaded words, “I’m bored!”

Before your household descends into a maelstrom of chaos straight out of *Lord of the Flies*, you’ll need a game plan. If you don’t want to break the bank this summer, why not consider the humble staycation, so in vogue during the Great Recession and still an attractive option for many families. The best thing about a staycation is that it can be whatever you want it to be. Hop in the family truckster and get out of Dodge for a couple of days. Go daytripping or just chill in the backyard with the wee ones this summer; the sky’s the limit.

Summer is a great time to teach your kids about the night sky. After watching “Cosmos” this spring, our family has been inspired to look to the stars. We stepped outside after our

As Jews we know that Shabbat is the ultimate staycation.

Pesach seder this year to observe the aptly named “blood moon” lunar eclipse. On clear nights we have been gathering in the backyard shortly before bedtime to observe Mars, which in April made one of its closest approaches to Earth in years. Look for a bright red “star” in the eastern sky just after sunset through the summer months, and you will have found the world known to ancient Hebrew astronomers as Ma’adim or “the red one.”

Portland’s Rose City Astronomers hosts out of this world “star parties” throughout the summer at Rooster Rock State Park and Stub Stewart State Park. Together with OMSI, the Vancouver Sidewalk Astronomers, and Portland Parks and Recreation, RCA offers the public an opportunity to view the night sky with club members who will be happy to let your kids peer through their high-powered telescopes and answer any questions they might have. Imagine the thrill your children will get from the sight of the icy rings of Shabtai (Saturn) glittering like cosmic jewels in the sky or the four large “Galilean” moons





of Zedek (Jupiter). Visit rosecityastronomers.org for star party dates and times.

The Portland metro area also is home to two world-class planetariums: OMSI's Kendall Planetarium and the Planetarium Sky Theater at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham.

Speaking about recent upgrades, MHCC Planetarium Director Pat Hanrahan explains: "We can explore many of the planets in fine detail (even Earth). We can also zoom in to interesting deep sky objects such as galaxies, nebulae and star clusters. One thing that I found very helpful is to actively zoom in to objects to help when students ask questions. For example, many students have questions about black holes. I can zoom in to several areas of the sky where these occur. While I cannot show them the black hole, I can show some of what is going on in the vicinity of the black hole." Check out mhcc.edu/planetarium for show times.

Our kids are just crazy about animals, so last summer we went for the staycation hat trick and took our kids on an animal-themed weekend to three inimitable Oregon destinations: Wildlife Safari in Winston, The Sea Lion Caves just north of Florence and The Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport. The weekend was a blast, and the kids raved for weeks about the trip and all the different beasties they saw.

Our first stop was Wildlife Safari, a drive-through park where animals wander freely. Six hundred acres of fun await as



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photo by Leslie Geller



Mount Hood Community College Planetarium Director Pat Hanrahan displays the Pleiades star cluster in Taurus on the Sky Theater's new equipment, which can zoom in to show incredible detail. Photo courtesy of Pat Hanrahan/MHCC

you wind your way down a dusty road through an epic savannah, home to more than 550 animal species! The assembled menagerie is guaranteed to thrill your energetic little primates. The sight of ostriches and emus walking right up to your car is astonishing. Species from Africa, Asia and the Americas roam the park as you drive on. You can even have your car washed by an African elephant. Just don't forget to shut the windows!

Parents can feel good about taking their children to an AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) accredited nonprofit wildlife park. For more than 40 years Wildlife Safari has dedicated itself to preserving rare and endangered species, and has even earned the praise of animal rights groups.

Next up on our creature-feature weekend were the Sea Lion Caves, a natural grotto that is home to sea lions, puffins and bald eagles, with gray whales passing by unusually close to shore on their northward journey. A natural rookery (or breeding site) and a wintering area for stellar and California sea lions, access is gained by an elevator that descends underground more than 200 feet. Visitors exit into a small chamber and observe the sea lions through plexiglass windows. The sight of so many sea lions and sea birds gathered together is simply spectacular!

We finished our trip with a visit to the Oregon Coast Aquarium, former home to Keiko, the whale of "Free Willy" fame. A showcase of Oregon's aquatic wildlife, the aquarium is


Baby lamb Sela Geller, 5, at Wildlife Safari



designed to evoke a gradual procession from shoreline to deep sea realms. There are hyper-realistic recreations of sandy shores, rocky coasts and tidal pools, inhabited by anemones, seabirds, marine mammals and more. The aquarium is home to more than 3,500 species of aquatic life, all of which can be found on or off the Oregon coast. Our visit came quickly on the heels of the Discovery Channel's Shark Week, so our children's fascination with these enigmatic predators had reached a fever pitch by the time we arrived. We were not disappointed. The stellar "Passages of the Deep" exhibit absolutely captivated them as they made their way through 200 feet of clear acrylic tubes surrounded by immense tanks populated by indigenous species of rays, sharks and other denizens of the deep.

If you're looking for a slightly offbeat, kid-friendly day trip, then set a course for the Enchanted Forest in Turner. Prepare to enter a magical realm of Mother Goose and fairy tales come to life as you wander through this amusement park that spreads out majestically across 20 acres of Oregon forest. For more than 40 years, children have become immersed in a world of imagination as they wander through locales and buildings taken directly from Mother Goose's nursery rhymes, Grimm's fairy tales and Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Children enter the narrative as they interact with animatronic versions of characters from these classic fables.

Enchanted Forest also features a charming recreation of an English village, a frontier town straight out of the old west, bumper cars, kiddie trains and log plumes. A quirky antidote to sterile corporate amusement parks, Enchanted Forest is a family-run business. Spend a day there, and you and your children just might live happily ever after!

Of course some of the best staycations take place right at home. As Jews we know that Shabbat is the ultimate staycation. Get away from it all by putting aside the email, iPhone, iPad or whatever else prevents you from being present in the moment. Light the candles, bless the wine and challah, and thank G-d for health, friends and family. Kick back, take a nap or just sit and watch the world go by. After all, in the words of the immortal Buckaroo Banzai, "No matter where you go, there you are." 

jKids & Teens too Events

July 27

Berry Picking with the whole family with Congregation Neveh Shalom. Details: Iconely@nevehshalom.org

Aug. 16

Havurah Shalom's Shabbat at the Pool. We will have the Sellwood Park pool to ourselves 10 am-noon, followed by singing, storytelling and BYO picnic under the trees. Donation of \$10-15 per family unit requested to offset paying for pool rental and lifeguards. RSVP with family names and ages of kids by Aug. 4: RSVP@havurahshalom.org. 503-248-4662, havurahshalom.org

Aug. 24

Neveh Shalom's Shoshvim (Young Families) does Sunday Parkways! In Southeast Portland. Details: Iconely@nevehshalom.org

Day Camps

Carl Summer Camp. Ages 2½-5. summercamp@shaarietorah.org

MJCC Day Camps. 7:30 am-6 pm, June 16-Aug. 29. Oregonjcc.org/daycamp

Portland Jewish Academy Summer Discovery. Ages 4 to grade 6. July 7-Aug. 1. Pjaproud.org

Camp Gan Israel of Portland. 7:30 am-6pm, June 23-Aug. 15. Ages 1½-11. cgiportland.com

Camp Gan Israel of Clark County. Aug. 4-15. chabadclarkcounty.com

Portland Kollel's Camp SEED. July 28-Aug. 15. Ages 3-12. campseedpdx.com

Camp Geshet in Ashland. Aug. 18-22. Campgesherashland.com

Willowbrook Outdoor Arts Camp. Ages 3-18. June 30-Aug. 8. Willowbrookartscamp.org

YMCA Camp Collins. Ymcacw.org

Overnight Camps

BB Camp, Lincoln City, bbcamp.org

Camp Solomon Schechter, Olympia, WA, campschechter.org

JCC Maccabi Sports Camp, Maccabisportscamp.org

URJ Camp Kalsman, Arlington, WA, Kalsman.urjcamp.org

Camp Miriam, Gabriola Island, BC, Canada, campmiriam.org

Tot Shabbats

9:30 am (1st Saturday) at Beth Israel, 1972 NW Flanders. 503-222-1069 or bethisrael-pdx.org

10:15 am (1st and 3rd Saturday) at Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Contact Leah Conley at 503-293-7307 or Iconley@nevehshalom.org

6:30 pm (2nd Friday) at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E 29th Ave, Eugene. info@tbieugene.org

10:15-11:45 am (2nd Saturday) at Kesser Israel, 6698 SW Capitol Hwy Contact Sarah for more information, ysfgold@gmail.com or kesserisrael.org

10:30 am (Last Saturday) at Havurah Shalom, 825 NW 25th Ave. 503-248-4662 or havurahshalom.org

10:30 am (1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturday) at Shaarie Torah, 920 NW 25th Ave. 503-226-6131 or shaarietorah.org

11 am (3rd Saturday) at Chabad Jewish Center, 9604 NE 126th Ave., Vancouver, WA. Followed by a Kiddush Lunch. RSVP: info@jewishClarkCounty.com

Ask Helen

High school grad still needs confidant

A Nosh of Jewish Wisdom: I can chew for you, but you have to swallow for yourself.

Dear Helen:

I'm godmother/fairy godmother to my friend's son. His parents have trained him to talk to me if he has a serious problem. It only happened three times, when they were close to a divorce that didn't happen. He's graduating and moving away for college. His family lacks for nothing, and I despise money/gift cards as presents. What can I give him that's more meaningful than music downloads?

Godmother

Dear Godmother:

Good job on being the parental backup. If the legions of fairy godmothers focused our energy at the same time, we could heal the world!

Everyone likes money, but enough others will gift it. I'm still a fan of great books, or their current equivalent, apps that offer anthologies of poetry, inspiration, humor and guidance. It's not as romantic to imagine reading to one's beloved by the fire while holding a tablet, but that's the way of the new world. So find an app about something he's interested in, or give him something inspirational, like a chess set. In addition, give him a dinner invitation. When you meet, tell him the 24/7 crisis pass still holds through college, no matter what he needs, even if it involves bail money. Remind him that he's going to face situations he hasn't seen before, and that while you trust his judgment, all of us do stupid things while we're growing up. Tell him that no matter what, he should feel safe dialing you, and you will help him resolve any future problem.

A resident of Eugene since 1981, Helen is a member of Temple Beth Israel, where she studies and speaks on Torah. She claims to have black belts in schmoozing, problem-solving and chutzpah. She's a writer and an artist (kabbalahglass.com). Please email your questions to helen@yourjewishfairygodmother.com and check out the blog at kabbalahglass.com/blog/



PHOTO: SOL NEELMAN



Eugene sophomore lives and learns in Israel

Tala (2nd from right) with friends and teacher at Eilat Mountains

By Deborah Moon

Last summer at B'nai B'rith Camp, Tala Schlossberg heard a presentation about the Alexander Muss High School and realized, "I could learn math and science in a classroom or learn it in Israel and visit places and study history. That sounded like a much better experience."

So instead of sitting in classes at South Eugene High School, Tala is spending the second semester of 10th grade at the Alexander Muss High School in Israel, a study-abroad program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. AMHSI gives them the opportunity to study the 4,000-year history of Israel "on a unique and fun adventure traveling to the actual sites where history took place." Students receive high school credit and can earn six transferable college credits.

AMHSI is the only nondenominational, pluralistic

study-abroad program available for high school students who are not affiliated with any political ideology. The school offers full semester and eight-week academic programs, six-week summer programs and an eight-week trip with the International March of the Living that starts in Poland and continues in Israel.

Though on the four-month semester program, Tala also spent a week in Poland studying the Holocaust. On a phone interview from Poland, Tala talked about her experiences in both countries.

"We started at the beginning of Jewish history and now we are learning about the Holocaust, so we are here visiting some ghettos and today Treblinka," says Tala. "It's amazing to connect the history in classes with the places. It's eye opening and a lot more powerful to see the places first hand. It helps me connect on an emotional level."

While the stories are sad, Tala says learning about groups and individuals who resisted is inspiring.

Tala's favorite experience thus far was her first week in Israel. The 30 students in her group spent their first week hiking across the Negev from the Mediterranean to Eilat on the Red Sea.

"We went on a camping trip all through the Negev to learn about history and see scenery and get close to everyone in the program," says Tala. "It was a great chance to bring the whole group together and create a great sense of community. Since there aren't a lot of Jewish kids in my school, I don't get a lot of that."



Tala (right) with friends at Masada after sunrise ascent

Each day the students would hike to the top of a peak for lunch and look across the land, the bodies of water and where they would hike the next day. They saw the greening of the desert both from that overview and also during one night spent on an eco-kibbutz. “The kibbutz has cultivated the land and made it usable. It’s thriving,” says Tala.

With the exception of an intensive Hebrew class, Tala says all courses are in English. She knew almost no Hebrew before she arrived, but after two months she says she can now speak and understand enough Hebrew to “get by on the streets.” That has enabled her to experience a surprising difference from American culture.

“In America if you say ‘hi’ to a random person on the street, you get skeptical looks,” she says. “Here, in general, people are more positive. They say ‘hi’ on the street and ask where you come from. ... People are so enthusiastic about their country.”

Though she had visited Israel once before with her family, Tala says she has never felt as personally connected to Israel as she does now.

“I’m so glad I decided to come,” she says. “It’s made me appreciate everything more, and learning about another culture has really changed me for the better.”

Alexander Muss High School in Israel: 800-327-5980
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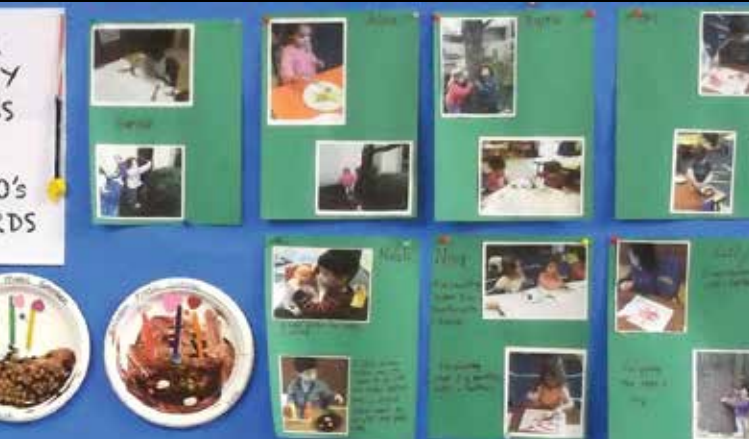
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Foundation School turns 60



By Deborah Moon

The Foundation School at Congregation Neveh Shalom has long been at the forefront of early childhood education.

When Rabbi Joshua Stampfer created the city's first Jewish preschool in 1954, it was also one of the earliest child care facilities registered with the state of Oregon. The school's license number is 33 – "That would have been one of the earliest numbers," according to Kathleen Hynes, legal and compliance manager of the Office of Child Care, Early Learning Div.

This fall the school celebrates its 60th birthday. And like many elder statesmen in today's society, Foundation School continues to grow and evolve – building on the traits that have made it a success and adding some new twists to fit our 21st century world. A longer, more flexible school schedule will feature new teaching methods that both inspire children to learn and explore and give parents a window into their child's preschool experience.

Early Childhood Director Leah Conley, in her first year with the school, says the preschool has been a perennial success in part due to its small class sizes; while the state allows up to 20 students in prekindergarten classes, the Foundation School caps those classes at 14, with no more than seven students per teacher. The intimate setting and longevity of teachers has also inspired a teaching style that responds to student needs and interests, says Leah.

Leah and her husband, Josh, moved from Chicago to Portland last July with their two children, Elliot, 4, and Amelia, almost 2. Both children will attend Foundation School in the fall. In Chicago Leah spent six years as the religious school director for Anshe Emet, that city's largest Conservative congregation.

During her first year here, Leah says she has watched and learned. She reports being impressed with the teachers' energy, creativity and child-centered approach to learning. She has also spent the year learning with teachers at the Opal School at the Portland Children's Museum to discover more about the Reggio Emilia educational philosophy that is inspiring some of the changes at the Foundation School.

Through the adoption of emergent curriculum this year, Foundation students are partnering with their teachers to further the learning process, explains Leah. Traditionally, educators have a list of topics to be taught. With emergent curriculum, teachers and students collaborate to discover common interests that they are excited to learn about. Of course, Leah says, as a Jewish preschool the school does so within a framework of the Jewish calendar to create a "Joyful Jewish Preschool."

One of Leah's favorite examples of child-directed learning occurred during the students' fall exploration of nature: "Instead of telling the students, 'We're going outside to look at trees,' the teacher said, 'Let's go see what we can find.' On the way outside, one student saw a spider under the stairwell and all the other students gathered around to watch the spider, fascinated by its movement in its web. Based on this experience, the teacher took a large cardboard box and wove string inside it to make a giant spider web that the students could climb into and explore. This began a unit on spiders that the students were genuinely interested in."

Leah says one big change inspired by the Reggio Emilia method is the documentation process that benefits children and their parents. As students explore a topic, teachers record their words and photograph the process. When they see that their words are so important their teacher put them up in their classroom for friends and visitors to see, "It's a huge boost to their self-esteem," says Emily Ail, who has been teaching at Foundation School for nine years.

The documentation also gives parents a window into their child's day. While the school provides many opportunities for family participation and parent volunteers in the classroom, parents inevitably miss some memorable moments.


"Parents can't be there daily for these moments," says Leah. "The documentation gives them the opportunity to 'be there' when the light bulb goes on."



The 2s class explores color and art with their hands.

When parents experience their child's "school voice," Leah says it adds to the family voice and creates a more harmonious melody.

The school's new schedule also responds to the needs of today's working parents. The main school day runs from 9 am-noon with weekday options from 8 am to 6 pm. However, Leah says that rather than providing just day care in the afternoon, Foundation School offers afternoon electives including soccer, dance, art and Hebrew.

A lot has changed since Rabbi Stampfer decided his first priority on arriving in Portland was the children: "They were our future! In creating a secure and promising future for any enterprise, one must lay a secure foundation." What hasn't changed is the impact of the school. Rabbi Stampfer says the school's greatest achievement has been "to recruit a remarkable number of teachers who have truly created a firm Jewish foundation for the lives of thousands of members of our Jewish community who treasure their memories of their Foundation School years." 

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Britt Festival introduces Prodigy Conductor Teddy Abrams



Photo by Robert Frost

By Elizabeth Schwartz

Musical prodigies aren't exactly a dime a dozen, but acquiring the technique required to play violin or piano at concert-level ability often manifests in early childhood. Precociously talented young musicians, from Mozart to violinist Joshua Bell to pianist Lang Lang, are hardly uncommon. It is far more unusual, however, to find a young musician with the musical and emotional maturity needed to successfully lead an ensemble. Teddy Abrams, the new artistic director of the Britt Festival, is one exception that proves the rule.

At 26, Abrams has already amassed more conducting experience than someone twice his age. He remains the youngest conducting student ever accepted to both the Curtis Institute and the Aspen Music Festival, two of the most prestigious music programs in the country. Michael Tilson Thomas, artistic director of the San Francisco Symphony, took Abrams on as a private conducting student when Abrams was 11. This year, in addition to the Britt Festival, Abrams begins his other new

job as music director of the Louisville Orchestra in Kentucky. Prior to this season, Abrams was assistant conductor of the Detroit Symphony, as well as resident conductor of the MAV Symphony Orchestra in Budapest, Hungary. Abrams has also appeared as a guest conductor with a number of ensembles, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut with the New World Symphony.

"It takes a certain affinity and care for the music to be inspired by conducting," says Abrams. "I saw my first orchestra concert when I was 9 and decided then and there to be a conductor. It was the fact that somebody was bringing together the audience with other musicians (that interested me); it wasn't about the authority issue at all."

Abrams epitomizes the approach of many younger conductors, which runs directly counter to the conventional image of the conductor as an egomaniacal artistic tyrant. Instead, Abrams is primarily drawn to the collaborative, facilitative nature of conducting. "The conductor is never an outright collaborator, because he's not directly producing sound," Abrams explains. "You're always a leader and you always have to have a vision, but mostly you're the central focus of energy in an orchestra. It's not like train conducting – starting and stopping – but energy conducting, being a conduit between the musicians and the audience."

In addition to his conducting activities, Abrams' musical interests include performance (he plays clarinet and piano) and composition. When asked how he finds time to pursue all these skills, Abrams answers, "For me, variety is one of the most attractive elements of making music. In today's musical world, it's expected that people specialize and do one thing well. Historically, that hasn't been the case. Beethoven was not only a great composer but also a great pianist, and Mozart not



Conductor Teddy Abrams.
Photo by Bryan Nealy

only composed but also conducted and played piano, violin and viola. All these different ways of making music play off each other. The ultimate goal is to communicate at the highest level, so it doesn't matter what format or style you choose. What matters is that you're bringing people together."

The art of conducting can be something of a mystery, even to conductors themselves. Abrams acknowledges the unfathomable aspects of his craft, but adds, "The technique isn't mysterious – what you do physically and mentally – and communicating isn't mysterious, but what makes a good conductor is. The art of inspiration and taking an orchestra to play at its highest levels is the mystery." That transformation of disparate individual musicians into a unified whole, each working together with the conductor to achieve a single artistic vision, verges on the magical.

At the same time, other aspects of conducting remain prosaically down to earth. The compressed format of summer music festivals like Britt creates an intensely focused musical environment, in which Abrams and the Britt Festival Orchestra will rehearse and perform seven concerts in just three weeks. "Britt already has a great tradition, and my plans are to simply enhance that," he says. "I want Britt to be an internationally ranked festival, because it deserves that."

This summer's concerts at Britt highlight connections between musical genres and styles. "This year we're putting the emphasis on folk music and connecting it with composers that were inspired by folk music but writing in more classical formats." In addition to composers like Brahms, Dvořák and Copland, who were all inspired by the folk music of their respective countries, Abrams and his orchestra will showcase virtuoso banjo player Béla Fleck in Fleck's banjo concerto, "The Impostor." Another cross-genre concert will feature vocalist Storm Large singing Kurt Weill's "Seven Deadly Sins."

Abrams grew up in the Bay Area, where his family still lives. As a child he attended Shabbat school, celebrated holidays with his family and studied Hebrew in preparation for his bar mitzvah. However, as he approached his 13th birthday, Abrams explains, "things got crazy in the music world." (Translation: he skipped high school and entered Laney Community College at age 11; a few years later he was accepted to the Curtis Institute of Music and moved to Philadelphia.)

Today, Abrams says Judaism defines his identity; he is particularly drawn to the cultural facets of his heritage, as well as – of course – the fundamental connection between Judaism and music. "Many composers I program are Jewish, although I don't know if it's because they're Jewish or just because I love their music so much." 🎵

Britt Classical Festival

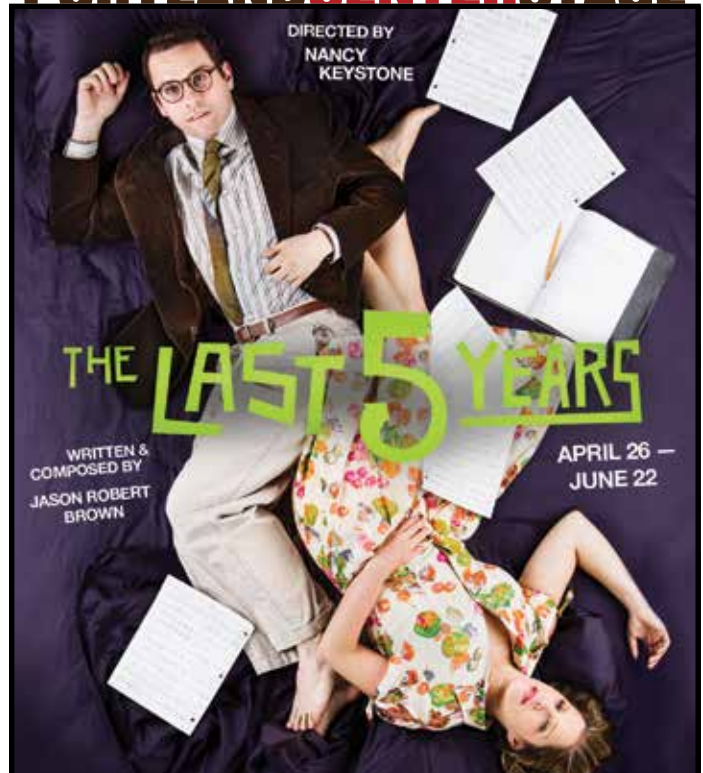
What: Outdoor summer performing arts festival

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Greg Ewer pushes musical boundaries

By Gloria Hammer

Greg Ewer, founder and artist director of 45th Parallel, shares his love for the violin, chamber music, the Oregon Symphony and the opportunity to push musical boundaries in Portland.

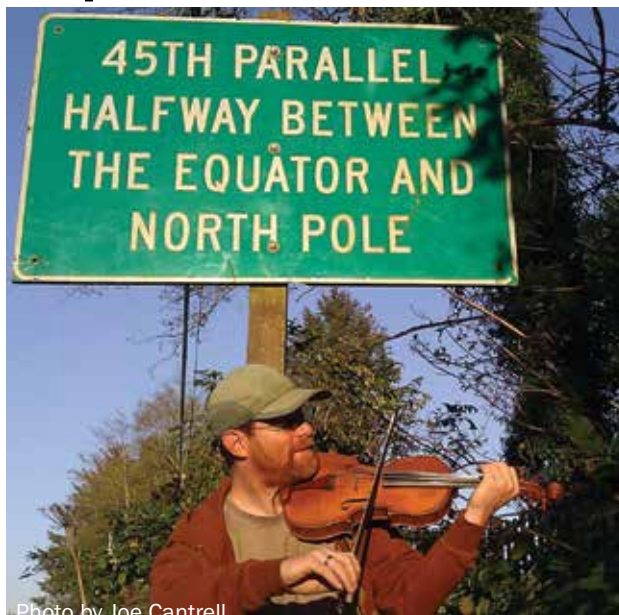


Photo by Joe Cantrell

His replies to the following questions have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Where did you get the name for the chamber music 45th Parallel?

I wanted a name that would evoke the area where I live. When I was first driving from Texas and moving to Portland, I remember passing the sign that said 45th Parallel, half way between the equator and the North Pole. That 45th Parallel sign was such an exciting and exotic revelation for me.

When did you first discover Oregon?

While in my master's program at Rice University, I was a teaching assistant under Sergio Luca. Sergio was the founder of Chamber Music Northwest. He invited me to Portland in 1999 as his stage manager for the Cascade Head Music Festival. A friend from school who was living here took me to Powell's and around Portland and to the Gorge. That summer I promised myself I would move to Portland.

Did you move to Portland with your sights on the Oregon Symphony?

I didn't move here thinking I was going to play in the Oregon Symphony.

That happened later. I loved the city, so I moved to Portland with the idea I would get into the early music scene and play chamber music with my long-time friend, Adam LaMotte, who in 2012 was nominated for a Grammy. We believed there was an appetite for chamber music. He convinced me it would be a great place to start a chamber series...

When did you move from Texas to Portland?

In 2000 I moved to Portland and started the Magnolia

Chamber Music Ensemble with Adam LaMotte and a few other talented friends. We shared a studio in the 333 Hancock Building with a painter, Elise Wagner. For three years we practiced while Elise was painting. It was a great environment. I was working at Paul Shuback's Violin Shop to pay the bills.

In 2001 I started playing with the symphony. The symphony became a big part of my life. I remember it being difficult to deal with the decrease of my chamber work.

You missed the smaller venue?

When you play in an orchestra, the skill set you use is very specific.

In addition to orchestral playing, most classical musicians have an extremely strong desire to be active and play their instruments outside of an orchestra. That is just a given.

Did your family history play a role in your musical world?

My grandparents grew up in Berlin. Being Jewish, they knew they needed to leave in the late 1930s. They made their way to New York, and even though they did not play instruments, their world was rich with music. My dad plays both violin and piano. In fact, my dad became a physician but not before having the opportunity to study with the great Russian violinist Tossy Spivakovsky.

What choice did your dad give you regarding music?

I remember this very clearly – I could take violin lessons or piano. My brother was studying piano, and I didn't want to compete with him, so I chose the violin. By the time I got to high school, I had put in lots of years and hours. In 1983 I started taking lessons from the associate concertmaster of the Houston Symphony, Albert Muenzer, who really inspired me to get good. I loved the way he sounded when he played.

When did you know it was time to move forward with 45th Parallel?

In 2009 I realized it was up to me to create the opportunity for myself. My colleagues would welcome it. Everybody was organizing concerts on the side. I was around an extremely talented and motivated group of musicians. We were all feeling a need to play music outside the orchestral repertoire. The orchestra is really fun. It is just this desire to explore and have a voice that is just a little more autonomous and independent.

What is your responsibility as artistic director?

I am the curator. I look into the community for musicians I would like to collaborate with. We bring together musicians who play classical, jazz, folk – or classical and baroque on period instruments. Normally these different musicians would not be working together. The collaborations sometimes result in something new, but other times it puts these different forms of music in an entirely new light. We have worked with musicians from Oregon Symphony, Portland Baroque Orchestra, bands like 3 Leg Torso and Jackstraw, and Irish fiddler Kevin Burke. We have worked with Cantor Ida Rae Cahana and Oregon Symphony Concertmaster Sarah Kwak. Last year we brought the iconic violinist Ida Haendel to Portland. My secret weapon is my wife Becky (marketing and creative director of Portland Jewish Academy and Mittleman Jewish Community Center). In addition to her marketing and graphic design skills, she is on top of all the behind the scenes (activities).

You are bringing chamber music to young audiences. How did that transpire?

My neighbors are teachers at Alice Ott, a small middle school in the David Douglas School District. I learned from them it was a high poverty, high diversity school. I contacted the principal, James Johnston, a real risk taker who was named Oregon's 2013 Middle School Principal of the Year. I presented the idea of a mini residency where musicians come in and support their music program. I then wrote a grant to the Herbert A. Templeton Foundation. We are involved in classroom instruction, coaching and informal lunchroom concerts.

How is it going?

It is amazing. It is one of the most exciting things I have been a part of in the last couple of years. I see it as being a big success. This is just the beginning; many in the community including the Oregon Symphony have begun efforts to expand it. We are improving the arts in schools. We are doing the work that the community knows is important but just doesn't always know where to get the funding.

Where can people hear 45th Parallel?


We are at several venues in town. We play at The Old Church. We also play at the Alberta Rose Theatre.

I am always looking for new informal, intimate and inviting venues where it is easier for the audience to feel a connection to the people on the stage.

Can you think of someone who gave you great advice?

A long time ago Sergio Luca told me something that really resonated with me: As a classical musician, you will find that it is not as important to be famous as it is to be active and make a difference where you live.

What is the difference between a violin and a fiddle?

There really is no difference other than the way you play it. Typically violin is used in classical context and fiddle is used in folk context. But I use the same instrument whether playing classical or folk. 



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Portland Jewish Film Festival ready to enrich community for 22nd year


The Portland Jewish Film Festival, which annually attracts thousands of Jewish and non-Jewish filmgoers, this year presents a very diverse array of 17 films during its two-week plus run.

The 22nd annual PJFF is presented by the Northwest Film Center in partnership with the Institute of Judaic Studies June 15-29. This year's festival includes films from nine countries designed to appeal to a wide range of interests. The films range from the family fun of *The Zigzag Kid* to the powerful exposé of World War II crimes presented as a seductive thriller in *Aftermath*. (See reviews below.)

While the Festival specifically celebrates the diversity of Jewish history, culture and identity, the IJS film festival screening committee screens a couple hundred films each year seeking films they hope will speak to experiences and issues that confront our common humanity.

"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 NWFF Executive Director Bill Foster. "Films that are good enough that they play in any context, not just a narrow, subject-driven Jewish film festival."

All screenings will be at NWFC's Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park. (See schedule pages 36-37.)

This year festival passes, which enable holders to see all 17 films, are \$125. Tickets to individual films are \$9, or \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets are available online at portlandjewishfilmfestival.org or nwfilm.org. 



7 PM, MONDAY, JUNE 16

Poland still grappling with 'Aftermath' of Holocaust

By Michael Fox

Wladyslaw Pasikowski's extraordinary "Aftermath" is a rare, delicious example of a filmmaker fearlessly exposing a grievous chapter in his or her country's history. You can sense that everyone prefers that the secret itself, along with the amoral failings of a prior generation, remain buried, but one strong soul has chosen to invite the skeletons out of the closet.

The Polish director's masterstroke is to wrap his harrowing exposé of World War II crimes and contemporary cover-ups inside the onionskin layers of a seductive thriller. A slowly unfolding mystery that grows steadily darker, "Aftermath" is crackerjack entertainment capped by an unforgettable gut punch.

"Aftermath" screens at 7 pm, June 16 in the Portland Jewish Film Festival.

German filmmakers have examined the Third Reich and the Holocaust since the early '50s, confronting every aspect of the Nazis' undeniable guilt. Polish directors, however, have largely steered clear of the period, with the notable (and controversial) exceptions of Andrzej Wajda's wrenching "Korczak" (1990) and Agnieszka Holland's powerful "In Darkness" (2001).

Their dilemma is that the Poles, to this day, largely deny the accusation that they participated with the Nazis in the murder of Jews (or that they opportunistically used the invasion and the war as a cover for eliminating Jews.) "Aftermath" shines a bright light on the dark canard of Polish innocence – literally, in a middle-of-the-night climax – and the revelation could not be more shocking.

"It is a difficult and complex subject," Pasikowski explained in an interview with *Variety* last year, "and one that runs against the Polish image of the country as being both a heroic fighter against Nazism and a victim, which is also true."

"Aftermath" begins with the return of the prodigal son to the village of his childhood after many years in America. Although the surroundings and the people are familiar, Jozef (Maciej Stuhr) sees them through an outsider's eyes. It's a clever way of setting the scene, for we immediately identify with Jozef's point of view.

As attractive and charismatic as Jozef is, though, we're put off by his casual, anti-Semitic putdowns of people he works with (or for) in Chicago. It's another canny move by Pasikowski, for it limits our identification and comfort level with the main character.


The younger brother, Franciszek (Ireneusz Czop), has been running the family farm since Jozef left. Jozef's arrival is fortuitous, however, for Franciszek's placid, small-town routine has been disrupted by a serious yet initially indefinable threat.

Actually, we've felt a sense of foreboding since Jozef got off

the plane. The moment he set foot on the road leading to the farm, an unseen entity – friend or foe? – made its presence felt.

It would be wrong to reveal any more of the plot and deprive the viewer of the pleasure of Pasikowski's carefully thought-out structure. "Aftermath" is the kind of film where every line of dialogue and every camera movement have a purpose, even if we can only recognize it after the fact.

Ambitious, complex, shocking and wholly satisfying (admittedly, in a disturbing way), "Aftermath" is a beautifully executed example of a film that draws on heavy-duty historical reality without exploiting or trivializing it. It also manages to integrate an otherworldly dimension into a wholly realistic story.

Above all, the film takes on Poland's World War II-era history and its ongoing silence with intelligence, style and – at the crucial juncture – unflinching courage. "Aftermath" is a movie to be savored, admired and celebrated. 

Michael Fox is a San Francisco-based film critic and journalist.



2:30 PM, SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Precocious bar mitzvah boy propels zigzagging family flick

By Michael Fox

An unabashed crowd pleaser in a Day-Glo package, "The Zigzag Kid" transports young-at-heart viewers on a magic carpet ride of charming hijinks and manic energy.

Belgian director Vincent Bal has transposed vaunted Israeli novelist David Grossman's beloved 1994 coming-of-age adventure fantasy from the Promised Land to a candy-cane Europe. The result is a confection of a film that dispenses laughs and life lessons en route to a poignant moral about the blood ties that bind.

A family film whose most ardent admirers will be children, "The Zigzag Kid" is fueled by primal adolescent urges. Not the ones you're thinking of, but the pressing need to comprehend the past, navigate the present and manipulate the future.

"The Zigzag Kid" screens 2:30 pm, June 22 in the Portland Jewish Film Festival.

The opening credits immediately set the tone in smile-inducing style, employing split screens, a full-spectrum palette and a pop score to evoke the spy movies (and parodies) of the 1960s and '70s.

As his 13th birthday approaches, cute-as-a-bug Nono is starting to figure out he can't abide the rules and conventions that most people passively accept. He's not a rebel – he admires his detective father to the extent that he mimics his dad's deductive skills and wants to follow in his gumshoes as a creative thinker and fearless experimenter.

The title comes from Nono's iconoclasm, as well as the gold pin in the shape of a Z that the world's greatest thief, Felix Glick, leaves behind as his signature.

But I'm getting ahead of the story. After one of Nono's bright ideas accidentally sends a cousin's bar mitzvah reception up in smoke, our erstwhile hero is dispatched to boring Uncle Shmuel as punishment. But dad's plan is derailed within moments of Nono boarding the train, launching the lad on a mission that takes him to the south of France and back.


"The Zigzag Kid" is tons of fun as it sets its inspired plot in motion, while Nono is a splendid protagonist who never devolves from endearing to tiresome. It helps that he's aware he's not completely self-sufficient, for that dollop of humility tempers his precociousness.

In fact, Nono relishes the maternal attention and affection of his father's (ahem) live-in secretary, Gaby. The boy never knew his mother, who died when he was an infant, and he'd be very happy if the current domestic arrangement continued ad infinitum. (Or, better yet, was sealed with marriage vows if his father could muster the moxie to propose).

But I'm getting behind the story. No matter. Suffice to say that Nono crosses paths with the 60-something Felix Glick, who quickly presents himself as an alternate role model with his blend of resourcefulness and suaveness.

At a certain point, especially for those adults who have sussed out the relationships between the characters before Nono does, the pieces start to click into place, dissipating the film's aura of cleverness. Everyone likes a happy ending, sure – although be advised a tragedy is revealed en route – but "The Zigzag Kid" trumpets an allegiance to the primacy of the two-parent family that is downright Spielbergian.

Oddly, I discerned no particular insights into the lives, past or present, of European Jews. In the process of relocating the story from Israel to the Continent, Vincent Bal appears to have focused on preserving the novel's themes and skipped the opportunity to allude to 20th-century history or current events.

One consequence is that "The Zigzag Kid" could be anybody, and not necessarily a fully assimilated Jewish boy whose preparatory, pre-bar mitzvah entry to manhood consists of a unique and remarkable treasure hunt. He finds his mother's identity, and his own, and we get to go along for the ride. Not a bad deal for all concerned, actually. 

Michael Fox is a San Francisco film critic and journalist.

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Welcome to the 22nd annual Portland Jewish Film Festival, produced by the Northwest Film Center and co-presented with the Institute for Judaic Studies. While the Festival specifically celebrates the diversity of Jewish history, culture, and identity, we hope that these films and the stories they tell resonate beyond their settings and speak to experiences and issues that confront our common humanity.





FRIENDS FROM FRANCE

JUN 15 SUN 7 PM FRIENDS FROM FRANCE

FRANCE/RUSSIA 2013
DIRECTORS: PHILIPPE KOTLARSKI,
KIRA SAKSAGANSKAYA, ANNE WEIL

In 1979, a young couple, Carole and Jérôme, go behind the Iron Curtain to Odessa on a vacation to celebrate their engagement. At least, that's their story. In truth, they are cousins who have come to the USSR to secretly meet with persecuted Jews denied visas to leave the Soviet Union. By day, Carole and Jérôme act like tourists, but by night, they reach out to the so-called "refuseniks" in an attempt to help them flee the country. As the pair begins to infiltrate this dark, Cold War world, they're confronted with a reality they never expected. Throughout, Carole is motivated by political commitment and a taste for danger, but it soon becomes clear that Jérôme has a hidden agenda. (101 mins.)

JUN 16 MON 7 PM AFTERMATH

POLAND 2012
DIRECTOR: WLADYSLAW PASIKOWSKI
A gripping psychological thriller, AFTERMATH tells the story of two estranged brothers, Franek and Josef, who discover a terrible secret that forces them to revise their perception of their family, neighbors, and the history of their nation. The sons of a poor farmer from a small village in central Poland, Franek immigrated to the US in the 1980s and cut ties with his family. Only when his brother's wife arrives two decades later without explanation does Franek decide to return to his homeland. There he finds his brother has been ostracized from the community and is receiving various threats, and soon they are drawn into an incendiary gothic tale of intrigue and reckoning with a dark period in Polish history. "Gripping. A bombshell disguised as a thriller.... An especially effective film noir. Excellent."—Kenneth Turan, *The Los Angeles Times*. (107 mins.)



AFTERMATH

JUN 17 TUES 7 PM FOR A WOMAN

FRANCE 2013
DIRECTOR: DIANE KURYS
Inspired by her own family history, Kurys's (SAGAN, PEPPERMINT SODA) handsome drama moves between post-World War II France and the 1980s, where novelist Anne (Sylvie Testud) goes on a quest to understand the past. Equipped with recently discovered letters and photos, she begins to shed light on the tangled relationship between her parents and a mysterious uncle, thought dead, who appeared on their doorstep in 1947 Lyon. (110 mins.)

JUN 18 WED 7 PM SUPERMENSCH: THE LEGEND OF SHEP GORDON

US 2013
DIRECTOR: MIKE MYERS
Mike Myers (AUSTIN POWERS, WAYNE'S WORLD) makes his directorial debut with this witty, loving tribute to his friend Shep Gordon, a legendary talent manager who has built his career representing an eclectic range of artists, from rock legends Alice Cooper, Pink Floyd, Blondie, and Anne Murray to celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse. Myers reveals a man who has embraced his dualities: a hard-driving dealmaker who wants everyone to be happy and a rock-and-roll hedonist who yearns for family. But it is Gordon's crisis of faith with fame (and his philosophical approach to his Jewish/Buddhist identity) rather than the incredible showbiz story that constitutes the film's moving portrait. (85 mins.)

JUN 18 WED 9 PM TRANSIT

THE PHILIPPINES 2013
DIRECTOR: HANNAH ESPIA
In 2009, the Israeli government passed a new law allowing the children of foreign workers to be deported back to their parents' country. Janet's work visa has expired, and she may be deported from Tel Aviv back to the Philippines. Her teenage daughter Yael, born of an Israeli father from a past relationship, wants to stay, and Janet's brother Moses hides his four-year-old son at home for fear that if he is found, the child will also be deported. A poetic illumination of the social and economic struggle facing displaced people across the globe and how immigration laws impact human relationships, TRANSIT was this year's Philippine submission for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar. (93 mins.)

JUN 21 SAT 8 PM HUNTING ELEPHANTS

ISRAEL 2013
DIRECTOR: RESHEF LEVI
Nominated for seven Israeli Academy Awards including Best Film, HUNTING ELEPHANTS is a bank heist caper and coming-of-age tale alternately full of jocular hijinks and tenderness. When Yonatan's—somewhat of a boy genius—father suddenly dies of a heart attack, his mother leaves him in the care of his cantankerous grandfather Elyahu and mate Nick, both former Zionist freedom fighters now barely existing in a nursing home. Guilt-ridden over his father's death and mortified when his mother, out of financial desperation, begins dating the manager of the bank where his father worked, Yonatan and his aging guardians hatch a plot to rob the bank that wronged his family. (107 mins.)



THE JEWISH CARDINAL



THE ZIGZAG KID

JUN 19 THURS 7 PM THE JEWISH CARDINAL

FRANCE 2013
DIRECTOR: ILAN DURAN COHEN
THE JEWISH CARDINAL tells the gripping, amazing true story of Jean-Marie Lustiger (1926-2007), son of Polish-Jewish immigrants to France, who maintained his cultural identity as a Jew even after converting to Catholicism at a young age and later joining the priesthood. Quickly rising within the ranks of the Church, Lustiger was appointed Archbishop of Paris in 1981 by Pope John Paul II and found a new platform to celebrate his dual identity as a Catholic Jew, earning him friends and enemies from both groups. Lustiger's split allegiance is tested when a group of Carmelite nuns decide to build a monastery on the edge of Auschwitz. Where will Lustiger stand? (96 mins.)

JUN 22 SUN 2:30 PM THE ZIGZAG KID

THE NETHERLANDS 2012
DIRECTOR: VINCENT BAL
THE ZIGZAG KID is a stylish, witty, action-packed caper à la THE PINK PANTHER that also touches on more serious themes of self-discovery, the strength of family, and acceptance. The son of the world's greatest police inspector, Nono is on a train trip to see his uncle when he meets his father's arch-nemesis, the notorious criminal Felix Glick, and must put his own detective skills to work. Wearing disguises and evading police, he heads to the French Riviera but only has 24 hours to complete his high-stakes mission—while also confronting the mystery of his own identity and the truth about his mother—before his bar mitzvah! (95 mins.)

JUN 22 SUN 4:30 PM
MAMELE

POLAND 1938
DIRECTORS: JOSEPH GREEN, KONRAD TOM
In this early Yiddish "talkie" starring musical queen Molly Picon as "Mamele" (little mother), the dutiful daughter keeps her family intact. She's so busy cooking, cleaning, and matchmaking for her brothers and sisters that she has little time for herself, until she discovers a handsome violinist across the courtyard. Set in Lodz, this musical comedy/drama, which features Picon's trademark song "Abi Gezunt," embraces the diverse gamut of Jewish life in interwar Poland, from holiday celebrations to nightclubs and gangsters. Featuring film restoration and new English subtitles by the National Center for Jewish Film. (103 mins.)

JUN 22 SUN 7 PM
CUPCAKES

ISRAEL/FRANCE 2013
DIRECTOR: EYTAN FOX
A group of friends in a Tel Aviv suburb gathers to watch "Universe Song," a Eurovision-style song contest, trying to forget the stress of their daily lives. Yael is an unfulfilled former beauty queen. Dana is a harried aide to a cabinet minister. Anat has a successful bakery but an unsuccessful marriage. Keren is a shy blogger; Efrat a frustrated singer-songwriter whose career has stalled. And Ofer is a nursery-school teacher who is upset that his boyfriend, a spokesmodel for his family's famous brand of hummus, is still in the closet and won't publicly acknowledge their romance. After they realize Anat is distraught over the crisis in her marriage, they write a song to cheer her up, and Ofer secretly submits it as Israel's entry to "Universe Song." (92 mins.)



JUN 23 MON 7 PM
THE STURGEON QUEENS

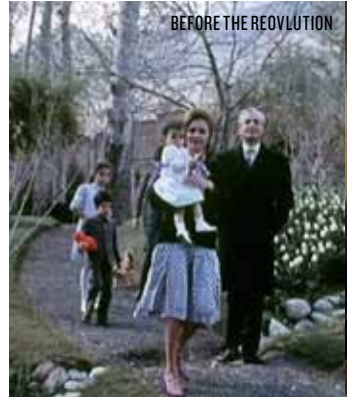
US 2014
DIRECTOR: JULIE COHEN
THE STURGEON QUEENS visits the four generations who built Russ and Daughters, the Lower East Side New York lox and herring emporium that survives and thrives to this day. Produced to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the store, warm interviews with two of the original daughters for whom the store was named, now 100 and 92 years old, hit all the key notes of the New York Jewish immigrant experience: hard work, humor, romance, and a little tsuris. Adding to the story is poignant commentary from such devotees as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Calvin Trillin, Maggie Gyllenhaal, and Mario Batali. (52 mins.)

FOLLOWED BY
BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

ISRAEL 2013
DIRECTOR: DAN SHADUR
At one time, Israel and Iran had a mutually prosperous political and economic relationship. Israelis living in Tehran enjoyed great privilege and wealth. Such was the much-coveted "friendship of the Middle East"—Iran supplied oil while Israel helped with infrastructure and weapons. Then, in 1979, the Islamic Revolution shook the Shah's regime. Suddenly, Israelis in Tehran were enemies of the people and feared for their very lives, including director Dan Shadur's family. Interviewing many who were forced to flee, while using a wealth of news and personal footage shot during these events, Shadur provides a riveting look at a seismic political shift that has shaped the Middle East we know today. (60 mins.)

JUN 25 WED 7 PM
HANNA'S JOURNEY

GERMANY/ISRAEL 2013
DIRECTOR: JULIA VON HEINZ
Hanna's motives for spending several months in Israel working with disabled youths and elderly Holocaust survivors aren't exactly noble: a sharp-eyed careerist, the young German woman figures this charity work will make her résumé sparkle. What she doesn't count on is Itay, the brusque but charming social worker she meets on her first day abroad. He teases her with off-color jokes about the Holocaust and for being German—all of which she considers ancient history, having nothing to do with her at all. As she reluctantly warms to Itay's insistent flirtations, however, she realizes the hold this history truly has on her. (100 mins.) Sponsored by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, San Francisco.



JUN 28 SAT 8 PM
THE WONDERS

ISRAEL 2013
DIRECTOR: AVI NESHER
This modern-day film noir centers on a bartender who doubles as a graffiti artist in Jerusalem. Arnav enjoys whiling away the days with simple pleasures until he gets pulled into a mystery in his own apartment building. Spying a man seemingly held captive in a unit near his, he investigates and is soon taken down a rabbit hole into the seedy underbelly of Jerusalem's criminal underworld. Earning artistic comparison to everyone from the Coen brothers and Tim Burton to Lewis Carroll and Carol Reed, Neshar has fashioned a taut thriller with striking original music composed by Avner Dorman and select recorded tracks by Israeli megastars Hadag Nahash. (112 mins.)



JUN 29 SUN 2 PM
THE LAST OF THE UNJUST

FRANCE 2013
DIRECTOR: CLAUDE LANZMANN
In 1975, while making his landmark Holocaust documentary SHOAH, Claude Lanzmann interviewed Benjamin Murmelstein. Age 70 and living in exile in Rome, Murmelstein was the only surviving "Jewish Elder" appointed by the Nazis to run the "model ghetto" camp at Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia. Murmelstein's interview wasn't included in SHOAH, but it's the focus of this compelling postscript. Condemned after the war as a collaborator, he explains the terrible accommodation he had to strike with a murderous regime. Lanzmann returns to sites that marked Murmelstein's wartime experiences and uncovers their savage history, but it's the intelligent, witty, courageous Murmelstein who provides the film's most compelling testimony. Comparing himself to Scheherazade from "The Arabian Nights," Murmelstein survived, he tells Lanzmann, because he "had a story to tell." (220 mins.)

JUN 26 THURS 7 PM
THE GREEN PRINCE

GERMANY/US/GREAT BRITAIN/ISRAEL 2013
DIRECTOR: NADAV SCHIRMAN
"Such an extraordinary story that one is tempted to think it is fiction, if only somebody had the audacity to invent it. A Palestinian in Ramallah, Mosab Hassan Yousef grows up angry and ready to fight Israel. Arrested for smuggling guns at the age of 17, he's interrogated by the Shin Bet, Israel's security service, and sent to prison. But shocked by Hamas's ruthless tactics in the prison and the organization's escalating campaign of suicide bombings outside, Mosab agrees to spy for Israel. For him, there is no greater shame. For his Shin Bet handler, Gonen, there is no greater prize: 'operating' the oldest son of a founding member of Hamas. Based on Yousef's memoir SON OF HAMAS, THE GREEN PRINCE is a story of two men, spy and handler, whom history insists must be adversaries. Embroidering a tangled web of intrigue, terror, and betrayal, Schirman builds superb tension throughout a surprisingly emotional journey."—Sundance Film Festival, where the film won the Audience Award for World Documentary. (99 mins.)

JUN 24 TUES 7 PM
BIG BAD WOLVES

ISRAEL 2013
DIRECTORS: AHARON KESHLES, NAVOT PAPUSHADO
After a girl goes missing in the woods and is later found beheaded, suspicion immediately falls on a timid religious studies schoolteacher who is arrested but released due to a police blunder. Frustrated by the lack of justice, a renegade cop and the victim's vengeful father take matters into their own hands by capturing, interrogating, and tormenting the accused killer in the basement of a remote farmhouse. Their diabolical rage quickly spins out of control in a series of unpredictable (and often mordantly funny) plot twists that ingeniously toy with audience emotions and subvert genre tropes. Declared "the best film of the year" by Quentin Tarantino, BIG BAD WOLVES was nominated for II Israeli Academy Awards, with wins for Best Cinematography, Best Art Direction, and Best Music. (110 mins.)

nw FilmCenter



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No Shortage of Fashion for Hot Summer Months



Ann Taylor

Ralph Lauren

By Kira Brown

There's no shortage of style this summer! As temperatures heat up, so does style with bright summer colors for summer picnics, barbecues, vacations and more. The past few years we've seen the maxi dress take center stage for summer style. But this year I'm shopping for a great pair of shorts. Shorts, which are a lifelong wardrobe staple, can be dressed up or dressed down depending on the occasion. We all have our favorite pair of "Saturday" shorts - relaxed, worn, reliable. I've had the same pair for years and I love them. But this summer try a pair of upscale summer shorts with a cropped blazer for a summer wedding or summer soiree. And of course, go bold with bright summer colors for a Fourth of July party, backyard barbecue and more!

To pull off the perfect shorts ensemble, be mindful of the length. Choose from short to knee length for the style that is the most flattering on your body and most appropriate for the occasion.



Easy Stripe Tote



Forget Me Not, by Figleaves.com



Ann Taylor



Butterfly Blue, by Figleaves.com

Espadrilles

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.



Reading Their FUTURE



Photo by Deborah Moon

Karen Twain leads Governor's Reading Initiative to give Oregon kids a strong start

Karen Twain's quest to help every child in Oregon learn to read by third grade began when she herself was in elementary school and continued through 29 years as a teacher, counselor and principal in the Tigard-Tualatin School District.

Since Feb. 1 Karen has led the Governor's Reading Initiative and the statewide implementation of full-day kindergarten as an executive on loan to the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Education Investment Board.

Karen discovered her passion early in life. As a grade school student, Karen became a peer tutor for students with disabilities, a role she repeated in high school. She spent her junior year in college in Israel and volunteered at a school for kids with disabilities.

"I've always really enjoyed working with kids ... I knew from an early age kids were going to be my thing," says Karen. "One of the things I am passionate about is making sure folks with disabilities have quality lives."

She began her career in education as a first-grade teacher, moved into special education, next became a school counselor and later a principal. She led the Tigard-Tualatin District's first inclusion program in 1986 to integrate students with disabilities into local schools. As principal of Metzger Elementary, she led an ethnically diverse, low-income school to multiple Closing the Achievement Gap Awards.

Metzger serves students from about 25 countries and has a high percentage of students from low-income families. Karen says when she arrived to lead the school, despite fantastic teachers, "people weren't seeing the achievement we wanted. We tried different things and eventually were recognized with the state's Closing the Achievement Gap Award." From 2005 to 2012, each year seven schools from around the state were named Celebrating Student Success Champion Schools for their outstanding work in closing the achievement gap.

When Karen went to accept the award, she noticed that Metzger was the only winning school without full-day kindergarten. She says she realized how important that was and convinced her district it was a good idea.

"Then we started to surge," she says, which resulted in more closing the gap awards. So she joined a committee to promote legislation for full-day kindergarten statewide. She was elected chair of the committee and the legislation passed in 2011, with implementation in 2015. When the legislation takes effect,



Photo by Images by Floom

districts that offer full-day kindergarten will receive state funding and will no longer be allowed to charge parents for a full-day option, a practice that exacerbated the achievement gap. Karen says a recent survey of the state's school districts showed almost every district intends to provide full-day kindergarten in 2015.

Her efforts attracted attention statewide, and she soon was recruited to help other schools achieve the same success as Metzger.

"Karen is an exceptional leader who, as an elementary principal, catalyzed unprecedented student achievement increases year after year," says Chief Education Officer Nancy Golden of the Oregon Education Investment Board. "She is known and respected statewide, and we couldn't think of a better person to lead one of our most critical efforts: to ensure all students are reading at or above grade level by third grade. I know Karen will make a tremendous difference for our 550,000 + students in Oregon."

That enthusiastic endorsement is echoed by Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Rob Saxton of the Oregon Department of Education: "Karen is one of the most capable people I have worked with in my 32 years in education. She did an unbelievable job turning around a high-poverty, highly diverse elementary school in great part due to her implementation of full-day kindergarten and a high-quality

"They asked me to get kids reading. This one really spoke to me. People go into education to make a difference. This could be huge for this state." – Karen Twain



Bridget Cross, left, and Karen Twain flank their children, Marian and Oliver Twain, at Oliver's bar mitzvah at Congregation Neveh Shalom earlier this year.

reading initiative. I couldn't imagine anyone better to develop our state initiatives in those areas and support districts around our state in developing high-quality reading and kindergarten programs."

Though Karen loves spending her days with children, she says it was impossible to refuse the request from Rob and Nancy.

"They asked me to get kids reading," says Karen. "This one really spoke to me. People go into education to make a difference. This could be huge for this state."

Karen says improving reading levels benefits both the individual and society as a whole.

"If students are not reading by third grade, they are more likely to drop out,

be incarcerated and have lower paying jobs," she says. "So to me it is critical for Oregon and our social and economic success. These little guys really are our future. If we don't teach them now, what will they look like when they are big?"

Karen is well aware that even big kids can be helped. In 2010 she became the director of Alternative Programs for the Tigard-Tualatin district and created the district's Online Academy in 2012.

While catching up in alternative schools is "doable" for older students, Karen says, "I want those kids feeling successful at age 5. With full-day kindergarten and literacy efforts, we can ID problems at an early age rather than having to wait till they fail. It takes less intervention at 5 than if we wait till third, fifth or eighth grade."

Currently achievement tests show only 66% of third-graders are reading.

As the state's literacy director, Karen is working with state government to create a reading initiative with a goal of 100% of third-graders reading by 2025, but if

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Currenty achievement tests show only

66%

of third-graders are reading.

the legislation is passed in 2015 and schools implement it in 2016, she expects a huge bump by 2020 when the first group of third-graders will have had the benefit of the program throughout their school careers.

“The legislation will include full day kindergarten, curriculum, literacy coaches, professional development, Response to Intervention, which focuses on early ID of struggling students and then providing interventions, and a heavy focus on equity,” says Karen.

Students need phonics, vocabulary and comprehension to be able to read fluently. When students from poverty and other countries enter school they don't have as rich a vocabulary, so they are already behind. Karen sees full-day kindergarten as one tool to help students close the gap.

“There are fantastic teachers out there,” says Karen. “They love kids and want to see them succeed. That's the best.”

“I'm optimistic, because if you lay the groundwork kids are always going to rise to the occasion,” she adds. “As long as I'm around kids or working to benefit kids, I love going to work and I'm happy. I'm really sure that is how life should be.”

As passionate as she is about education, Karen says she also cares deeply about Judaism.

The daughter of David and Sue Twain, she grew up in the Southwest Portland/Beaverton area with two older brothers, Michael and Robbie Twain. Though her mother passed away about 10 years ago, her father still lives in the home where



Karen Twain, Rep. Tobias Reid, Governor John Kitzhaber and Sen. Mark Hass prepare for the signing of legislation for full-day kindergarten statewide.



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COVER STORY

she grew up, just blocks from where she lives now. The family belonged to Congregation Neveh Shalom, but Karen was the child who was most into the traditions. While in high school, Karen was twice regional president of United Synagogue Youth, the Conservative movement's youth group. She was so active at Neveh Shalom that she was given a key to the synagogue so she could get in to set up and run programs.

She considers Rabbi Joshua Stampfer a mentor who motivated her with great discussions in Sunday school and at Camp Solomon Schechter.

Now Rabbi Emeritus at Neveh Shalom, Rabbi Stampfer fondly recalls Karen's involvement and enthusiasm: "From her earliest years in our religious school, Karen displayed great enthusiasm for all her studies, asking questions and volunteering for any project. As a camper at Camp Solomon Schechter, as counselor and director, and now as co-president (of the camp board) she has demonstrated extraordinary leadership skills to the camp. It is no surprise to me that the Governor has chosen her to head state wide programs in the field of education, which I know she will fulfill with great success."

From both personal experience and national studies, Karen knows that three things promote a strong Jewish identity in youth: attending religious school, going to Jewish summer camp and visiting Israel. So she and her partner of 20+ years, Bridget Cross, have pursued that path for their children, Marian Twain, 15, and Oliver Twain 13. Marian and Oliver both attend Hebrew High at Neveh Shalom and go to Solomon Schechter every summer. In the next few years, Karen expects they will go to Israel. While she hopes to do a family trip at some point, Karen says she wants them to go with their peers first so they can experience the county and meet people.

Karen went to Solomon Schechter every summer – first as a camper and later as a counselor. She says she made many lifelong friends there including Wendy Rosen (AIPAC director for Oregon and Washington) and Perri Floom (Eyta), who lives in Israel. "We all grew up at



Karen Twain and Rabbi Joshua Stampfer.

camp together; there is something special about that."

Karen first went to Israel on a USY Pilgrimage, then returned for a junior year abroad and two visits as an adult, where she has enjoyed seeing her camp friend Perri.

She believes her children will develop the same kinds of friendships and connections she did at Schechter.

"Camp creates a Jewish community where you learn to be a Jew without thinking about it," says Karen. "My kids come home jazzed, and I didn't have to do anything but send them to camp."

This year Oliver has traveled to Washington and Canada to attend bar and bat mitzvahs of his camp friends.

Karen describes Marian and Oliver as "very kind kids" and says the family regularly volunteers together feeding the homeless and helping at shelters. "They are aware how lucky they are and know how important it is to help other people."

They are also involved in other areas. Marian plays volleyball for Sunset High School and is a ninth-grader in Beaverton's Arts and Communications magnet school. A seventh-grader at Cedar Park Middle School, Oliver plays basketball and goes on a trip with Karen each summer to see professional baseball games.

Karen says she has enjoyed the state post "way more than I expected – the talent, passion and intelligence has been great," but she says she plans to return to the Tigard-Tualatin District in the summer of 2015.

"I've been in the district 29 years, so I have a lot of loyalty and I hope to retire around kids – that gives me energy," she says.



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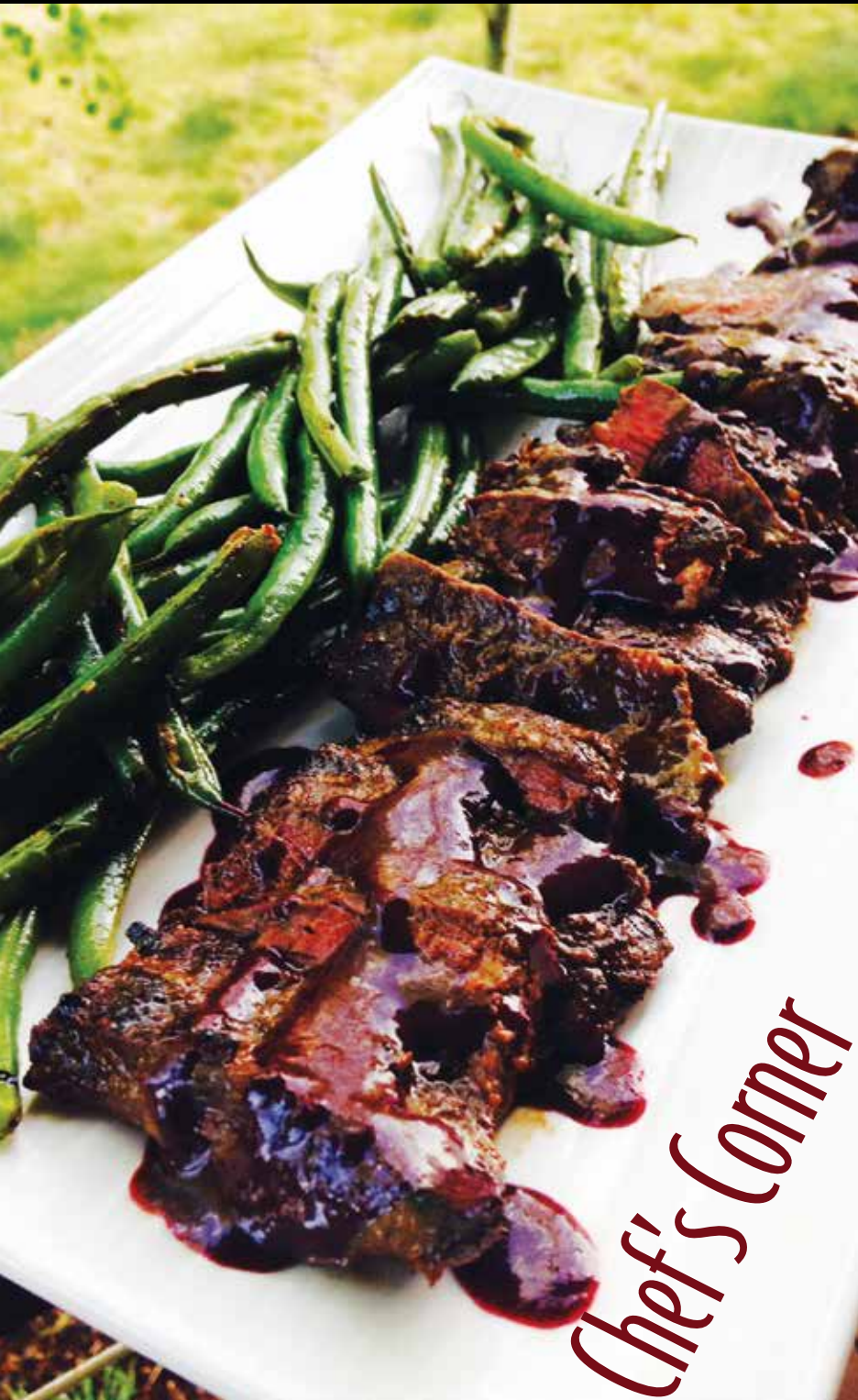


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The sweet smells of summer grilling



Chef's Corner

By Lisa Glickman

As summer begins, the familiar aroma of the BBQ grill begins to waft in the air around 5 pm in neighborhoods everywhere as the evening meal shifts from the kitchen table to the back patio. Summer weather can be unpredictable here in the Pacific Northwest, so it is not unusual to see someone grilling outside holding an umbrella. After all, we live in Oregon and we're used to it!

Grilling outdoors merges minimal effort with maximum flavor. A quickly grilled hamburger, Hebrew National hot dog or chicken glazed in a sticky bottled BBQ sauce may suffice, but if you want to get real flavor out of your meat, fish and poultry, employ the marinade.

Any meat or poultry benefits greatly from marinades. Meat and poultry should be marinated for several hours or even overnight. Fish needs to be marinated for only about an hour; this allows flavors to penetrate but doesn't break down a delicate piece of fish. If you don't have time for the long marinade, immerse as long as you can, then place marinade ingredients on the stove. Bring to a boil and allow contents to reduce and thicken. Use sauce while grilling over a slower heat as a mopping sauce and finishing glaze.

I commonly use my blender to make marinades. Before adding meat to marinade, be sure to taste and adjust seasonings and NEVER reuse a marinade after adding meat. Leftover marinade can be heated in a pan on the stove and used as a glaze or dipping sauce. Allow marinade to boil for at least 5-10 minutes to destroy any harmful bacteria. ♪

Lisa Glickman is a private chef and teacher who recently moved to Portland. She has made TV appearances on

COTV in Central Oregon and appeared on the Cooking Channel's "The Perfect Three." She can be reached at lisa@lisaglickman.com.



JAMAICAN JERK

MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS

Marinade:

- 6 green onions
- 1 medium shallot, coarsely chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
- 1 small habanero pepper, seeds removed
- 2 cloves garlic, smashed
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1/2 cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly grated ginger
- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs

Place all marinade ingredients in blender and pulse until smooth. Place chicken in a shallow glass dish. Pour marinade over the top and marinate in refrigerator for at least three hours or overnight.

Heat one side of grill to medium high leaving other side off. Remove chicken from marinade and season with salt and pepper on both sides. Grill chicken over high heat for three to four minutes per side until nicely browned. Move thighs to indirect side of grill and close lid. Continue to cook indirectly for an additional 20-30 minutes.

MARINATED SKIRT STEAK WITH BLUEBERRY CHIPOTLE KETCHUP

Marinade:

- 1 cup canola oil
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 medium shallot coarsely chopped
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 pounds skirt steak

Combine all ingredients for marinade except salt and pepper in a blender and pulse until smooth. Place steak in a shallow pan and cover with marinade. Allow steak to marinate in refrigerator for at least four hours or overnight. About an hour before grilling, remove meat from marinade and pat dry with paper towel. Season steaks with salt and pepper. Meanwhile make the blueberry ketchup.



BLUEBERRY CHIPOTLE KETCHUP

- 2 pints fresh blueberries, rinsed
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup cider vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 tablespoons chipotle chilies in adobo or chipotle paste

Bring all ingredients to a boil in a small heavy saucepan. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Let cool before blending until smooth. Strain through fine mesh strainer to remove any skins or seeds.

Spray grill with nonstick cook spray. Preheat to high heat. Grill steaks to desired doneness (about three to four minutes per side for medium rare). Brush steaks with blueberry ketchup for the last few minutes of cooking time. Remove steaks from grill and allow to rest for 10 minutes before slicing. Slice steak thinly at an angle and serve with additional blueberry ketchup for dipping.

Marinades

are made up of some basic ingredients.

Oil: Oil carries flavors and helps to distribute them evenly. Use oils with a high smoking point such as vegetable, canola or grape seed oil.

Sugar: Honey, agave nectar, brown or white sugar, molasses or maple syrup adds a bit of sweetness and enhances browning.

Salt: Kosher salt, seasoned salt, celery salt or smoked Malden salt ... I like them all. Soy or Worcestershire sauce is also a salty element.

Acid: Balsamic vinegar; white or red wine; lemon, lime or orange juice will tenderize meat in addition to adding a bright flavor. Be careful when adding fruit acids like pineapple or papaya, because marinating in these too long can cause the fruit's enzymes to break down protein too much and render meat mushy.

Herbs and flavoring: Most any ground spice, mustard or spice blend can be used successfully in a marinade. Chopped garlic, spring onion, shallots or sweet red onion also add great flavor. Choose sturdy herbs such as fresh rosemary, bay leaf or thyme and save a chiffonade of more tender herbs such as basil or parsley for a finishing garnish, because they tend to burn on the grill. If you like a bit of heat, blend in a fresh seeded jalapeño, serrano, chipotle or fiery habanero pepper.

Northwest Nosh



By Kerry Politzer

Summer is the perfect time to linger over a selection of small plates. Portland's restaurants take advantage of the season's fresh produce, creating dishes with a variety of tastes and textures. A light meal of small plates stimulates the palate without overwhelming the appetite.

Enjoy an evening walk along the waterfront, and then sample some of these delightful offerings.

Asparagus Tomseco (bottom left) and Smoked Salmon Montadito (below) at Ataulo



No one does small plates like the Spanish (and the Catalonians, for that matter). At the tapas bar **Ataulo** (1818 NW 23rd Pl., 503-894-8904) you can choose from a variety of Spanish/Catalonian items like tortilla de patatas, organic greens in a sherry-shallot dressing, tuna escabeche and salt-cod fritters served with smoked piquillo aioli. Sop up the garlic mayo with pa amb tomaquet (bread with tomato and extra-virgin olive oil).




Davenport (2215 E Burnside St., 503-236-8747), the brainchild of former Evoc chef Kevin Gibson, serves a constantly changing menu. The small plates are outstanding. Recent selections have included salt cod fritters with Seville aioli, roasted smelts and roasted beets with pistachios. If you can't get a reservation, don't be dismayed; the restaurant accepts walk-ins.

The lovingly restored Ladd Carriage House is the site of the gastropub **Raven & Rose** (1331 SW Broadway, 503-222-7673). The pub's menu of small plates includes a cheese and chutney tasting as well as Welsh rarebit made with a sauce of Logsdon Farmhouse ale and English cheddar. Finish your meal with a hefty slice of mud pie with a scoop of salted-caramel ice cream.

Ración (1205 SW Washington St., 971-276-8008) offers up a modernist interpretation of the Spanish small plate using ingredients like smoked tea butter and sous vide eggs (Ferran Adrià would be proud). The restaurant's small plates are almost too beautiful to eat. Curds of housemade ricotta lie beneath shoots of green garlic, yellow violet petals and cipollini, while brined Oregon cod is enhanced with black garlic puree and black sesame crackers. Sit at the bar and watch the artists at work. If you're a vegetarian or pescatarian, call the restaurant the day before you visit and order a special five-course tasting menu.

While the **Sapphire Hotel** (5008 SE Hawthorne Blvd., 503-232-6333) is known for its creative cocktails, the lounge also serves an appealing menu of small plates. You can share a dish of artichoke and arugula dip, or nibble on some sesame-marinated ahi tuna poke with avocado. Small jazz groups perform on Sunday nights from 8 to 10 pm.

True to its name, **Smallwares** (4605 NE Fremont St., 971-229-0995) is built entirely upon the concept of small plates. The restaurant's "inauthentic Asian" menu features yummy chicken lollipops with sriracha mayo, a salad of beets and pears dressed with a basil-citrus aioli, and parsnip miso soup. Reservations are recommended for the 40-seat restaurant. 



House Made Ricotta at Ración



Abalone Mushroom plate at Ración



Chicken Lollipops at Smallwares

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Why Your Belly Fat Is So Stubborn

(Hint: It's not just your diet)

By Dr. Christie Winkelman

Winter begins to die, flowers begin to bloom and the sun's rays start to peek through the clouds. We are ready to dress in simpler, lighter attire. Our thoughts drift to what we might look like in these clothes, and we think about why we just can't achieve the body we want so badly, no matter how hard we try.

WHY IS THIS BELLY FAT SO STUBBORN?

A naturally good place to look first is the diet. Diets that are full of processed carbohydrates (a bowl of cereal is processed much differently than a bowl of blueberries) are bad fits for a slimmer body. A whole-foods diet free of inflammatory ingredients like gluten and processed sugars leads to not only a healthier life but can help melt that belly fat away. Inflammatory foods lead to inflammation all over the body, and this leads to more abdominal fat – and lower energy levels, not to mention increased risks of heart disease. A good way to trim the fat is to cut out the inflammation. Limiting grains (even gluten-free ones), avoiding sodas and fruit juices (yes, even diet soda, which raise insulin levels, triggering fat storage), and focusing on healthy fats, protein and vegetable intake will clean things up so your body starts figuring out what you want it to do.


But diet isn't the only player in this game. Extra stress (coupled with poor stress management) raises cortisol levels, which leads to more belly fat deposition (which I know, leads to more stress). When we manage the cortisol we reduce the belly fat. And speaking of hormones, when cortisol is out of balance likely estrogen, testosterone and progesterone are as well. Lack of hormonal balance changes the whole metabolism of the body making us hold onto more weight (never does a woman understand this more than during menopause!). Managing stress with proper exercise, meditation, a walk in nature or daily deep breathing can help reduce the belly fat. If you want a targeted approach to improving your health, an experienced naturopathic physician can help you naturally balance your cortisol and other hormones, leaving you slim, relaxed and energetic, no matter your phase of life.

Other pieces that come into play for holding onto belly fat include:

Water – You must drink enough! The liver needs water to break down fats. If you are dehydrated (and most people are), your kidneys will need most of what you drink, leaving little for the liver to do its job. Unless you have an underlying kidney or heart condition, a general rule is to drink half of your body weight in ounces, and even more during warm weather.

Sleep – Get a good quantity and quality of sleep (8-9 hours for most adults)! The side effects of lack of sleep are well documented. But one area that people forget about in regard to sleep is weight. While we sleep, the liver manages blood sugar, hormones and body fat. Fasting for three hours before bedtime and making sure you are getting enough hours of deep, refreshing sleep in a completely dark room is a great first step in getting your sleep to support you in the ways you really want.

Exercise routine – Avoid long cardio workouts (45+ minutes), which can actually work against your weight loss efforts. I know, it's surprising, isn't it? But a prolonged cardio burn is the same as a prolonged stress response, increasing the production of cortisol in your body. Over time, this response promotes insulin resistance and the loss of muscle, not fat. HIIT, or High Intensity Interval Training (over a shorter period of time), in contrast, is characterized by alternating between periods of high- and low-intensity activity. For example, instead of running on the treadmill at a moderate pace for 30 minutes, you would alternate between sprinting for one minute and then jogging for two minutes. There is evidence that this alternating intensity technique maximizes fat burning. According to a study published in the Journal of American Physiology, participants who engaged in HIIT activities regularly burned greater amounts of fat and improved their overall cardiovascular fitness. (HIIT may work by training the cell's energy centers to burn fat calories before carbohydrate calories. No matter how it works, it has improved results for me and many of our Insights patients.)

The recommendations represented in this article should be discussed with your doctor. A naturopathic physician can help you to find an individualized plan of action to help address your specific needs, allowing you to shine your brightest! 



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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.



Lifting Up

Senior uses bodybuilding as a path to happiness

By Liz Rabiner Lippoff

They say you can't tell a book by its cover, blah blah blah. But in the case of Portland resident Jay Papish, you think you've grabbed a title in the fitness section ... then you flip it open, and you find you're actually in the philosophy aisle.

Yes, of course, Jay is a bodybuilder. (Look at his picture, for goodness sake.) He is, however, pushing 69, believe it or not, and the road to this body has been a long and winding one. He didn't even take the turnoff to the gym until he was 50. The lessons he has learned along the way have turned Jay into a man who is dedicated to helping others, militant about human rights and a firm believer that meditation is the cornerstone of an effective gym workout.

Jay grew up in Brooklyn, NY. They were a proud, middle-class Jewish family, he says. Jay's father worked very hard, and he went through lots of businesses to make ends meet. Jay went to Hebrew school and became a bar mitzvah. He and his sister and brother lived with their parents and their grandparents in a small fourplex. The kids shared one tiny room.

"It was the best time of my life," Jay says. "I've never felt more secure and more loved."

Jay's Advice to Weight-Lifting Beginners

We all have our medical issues. Be realistic about them. Talk with your doctor.

Set short-term goals. Having a long-term goal may be admirable, but achieving it is difficult.

Get some guidance. The correct form is more important than the amount of weight you can lift.

As we become older, we do become more fragile. But everyone should start slowly, whatever your age.

Build gradually. At the end of the workout, you should feel, "I can do this!" not "I'm exhausted!"

Don't be hard on yourself. Forgive yourself if you slip.

"Put your weights away when you're done!"

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He graduated from high school, though, in the era of Vietnam. Despite some family pressure to run to Canada, Jay did end up getting drafted and spent almost a year in an artillery unit in Vietnam. He sounds terse about it now. "We killed innocent people based on intelligence data that we got." But it changed him profoundly.

When he got out of the service in April 1968, he got a job with Western Electric in New York, but he lasted only eight months. "The guys were sitting around talking about the Knicks. I felt like I was having a nervous breakdown." He got up, quit his job and, in his words, "dropped out for 11 years."

He said goodbye to his parents, loaded his dog in his car and went to San Francisco. First he got a job cleaning up oil spills on the beaches for \$5 an hour. He eventually worked for the Bolinas/Stinson school district as transportation director of a new age school. He drove kids on field trips and was also a teacher's aide in a grade school class. He loved it.

Eventually, though, he was ready to drop back in, as it were. He applied to the Stanford Paramedic Program, met a nice girl and eventually relocated with her to Portland, where he worked first as a paramedic for nine years, then at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center for 25. It was the right job for the right guy at the right time.

“I deem success in terms of trying to be happy, being somewhat principled and doing for others.” —Jay Papish

One time, for example, Jay and his partner rushed into a house in the middle of the night to find the fire department doing CPR on a 45-year-old man. His wife and daughters were standing by, scared. Jay and his partner shocked him, got him to a normal heart rhythm and stabilized him.

"I deem success in terms of trying to be happy, being somewhat principled and doing for others," Jay says. "The reward was never money. That guy was going to see his daughter get married, see his grandchildren. That's what I take to my grave."

Bodybuilding came much later. Jay was a lifelong runner when, in his 50s, he joined a gym and connected with a group of serious power lifters who took him under their wing. Again, the right thing for the right guy at the right time, evidently, because Jay's new career of power lifting, and later bodybuilding, took off. From then on he was focused and he was undeterred ... by his late start, by a few inevitable injuries, even by a quadruple bypass in 2001 that turned him from a champion who could deadlift 500 pounds to a "kitten" who couldn't manage a five-pound weight.

His weight-lifting friends stepped in, visiting him at home, taking him to the movies, and easing him slowly and carefully back to a powerful body. Today he is back in competitive shape, and he still holds a record for the greatest dead lift for a man over 65: 160 pounds! Jay is older and wiser, though, and more importantly, he is using his hard-won lessons to help others gain



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the physical fitness and peace of mind that a thoughtful weight-lifting routine and healthy lifestyle have brought to him.

Jay acknowledges the effect of a proud Jewish tradition that he loves, and he is steered by deep empathy for others in his work as well as in his political convictions (but don't get him started!).

Caring for others is his bottom line. He has learned over years of experience that the gym is a place where people help each other.


"The gym," Jay says, "should not be a competitive place. Enjoy it, the camaraderie, the social aspects, the movements. Feel invigorated by it, not discouraged by it."

"Working out should be a form of meditation. Think about each muscle. You should feel free."

"Don't be unrealistic. You can do damage to your psyche as well as to your body."

"Life is full of uncertainty. Just be happy."

"Learn to love yourself. That's the hardest thing."

See what I mean? Philosopher. 

Liz Rabiner Lippoff is a medical marketing consultant, freelance writer and community volunteer. She does lift weights, by the way, in case you wondered. Lizlnk.biz



Jay in 2008

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Two Voices for Peace

By Deborah Moon

During May two speakers of international renown came to Portland to speak about the peace process.

As part of its Food for Thought Symposium series, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland brought scholar and author Yossi Klein Halevi to town for a free talk at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center on May 12. A senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and a contributing editor to *The New Republic*, Halevi's talk was titled "Why Can't We All Just Get Along? Forging a Peace between Israelis and Palestinians."

His 2013 book, *Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who*

Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation, won the Book of the Year Award from the U.S. Jewish Book Council. His first book, *Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist*, was published in 1995. In 2001 he published *At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land*.

Rabbi Melissa Weintraub, who founded Encounter to help the Jewish people transform the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, was in Portland May 9-11 as a scholar-in-residence at Havurah Shalom. A Conservative rabbi who graduated from Harvard summa cum laude, Weintraub is an educator, facilitator and trainer working to transform conflict in the face

of entrenched divisions. She is the author of several articles addressing Jewish war ethics and has lectured and taught on four continents. At Havurah Shalom, she spoke on her work at Encounter, how Jewish texts can influence public policy work and ways to help those with divergent perspectives reframe the conversation around the Israeli-Palestinian "conundrum."

To allow both speakers to share their wisdom with a broader audience, we asked both questions about their presentations and perspectives. Their replies have been edited for brevity and clarity.



PHOTO BY ONE CLICK STUDIO

Yossi Klein Halevi.

Yossi Klein Halevi: Why Can't We All Just Get Along?

Does the topic of your Portland talk refer to: Why can't Israelis and Palestinians just get along? Or, Why can't the Jewish people get along to pursue that peace?

It refers to Israelis and Palestinians. The internal Israeli schism between left and right has actually eased in recent years,

with the emergence of a centrist majority that is both a little bit right and a little bit left. Centrists agree with the left that the occupation is a long-term existential danger for Israel, but they also agree with the right that a Palestinian state, created under current conditions, would be an immediate existential threat. And so most Israelis are in effect stymied against themselves.

Israeli-Palestinian efforts to reach a two-state solution seem to be at an impasse. Are you optimistic for any solution in the near future, or do you believe resolution is a more distant prospect?

There is zero chance of an agreement anytime soon. The Palestinian leadership will not give up on the demand for refugee return to the state of Israel (rather than only to a Palestinian state), and they are unwilling to offer the psychological reassurances the Israeli public needs – for example, recognizing the legitimacy of a Jewish state (or of Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people). On our side, there is no majority willingness at this point to redivide Jerusalem – not necessarily for historic reasons but because of fear that Hamas

would take over a Palestinian state, and we could find ourselves "sharing" Jerusalem with an organization committed to Israel's destruction. Israelis simply won't be convinced that this can be made to work under present circumstances.

The most that could be hoped for, at least for now, is an interim agreement that would end the Israeli occupation over most of the territories, but not include greater Jerusalem and a few other areas. The fate of those areas would be negotiated at a later time, presumably when greater trust could be developed. That will not happen anytime soon.

What do you believe American Jews can do to help move toward either of those goals?

American Jews should convey to the Israeli government that there is little support in the American Jewish community for continued settlement building and that this is destructive for Israel's future, for a future peace process and for Israel's standing in the world. But that message will only be heard by Israelis if they believe that American Jews share the concerns and anxieties of an overwhelming majority of Israelis about the daunting security problems Israel faces. I want American Jews to be part of the debate over Israel's future. But that can only happen if Israelis feel they can trust American Jews to understand the complexity of Israel's dilemmas. A simplistic "peace now" approach only erodes the credibility of American Jewish criticism of those Israeli policies that should be criticized.

If people take away only one message from your talk in Portland, what do you hope that will be?

Complexity, complexity and more complexity. The ideologues of right and left trivialize our agonizing dilemmas, our struggle between morality and security. To be a healthy people, we need Jews who are multidimensional, capable of holding multiple and even conflicting truths about the conflict in their heads.

Anything else you want to emphasize?

Delighted to be celebrating Independence Day with the Portland Jewish community (though it's a long way from Jerusalem).



Rabbis Melissa Weintraub and Joseph Wolf address the crowd at the May 11 lunch at Havurah Shalom. Photo by Steve Birkel

Rabbi Melissa Weintraub: The Jewish Approach to Human Rights

Is there a difference between “resolving the conflict” and “the peace process” in today’s Middle East?

Successful “conflict resolution” will require a peace agreement, not just an evolution of “facts on the ground” or unilateral measures on the part of either party. No unilateral solution will result in long-term reduction of violence, secure borders, local and international recognition, and civil and political rights for both peoples.

But I am of the school that “while leaders sign agreements, people make peace.” Political leaders will not have the courage to “pay the price” until their people better understand the deals, compromises and trade-offs that will be necessary to reach a viable agreement. And our respective peoples won’t understand the compromises required until they understand and recognize each other’s historical experience, current needs and aspirations.

Are you optimistic for any solution in the near future, or do you believe resolution is a more distant prospect?

History is full of surprising breakthroughs. Nonetheless, I do not believe “the ground is prepared for peace.”

Each side longs for recognition – from each other and from the world – for their aspirations, legitimacy and suffering; yet so many lack or have been hardened against basic empathy for the others’ historical experience, needs and intentions.

A viable political peace process doesn’t require us to embrace the other’s narrative wholesale. It may require both parties to gain enough recognition for the others’ experience to get why *neither* party can embrace the others’ view of history, nor abdicate its own. To get that the other party can be a partner for peace without undergoing an ideological conversion.

What do you believe American Jews can do?

Seek complexity. Go on tours with people who contradict each other. Read multiple sources until you’re dizzy. If you think you know who the bad guys are, listen to them and try to stand in their shoes. At the end of such a process, advocate for your vision, still extending recognition to all parties. ... understanding is not the same as agreement.

Demand that our elected officials and opinion leaders here in America do the same.

If people take away only one message from your weekend in Portland, what do you hope that will be?

We need hearts big enough to hold the contradictions and claims, anguish and fears of multiple parties to this conflict if we are to direct our people’s destiny toward our greatest hopes rather than our greatest fears.

Whichever party any of us is most sympathetic and connected to will only know security, peace and dignity when the other party knows it too.

Anything else you want to emphasize?

We need to pursue the thinking of those who think differently than us, including those we see as endangering peace and security or fueling violence, those we see as naïve or war-mongering.

We need collaborative conversation through our disagreements to find the wisest lessons and outcomes – rather than to seek out evidence that delegitimizes our counterparts, which is how most political debate operates in this country.

We are indelibly involved in this conflict, as Americans and as Jews, like it or not. The quest for peace in the Middle East will take all of us. It will take left-wingers and right-wingers, settlers and anti-occupation activists, Christians, Muslims and Jews. I started my career working primarily on peace between Jews and Palestinians. I’ve increasingly realized peace is going to take wider social transformation and the cultivation of deep respect and understanding *within* the Jewish community, and *within* the Palestinian community, every bit as much as between our peoples. ♪

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Why didn't John Kerry approach peace process creatively?

By Mylan Tanzer

I am an optimist by nature, but 33 years in Israel have taught me not to be when it comes to subjects like politics or short-term prospects for the Middle East.

April 29 was the end of the nine-month period of the American-brokered negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. I hate to be right about things of this nature, and I dislike even more saying "I told you so." But in my October column, "Seeking peace in the shadow of war," which I wrote when this current round of negotiations began, I sadly had it figured out. Why didn't John Kerry and the rest of his team? Trying is commendable, but if you take a stab at a problem so elusive, then analyze why it hasn't been solved and go with a creative approach.

There are numerous and complex reasons for another failure to break through the 20-year impasse. Unfortunately Kerry intimated pretty clearly that Israel is to blame for the breakdown due to not releasing the final batch of Palestinian prisoners, raising the demand that Israel be recognized as the homeland for the Jewish people and announcing housing starts in East Jerusalem in the future. It is sad to see a seemingly dedicated and good man, who has a long record of support for Israel, covering up his personal failure in such a superficial blame game.

Kerry hardly mentioned the Palestinians' violation of their promise not to submit membership applications to UN institutions, the official PA incitement against Israelis during the negotiations or the lack of Palestinian flexibility or their refusal to commit to continue negotiations beyond April 29 as the reasons for the Israeli steps. I really do not want to write about the tit-for-tat nature of the final weeks of the negotiation charade. It is more important to look at why this failed, the results of the failure (including the unity agreement between the PA and Hamas) and where this leaves us.

As usual, Israel is getting the blame for this, so it's worthwhile to look at the accusations and understand our version.

New Israeli settlement plans derailed the negotiations:

As much as the international media tries to make of settlements, they are not the core issue. Israel has proven on many occasions that for real peace, settlements will be dismantled, settlers evacuated (by force if necessary) and land will be turned over to our former enemies. Settlements give the Palestinians the excuse to continue to avoid making real gestures toward peace. I would have preferred that during the negotiations Israel not engage in settlement rhetoric, which was largely bombastic statements by right-wing elements in the coalition who would like to derail the negotiations. In essence this was mostly planning for construction that won't begin for several years, and all of which is in areas proposed to become part of Israel as part of territorial swaps. If Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas were serious about peace, the settlement issue would not be an obstacle.

As Times of Israeli blogger Paul Gross writes: "There may well be a future Israeli prime minister more willing to confront the West Bank settlers' expansionist plans than Netanyahu – and that would be both a practical and a moral step forward – but he did freeze settlement building for 10 months in 2009/10, and Abbas waited until the 10th month to restart negotiations then ended them when that month was over. Yes, settlements are a problem, but – contrary to popular assertion – they are not the problem. That remains a Palestinian unwillingness – or, perhaps, a psychological inability – to accept the legitimacy of a Jewish state."

Abbas is a true partner who can deliver peace, and therefore Israel is to blame for the breakdown of talks:

Abbas' record over the last 20 years clearly illustrates a repeating trend. While for many years he voiced opposition to terror, he has not once in the 19 years since Oslo made any concession or retreated from the demands of an Israeli withdrawal to 1967 "Auschwitz" borders

(as the late Abba Eban called them), repatriation of refugees (a multigenerational definition of "refugee" that applies to no people other than the Palestinians) and East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital.

In his recent column "Abbas continues to fool with us," Ha'aretz columnist Ari Shavit criticized Abbas and many Israelis who do not recognize his strategy. He details how Abbas repeatedly has avoided accepting any Israeli overtures, then writes, "(A)fter all of this, did we open our eyes? Not at all. We again blamed the Likud and Netanyahu and had expectations that in 2014 Abbas will not dare to say no to Kerry. Oops, surprise: In his polite and clever way, Abbas said no to both Kerry and Obama. Again it was clear that the line toed by the President from Ramallah is clear and consistent. No flexibility. Instead a sophisticated game of squeezing more and more out of Israel without any clear Palestinian compromise."

Abbas is almost a figurehead who rules over little more than his immediate vicinity. If elections were held in the West Bank, Hamas would sweep him out of power as they did in Gaza in 2005. He has never responded with counterproposals to Israeli peace offerings. Yediot's Nahum Barnea wrote, "Despite his battle against terror as a tool in the struggle, he is frightened to sign any agreement with Israel. He has had a signature phobia since 1995 until today."

Netanyahu's demand that Israel be recognized as the homeland for the Jewish People helped sabotage the negotiations:

While Abbas' unwillingness to show any flexibility has gone largely unnoticed, much criticism has been leveled at this demand by Netanyahu. Many have tried to imply that this was an Israeli attempt to add a final proverbial straw to break the back of the negotiations, including Toronto University Professor Robert Fulford who writes, "They know that Israel is surrounded by neighbors who will likely never recognize its existence as the Jewish homeland, much less sign a treaty developed in a 'peace process' quarterbacked by Washington."

Israeli centrists and moderates who

desire a two-state solution believe if Israel is expected to recognize the homeland of the Palestinian people, the Palestinians should unequivocally recognize Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people. Contrary to perception, this step is not intended to derail the peace process. The intention of this demand is a creative way to try to overcome the obstacle of the untenable and inflexible Palestinian demands.

Pre-67 borders and refugee return obviously negate our existence. Despite American pressure, the Palestinians have not softened their position on these issues; so to create some hope for a breakthrough, Israel's strategy has been to demand that concessions to these harsh Palestinian demands will be based on the condition that the final agreement will be an end-of-conflict and end-of-mutual-claims agreement. Isn't that the goal of negotiating a solution?

But even on this basic tenet, Abbas will not or cannot commit. So Netanyahu proposes mutual recognition of each other's homeland; if Abbas accepts it will show he is not in this just to get more prisoners released. This would give Netanyahu the tool necessary to stand up to the strong right wing pro-settlement bloc and take the next steps in the peace process. If Abbas agrees to reciprocity on the mutual recognition of Jewish and Palestinian homelands, then Netanyahu will have space to negotiate the border and other issues in good faith, something that cannot be done as long as Abbas does not give an inch on the core issues.

But Abbas immediately saw this as a threat to the Palestinian narrative of the conflict that denies any Jewish connection to the land. Abbas has used this myth as an important weapon in delegitimizing Israel, and immediately sought backing for its rejection from the Arab League, where political courage and vision are as accepted as women's equality in Saudi Arabia.

To Kerry and the world, it should be clear that while this ostensibly moderate Palestinian leadership claims to support "two states for two peoples," it continues to deny any historical Jewish connection to the land. Not good for trying to end the conflict.

As long as the Palestinians did not

even hint at some flexibility on their core issues, then the homeland of the Jewish people issue was the last option that would allow Netanyahu the space to take a bold stance and perhaps initiate a second freeze of settlements during the negotiation period.

Like Abbas, Netanyahu is in a weak position; he leads a party of only 20 seats, and many of these Likud Knesset members will not allow any flexibility in negotiations with Abbas unwilling to stray from his positions.

The vast majority of us in Israel, some grudgingly, accept that the status quo is untenable and a two-state solution is the only solution. Most Palestinians still have not reconciled themselves to Israel's existence.

Against this backdrop, Kerry insisted the negotiation process would be one that would settle all issues. He insisted on grand negotiations meant to resolve refugees, borders and Jerusalem. What was he thinking? How would he succeed where his predecessors, who worked in a less hostile environment when the gaps were less extreme, had failed? Had Kerry bothered to look at the situation as it is and not been swept up by dreams that are currently unattainable, he actually might have been able to make a contribution.


The U.S. administration was delusional to think all of the issues could be solved in the immediate future. If Kerry really wanted to make a lasting contribution to solving this conflict, he should have looked at what smaller and intermediate steps could be implemented on a practical level to lower tensions and lay a cornerstone of future willingness to tackle the core issues.

We realize most Palestinians have not given up hope of eliminating us, and most of us do not want to wait until the Palestinians understand the futility of this. We prefer to separate from the Palestinians, the sooner the better, by agreement if possible but unilaterally if necessary, without the mistakes of the Gaza withdrawal. We must allow for additional safety valves due to the upheaval in the Arab world. Why didn't Kerry see that in the absence of a peace process, separation has become a legitimate and acceptable strategic option with advantages for both sides?

A number of public figures and writers have proposed this option, most recently former Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Oren as well as prestigious think tanks such as the Reut Institute and the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, which have formulated strategies for such a move.

Channel Two's Ehud Ya'ari, Israel's most prominent Arab-affairs journalist, has proposed an "armistice agreement" with the Palestinians; Israel would evacuate settlers and soldiers from the vast majority of the West Bank, keeping enough territory to thicken Israel at its most vulnerable points, but leaving contiguous territory for the Palestinians to establish a state with provisional borders. The question of final borders, as well as the thorny issues of the refugees and Jerusalem, would be left until the Palestinians are ready and willing to seriously negotiate.

If Kerry had adopted this realistic approach, the United States and the quartet could have used their bankrolling clout with the Palestinian Authority to pressure the leadership in Ramallah to agree to these efforts, simultaneously offering generous support to build up the economy and infrastructure of the Palestinian state that would gradually emerge.

Paul Gross sums this up best when he writes: "It's high time this reality was acknowledged by those countries that purport to back the two-state agenda. There will be no handshakes on the White House Lawn, no Nobel Peace Prizes. Instead of focusing on peace, Israel, the Palestinians, the U.S. and any other would-be interlocutors must simply look for the best way to help us end the occupation by establishing secure borders for Israel. That is now the only game in town." 

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.



Tikkun Olam in Action

Guatemalan children jump for joy when Hillel students build them a school



Stacey Goldberg, left, and Remi Nevins with a Guatemalan student.



Oregon Hillel Student President Laura Ticho hands out one of the 150 solar lanterns donated to the local Guatemalan schoolchildren.



University of Oregon Hillel Executive Director Andy Gitelson (front) poses with the U of O students he took to Guatemala to help build a school over spring break. From left are (front row) Liana Lis, Carolyn Gilchriese, Megan Brehm, Laura Ticho and Jenna Barasch; and (back row) Ariella Wolfe, Stacey Goldberg, Remi Nevins, Adam Gould and Ava Feldman.

By Will Rubin

While many college students spent spring break on a beach or by a pool, 10 University of Oregon students spent theirs in Compala, Guatemala, building a sustainable school building.

The Oregon Hillel Foundation worked with nonprofit organizations Hillel International and Repair the World to fund the trip and teamed with students affiliated with the Hillel at UC Santa Cruz to build the 300-person facility.

“I feel as a Jewish student it is incredibly important to engage in this kind of project,” says Oregon senior Ava Feldman. “I feel that as we grow into Jewish adults it is important to participate in activities that encourage us to engage with and assist other communities that can in turn help us become better leaders within our own.”


The two Hillel groups combined to build the environmentally friendly school with the help and participation of the elementary school-aged children, who would soon be using the structure. Sometimes they would help the volunteers with their construction, but often their help came in the form of an energetic dance or playful game.

For the Oregon Hillel group, the kids’ excitement served not only as a jolt of energy when they needed a break from the physical labor, but as a glimpse into the true impact of their presence.

“The children looked so overjoyed to be performing these silly dances and songs for us,” says Oregon junior Laura Ticho. “In America, I feel like most kids would be bothered by the task of having to prepare a show for a handful of visitors from another country.”

Along with the new school building, the Oregon and UC Santa Cruz Hillels combined to raise enough money to purchase 150 solar-powered lanterns for the students of Compala. Powerful enough to light up a room, the lanterns prompted quite the reaction from the pint-sized Guatemalans. As they picked up their new light sources, each kid showed appreciation with a hug and a smile.

“To think that many of the children at home get this excited over a PlayStation or new CD, and these children were blown away by the ability to read or have light while going to the bathroom in the middle of the night,” Ticho says. “It was incredibly moving for me because these children were so grateful for what we were doing for them, and it showed on each of their faces.”

This academic year Oregon Hillel has increased its focus on tikkun olam (repairing the world). It’s safe to say that those 10 students – along with those from California – did their part in bringing that value to life. 

Will Rubin is a junior at the University of Oregon majoring in journalism. A lifelong resident of Eugene, Will has covered the Oregon Ducks for the Oregon Daily Emerald and AddictedToQuack.com; he currently writes for DuckTerritory.com.

THE CAMPFIRE GIRLS – AN IMPROMPTU CHORUS

By Gene Freund, Rose Schnitzer Manor resident

There was still daylight left when the residents of the Rose Schnitzer assisted living center left the auditorium. They had been treated to a May Day performance, including a double encore, by the Portland Girls Symphonic Choir.

Some zipped off to see the rest of Jeopardy or catch that important game on the sports channel. Others ambled off to their apartments and the comfort of a favorite chair.

But a small group of elderly women remained in place, some with eyes closed, others smiling, remembering when they too had the voices of youth. On this evening I think they saw themselves in that choir of high school girls.

Like hot water releasing the flavor of coffee, those teenage choral voices brought back a flood of memories: a first kiss, holding hands, young love and courtship. These women left the concert hall with some regret that it had all ended much too soon.

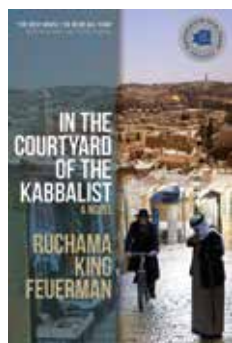
They regrouped in the vestibule outside the auditorium. Each maneuvered her wheelchair or placed a chair so they were sitting in a circle. They looked as if they were around an imaginary campfire. Then following the hands of some invisible conductor, they began to sing. They were now sisters in a choir of their own making mouthing words of love. Some sang in English tinged with Polish and German accents. The oldest woman was over 100; she had come from Poland. Two others in their 90s had escaped from Germany. The seven voices soared.

The lead singer, in her early 80s remembered Broadway show tune lyrics from South Pacific or West Side Story. Once the Broadway love songs were exhausted, the voices moved to old German, Polish, Spanish and French songs of love.

I watched the faces of these women and something had changed. They were teenage girls again. On that evening these women had been transported to another time and place.

This was not a rehearsed formal show. The chorus had occurred spontaneously and there was a spiritual quality to the event. I was emotionally moved by this impromptu choir and felt fortunate to have been a witness to the power of the human voice and song.

JEWISH BOOK MONTH TITLE SELECTED



Add this book to your summer reading list Portland! The fourth Portland Jewish Book Month celebration of “One Book, One Community” will center around *In the Courtyard of the Kabbalist*, by Ruchama Feuerman during a month of programs in November. More than 10 congregations and organizations are planning November events focused on the selected book. A complete list of events will be available in the fall. Dara Horn says of the book “A beautiful novel that coils the history and mystery of Jerusalem into a private and vivid tale of personal

dignity, ownership, love – and the overlap of all three, the space we call the soul.”

Less than 300 pages, emotional buildup to an unusual story of searching for the truth, whatever it might be. Author will be presenting her ideas about the book either in person or via interactive connection (on computer). Stay tuned for

In addition, PJBM will be co-sponsoring an event with the Jewish Genealogical Society on Nov. 9 featuring David Laskin, author of *The Family – Three Journeys into the Heart of the 20th Century*. Goodreads says “With cinematic power and beauty, bestselling author David Laskin limns his own genealogy to tell the spellbinding tale of the three drastically different paths that his family members

took across the span of 150 years.” This book reads like a fiction book you can’t put down. Whether we follow those family members who stay behind in Russia, move to Palestine, or emigrate to the United States, we find ourselves living their experiences. This is a longer book, but also a great summer read.

Both books are available at Annie Bloom’s.

SUKKAHPDX CALLS FOR DESIGN PROPOSALS

Oregon Jewish Museum and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center invite designers, artists and makers of all backgrounds to propose contemporary responses to the traditional challenges of sukkah design. June 20 is the preliminary registration deadline for SukkahPDX 2014, with designs due July 14. Winners will be notified Aug. 1. A sukkah is a temporary dwelling erected in observance of the harvest holiday of Sukkot.

The sukkah poses ancient questions of protection, enclosure, transience, displacement and domestic space that remain highly relevant in 21st century art, craft and design. Awardees of this juried competition will receive a supply budget of \$400 to create and install their proposed sukkah on the grounds of OJM or MJCC in Portland. This deliberately modest budget is intended to promote thoughtful engagement with the ephemeral nature of the sukkah, and to encourage careful consideration of material consumption. Proposals that employ recycled, salvaged or sustainable materials are encouraged.

All proposals should include a plan for the continued use of the sukkah or its component materials beyond the exhibition period. A collection of up to nine winning sukkahs will remain on display throughout the holiday of Sukkot Oct. 9-16. For more information, contact the museum at info@ojm.org or 503-226-3600.

OREGON JEWISH MUSEUM

in June



Vida Sefaradi

A Century of Sephardic Life in Portland

June 12 - October 19, 2014

Opening Reception
June 11, 5:30 - 7:30pm

June 16:
Annual Meeting with Guest Speaker,
Chet Orloff
7pm at OJM

Annual Dinner at Ahavath Achim, 1949.
Gift of Rochelle Menashe Stilwell OJM7317

1953 NW Kearney St., Portland, OR 97209
503-226-3600
www.ojm.org

Tue-Thu 10:30am-4pm
Fri 10:30am-3pm
Sat-Sun noon-4pm



1

TEEN PHILANTHROPY – On May 1 more than 200 people celebrated teen philanthropy at the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation’s annual benefit dinner at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. “Imagine: Journeys of Generosity” raised \$45,000 from sponsorships, donations and the Mitzvah Moment. Now in its 11th season, this year’s OJCYF board is the largest yet with 54 students from high schools around the Portland metropolitan area, as well as Salem and Vancouver, WA. The evening featured guest speaker Steven Eisenbach-Budner, founder of Tivnu: Building Justice, and music from teen band Surviving Yesterday. The OJCYF board meets June 1 to make final allocations for the season. All proceeds from the benefit dinner will support community nonprofits. Photo by Photo by One Click Studio



3

2. PRE-PESACH SEDER – Rabbi Shmulik Greenberg of the Chabad Jewish Center of Clark County led a pre-Passover celebration at The Quarry Retirement Community in Vancouver, WA.



2

3. PRESIDENTIAL SHABBAT – More than 50 people (mostly Portland State University students) came to “Inside the Actors Studio” Shabbat on April 25 with PSU President Wim Wiewel. During a live interview with Greater Portland Hillel Director Rachel Hall, President Wiewel answered fun personal questions students had submitted in writing. Queries included: “How did you meet your wife?” “Do you have any siblings?” and “What’s the hardest part about being the president?” Then he gave a brief talk about his trip to Israel and gave a strong commitment towards fighting the anti-Israel activity at PSU. He also stayed and participated in a brief Shabbat service.



4

4. TASTE OF TEMPLE – Judah Garfinkle, left, one of the past TOT chairs hangs with current TOT chair Joey Fishman as the set-up begins for Taste of Temple. Kenny & Zuke’s, one of the 51 vendors participating, prepare their famous pastrami to provide tastes to more than 500 attendees. The annual event raised \$60,000 for Temple Beth Israel. This year the popular event was moved from Beth Israel’s Goodman Hall to the Castaway event venue to accommodate more people. Plans are already under way for next year’s TOT.





5. HILLSBORO SEDER – On April 14 more than 70 people joined the Hillsboro Community Seder at the Chabad Jewish Center of Hillsboro hosted by Rabbi Menachem and Chaya Rivkin. Here guests arrive shortly before the beginning of the holiday.



6. STUDENT SEDER – The Greater Portland Hillel Passover seder brought together 80 students from metro area colleges for songs, food, improv, group activities and more.

7. FREEDOM TO MARRY VIGIL – From left, Oregon United for Marriage Campaign Manager Mike Marshall, Senator Ron Wyden, Congregation Beth Israel Senior Rabbi Michael Cahana and CBI Rabbi Rachel Joseph gather at the Oregon United for Marriage Freedom to Marry Vigil on April 22.



8. CARING COMMUNITY – More than 450 people came together May 15 to support the most vulnerable among us. David and Liz Rabiner Lippoff chaired and emceed the second annual Celebrating Our Caring Community Luncheon, which raised more than \$110,000. Attendees at the Jewish Family & Child Service luncheon were motivated and inspired by Howard “H” White, Vice President Jordan Brand, Nike to be a part of making a difference in the world, and they did with generous contributions. Photo by Images By Floom



9. GENERATIONS EXPLORE IDENTITY – Teens and parents, including Roni Heyman with mom, Yafit, and Yaniv Horenstein with father, Bob, explore Jewish identity at Congregation Shaarie Torah’s Wednesday night school. The activity involved value sorting and discussion, between teens, between parents and teens, and between parents. The talked about: What does it really mean to be Jewish? Who is Jewish? And how can the phrase “kol Israel arevim zehl’zeh connect us to Israel.



10. SKIN CARE SUMMIT – President and Founder of VOLANTÉ Skincare Dr. Elizabeth VanderVeer of Portland’s VanderVeer Center, left, recently attended the Women’s Wear Daily CEO Summit 2014 alongside some of the world’s most influential leaders in beauty like Lynn Tilton, right, founder of Patriarch Partners. VOLANTÉ is an innovative skincare line that is changing the way the world cares for skin.

Through June 22

The Last Five Years. Portland Center Stage. Performance times vary. pcs.org

The Playboy of the Western World. Artists Repertory Theatre. Times vary. 503-241-1278, artistsrep.org

June 1

Song of Miriam Awards. Jewish Women's Roundtable honors women volunteers from 19 organizations. 10 am to 12:15 pm at the MJCC. Tickets: \$32 at the door. jwrt.org

Hadassah's Machon study/book group discusses Zionism, what is it? 10 am-noon at the MJCC. tboussi@gmail.com

Temple Beth Israel's Dream Auction. 541-485-7218 or tbiuegene.org

Vida Sefaradi Gala Dinner—SOLD OUT.

June 3

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Join Rabbi Daniel Isaak for a service and discussion on social justice at 8:30 pm. 503-246-8831

June 8

Men's Club of Congregation Shaarie Torah honors Barry Benson with the Harry R. Nemer Service Award. 6 pm dinner at Shaarie Torah. \$36. 503-226-6131

June 10

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Annual Reception. 5 pm at Zidell Hall at Cedar Sinai Park. Recognizing OJCF Legacy Society honorees Eric and Tiffany Rosenfeld and family. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer. Free. RSVP by June 6: gailm@ojcf.org or 503-248-9328

June 11

Opening reception for Vida Sefaradi: A Century of Sephardic Life in Portland. 5:30-7:30 pm at OJM. Free.

June 11- Oct. 19

EXHIBIT - Vida Sefaradi: A Century of Sephardic Life in Portland at the OJM. The museum in collaboration with Congregation Ahavath Achim presents this exhibit to highlight the significance of Sephardic life in Portland. vidasefaradi.org

June 12-Sept. 7

EXHIBIT - Israel in Light & Shadow: Photographs by Carole Glauber at the OJM.

June 12

Reading and art show with Willa Schneberg, author of *Rending the Garment*. 7 pm at Glyph Cafe and Arts Space, 804 NW Couch, Portland.

June 13

Shabbat on the Plaza at Congregation Beth Israel. Join us on the Temple lawn as we welcome Shabbat under the Portland summer sky (weather permitting). Bring family, friends blanket and your own picnic. Services begin at 6 pm. 503-222-1069, bethisrael-pdx.org

June 19

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland 94th Annual Meeting. 4:30-6 pm at Zidell Hall, Cedar Sinai Park. Honoring outgoing board chairman Michael D. Weiner. Guest speaker, Michael L. Novick, executive director of Strategic Development American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee of JDC. jewishportland.org

June 22

Hadassah's Machon study/book group discusses Zionism, what is it? 10 am-noon at the MJCC. tboussi@gmail.com

Reading with Willa Schneberg, author of *Rending the Garment*. 4 pm at Powell's, 3723 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

June 27

Shabbat on the Plaza at Congregation Beth Israel. Join us on the Temple lawn as we welcome Shabbat under the Portland summer sky (weather permitting). Bring family, friends blanket and your own picnic. Services begin at 6 pm. 503-222-1069, bethisrael-pdx.org

July 11

Shabbat on the Plaza at Congregation Beth Israel. Services begin at 6 pm. See details June 27. 503-222-1069, bethisrael-pdx.org

July 15

Congregation Shaarie Torah welcomes Rabbi Joshua Rose and his family. 6:30 pm at Washington Park, by the children's playground below the Rose Garden. 503-226-6131, shaarietorah.org

July 18

Shir Tikvah Shabbat in the Park. 6:30 pm at Overlook Park. Musica: Stumbleweed with J.D. Kleinke. Bring a picnic dinner. Welcome Shabbat in prayer and song, and share some challah. 503-473-8227, shirkvahpdx.org

July 21

Reading with Willa Schneberg, author of *Rending the Garment*. 7 pm at OJM.

July 22

Chit Chat and Chocolate in the NW Suburbs. Hosted by Women's Philanthropy of Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. Priscilla@jewishportland.org

July 25

Shabbat on the Plaza at Congregation

Beth Israel. Join us on the Temple lawn as we welcome Shabbat under the Portland summer sky (weather permitting). Bring family, friends blanket and your own picnic supper. Services begin at 6 pm. 503-222-1069, bethisrael-pdx.org

July 27

Hadassah's Machon study/book group discusses "Zionism, What is it?" 10 am-noon at the MJCC. tboussi@gmail.com

Aug. 8

Shabbat on the Plaza at Congregation Beth Israel. Join us on the Temple lawn as we welcome Shabbat under the Portland summer sky. Bring family, friends blanket and your own picnic. Services begin at 6 pm. 503-222-1069, bethisrael-pdx.org

Aug. 9

Havdalah under the stars with Congregation Shaarie Torah. 7 pm at Waterfront Park (by the Riverplace Hotel). Set up your blanket, have a picnic and enjoy a friendly and relaxed Jewish experience. 503-226-6131, shaarietorah.org

Aug. 15

Shir Tikvah Shabbat in the Park. 6:30 pm at Laurelhurst Annex. Bring a picnic dinner. Welcome Shabbat in prayer and song, and share some challah. 503-473-8227, shirkvahpdx.org

Aug. 16

Havurah Shalom's Shabbat at the Pool. See details in Kids Summer Calendar, page 54.

Aug. 17

Bagel On: A Jewish Fun Fair. 11 am-5 pm at Congregation Kol Ami, Vancouver, WA.

Free. admin@jewishvancouverusa.org. 360-896-8088

Aug. 22

Shabbat on the Plaza at Congregation Beth Israel. Join us on the Temple lawn as we welcome Shabbat under the Portland summer sky (weather permitting). Bring family, friends blanket and your own picnic supper. Services begin at 6 pm. 503-222-1069, bethisrael-pdx.org

**Please join us at the
Oregon Jewish Community Foundation's
Annual Reception**

**Recognizing OJCF
Legacy Society honorees**

*Eric and Tiffany Rosenfeld
and Family*

**Tuesday, June 10, 2014
at 5:00 PM**

Zidell Hall, Rose Schnitzer Manor at Cedar Sinai Park
6140 SW Boundary Street, Portland, OR 97221

Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer will be served.
There is no charge to attend and there will be no fundraising.

RSVP by June 6 to gailm@ojcf.org or call 503.248.9328



Oregon Jewish Community Foundation
610 SW Broadway, Suite 407
Portland, OR 97205
www.ojcf.org

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

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

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

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