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## Editor's Letter



### *People and connections.*

They are our focus at Oregon Jewish Life. They are what a Jewish lifestyle magazine is all about.

While I think every issue is motivated by the desire to share individual stories with universal messages, this month's issue seems especially rich in personal journeys.

In this issue, our freelance writers share stories of a Vancouver teen making a difference, a Hillel student helping the world, an Iraqi grad student who found friendship with Jewish families and seniors, and a senior who "feels fabulous" at age 65.

This month I had the pleasure of writing stories about three wonderful people. Not only did I interview the subjects of the stories, I also spoke with their friends and colleagues, who shared wonderful insights.

Over the past several years as a journalist in the Jewish community, I've crossed paths with two of them. I first met former University of Oregon Ducks' kicker Josh Frankel at an event for the PDX Hillel, where he brought his charismatic drive to helping Jewish students on campus. Now he has a new business venture I enjoyed learning about. Emily Simon is earning a lifetime achievement award for her work as defense attorney – and despite knowing her in Jewish settings for a number of years, I'm not sure I even knew that was her profession.

Our cover subject was a complete surprise to me. I had never met Ted Gilbert before he picked me up to drive me to Gateway Green for a tour of the future regional destination park for off-road cycling. What a cheerful and enthusiastic person! His vision is infectious. As a real estate professional, his story provides a nice lead-in to our special section on real estate this month.

This issue isn't unique in sharing in-depth stories of fascinating people. But somehow the mix of stories for December reminded me of why we are publishing this magazine. This is what a Jewish lifestyle magazine does. We share the personal stories of our community and explore how those stories impact the community.

We are part of the fabric of the community, helping to weave it all together. To see what I mean, check out our story on GrapeVine, a new effort to use social media to help connect people to whatever part of the Jewish community will enrich their journey. I hope it connects more people, who then go on to do amazing things that I can write about in years to come.

We thank all the people who have been willing to share their stories and look forward to many more years of enriching the community through shared experiences.

*Deborah*





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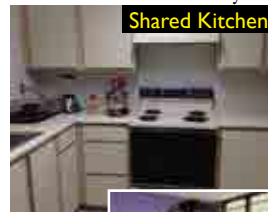
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To the editor:

You're doing great work with OJLife! Mom (Pauline Goldstein) sends me issues every now and then that she thinks I'll be interested in. I'm very impressed.

Thanks for Mark Blattner's piece on "A new generation of givers" in the October issue. As a philanthropic advisor who specializes in working with families and the next generation of givers, I think it is important that we learn from and understand how these new donors are engaging in philanthropy. It's exciting to see how they are committing to the causes that they care about and making an impact in their own way. In addition, I commend Mark for talking with his children about their charitable activities. Another recent study on charitable giving among girls and boys (ages 8-19) found that nearly 9 out of 10 children give to charity. One of the key influencers of this action is that parents model the behavior AND talk with their children about why they are giving. Please take time to talk with your kids and grandkids about why giving is important to you.

*Deborah Goldstein*  
Monterey, CA

To the editor:

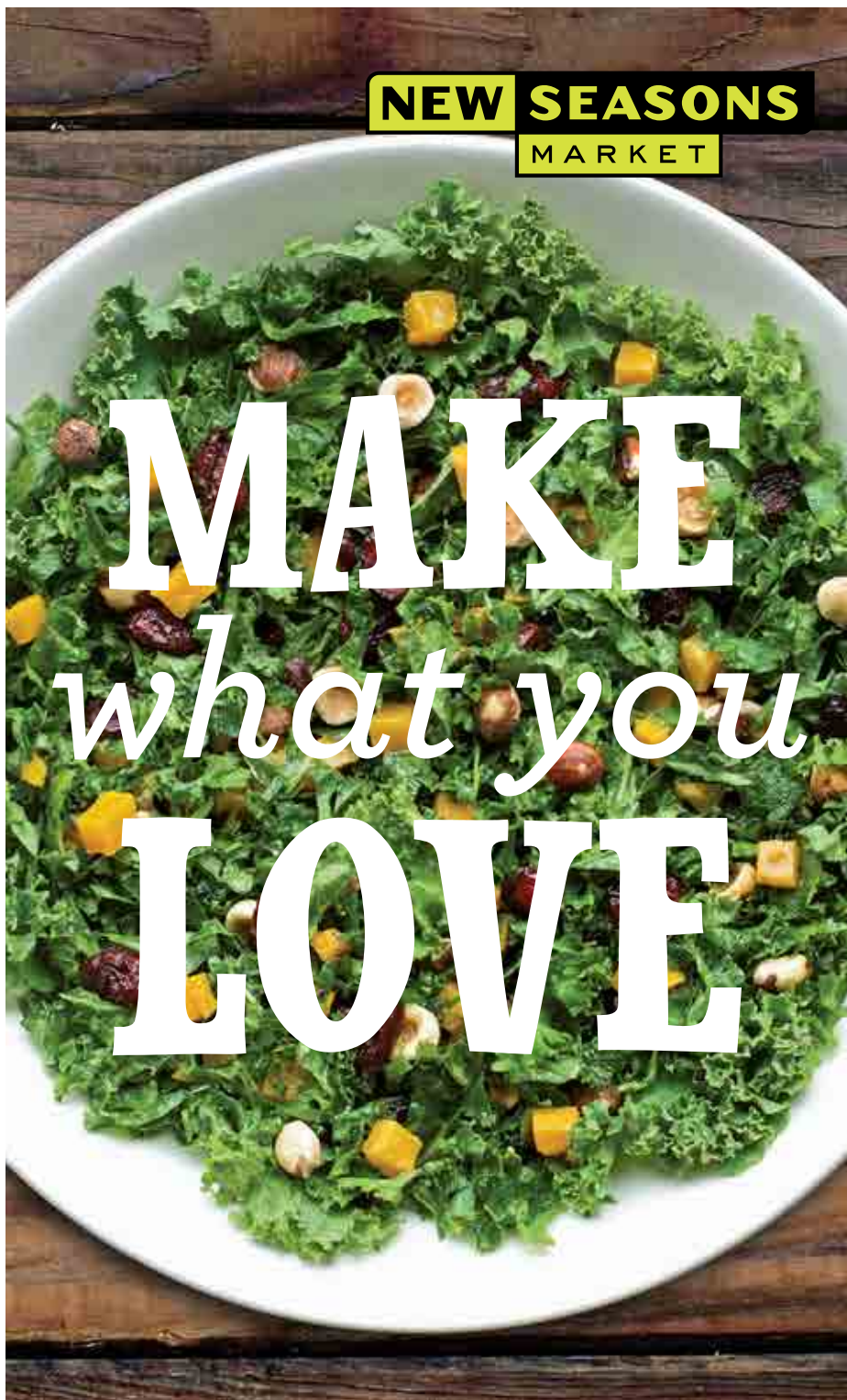
I just wanted to give you a couple of updates regarding my film, "Wandering in the Woods." As you know, it has its world premiere at the Hollywood Theatre in August – where it sold out, and more than 100 people were turned away at the door. It subsequently played to a packed house at Neveh Shalom and then at the Oregon Jewish Museum, as part of Cafe Europa's program for Holocaust survivors.

Well, it is now out as a "video-on-demand." So anyone with a computer and internet access can either stream or download it. Once downloaded, it could be burned onto a DVD and then watched on TV, if one chose to.

Anyway, I'm not sure if you ever had a chance to see the finished film. If not, here is your opportunity: [vimeo.com/ondemand/wandering](http://vimeo.com/ondemand/wandering).

Thanks again for your support of the project. And thanks again for continuing to publish a great magazine. I'm always amazed how you manage to keep finding topics and people of interest in such a relatively small community.

*Ken Klein*  
Portland



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# Josh Frankel takes West Bearing bull by the horns



**WEST BEARING  
INVESTMENTS**  
a division of Ferguson Wellman



West Bearing's Josh Frankel and Jorge Chavarria

## By Deborah Moon

Since 1975 Ferguson Wellman Capital Management has managed investment accounts for clients who have portfolios of at least \$2 million, a level that has caused them to turn away many prospective clients and then compete for those same investors a few years down the road.

Now Josh Frankel has joined the firm to lead West Bearing Investments; this new division of Ferguson Wellman caters to clients with \$750,000 or more in their investment portfolios. By Sept. 30, the new firm had \$25 million in assets under management – a goal they didn't foresee reaching until the end of the year.

"We are a boutique agency with \$3.6 billion in assets under management," says Mary A. Faulkner, Ferguson Wellman vice president in charge of communications. She says the firm decided on a growth strategy to enable them to start relationships with clients earlier in their investment journey.

Josh says he grew up in a traditional Jewish family in a large Jewish community in Los Angeles before attending the University of Oregon, where he was a field goal kicker for the Ducks and discovered Hillel. "For the next several years, folks at Hillel were a big part of my Jewish experience in college and are still some of my greatest friends today," he says.

Now he is the board president of the Greater Portland Hillel. Josh has also served on numerous boards and committees in the Jewish community including B'nai B'rith Camp, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, Cedar Sinai Park and Mittleman

Jewish Community Center. He co-chaired the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland campaign kickoff event in 2011.

Since Ferguson Wellman encourages all employees to take leadership roles on boards they feel passionate about, it's not surprising that Josh met some of his future co-workers while serving on a board.

"They called me in May to talk about this new venture," says Josh. "I'm such a community-driven person that working for a local, employee-owned company seems too good to be true." About 90% of employees are stakeholders in the firm, which may help account for the fact that no portfolio manager has left the firm in the past 24 years.

"He interviewed with about 18 people," says Faulkner. "He was one of our first unanimous hires. ... We wanted someone who understood our culture. Of all those we interviewed, Josh asked the most questions about the client experience, and that really stood out for us."

Ferguson Wellman CEO Jim Rudd agrees. "Josh fits hand in glove with the professional people we have in the company. He has clients' best interests first and foremost. And he has a network ... Josh Frankel's name is well known," says Rudd.

West Bearing, like Ferguson Wellman, will focus on long-term relationships with clients.

"Consistency, reliability and continuity are more than words, they are our bedrock," says Rudd.

After he was hired as senior vice president and portfolio manager in July, Josh recruited Jorge Chavarria, with whom he had worked at Merrill Lynch, to join him at West Bearing.

The two serve as portfolio managers who can draw on the full resources of Ferguson Wellman. "We never wanted West Bearing to feel like Ferguson Wellman Lite," says Faulkner, who

---

**"Consistency, reliability and continuity are more than words, they are our bedrock."**

**— Jim Rudd, Ferguson Wellman CEO**

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added the division was created to serve new clients. "We have some clients who have drawn down their assets (in retirement). We won't move them over to West Bearing. This is to start new relationships."




She adds that West Bearing will have access to all of Ferguson Wellman's analysts and other resources. "It's all under one roof. This is his team he is working with," she says.

And it is an impressive team. This year Forbes named Ferguson Wellman Capital Management 40th in the "RIA Giants" category of the Top Fifty Wealth Managers list. The data for the rankings are provided by Registered Investment Advisors Database and are based on the total discretionary assets under management.

"My goal is to help people understand their goals, put together a game plan and monitor that plan over time," says Josh.

Faulkner says she is also impressed by Josh's devotion to his family. "His spouse is a doctor, so Josh has equal responsibility."

In 2008 Josh and his wife, Amy, moved to Portland for Amy's residency at OHSU. Dr. Amy Swerdlin Frankel is a board-certified dermatologist with the Providence Medical Group. Their son, Ethan, is 14 months old. Josh says their dog Rocky, a Labradoodle, bears a striking resemblance to West Bearing's logo – an American bison.

The division's name and logo were chosen to serve as an inspiration for West Bearing. The company literature explains: "Most animals in the West attempt to outrun inclement weather, prolonging their exposure to the elements and weakening their condition. Bison instinctively turn to face the storm. By bearing west, they successfully find the quickest path to clear skies." 



Josh Frankel, senior vice president; Jim Coats, senior vice president; and Steve Holwerda, chief operating officer and principal; chat in the lobby of Ferguson Wellman. Photo by Jerry Hart of Jerome Hart Photography



Dr. Amy Swerdlin Frankel, Josh Frankel and their son, Ethan, celebrate Passover.

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GrapeVine Community & Organization Liaison Deborah Ben-Moshe, center left, and local GrapeVine Outreach Coordinator Rachel Rothstein, center right, explain how GrapeVine works to Congregation Neveh Shalom's Executive Director Fred Rothstein and Program Director Jennifer Greenberg. Photo by Deborah Moon

# Heard it through the grapevine

*Jewish community is changing, but maybe not the way you think*

By Deborah Moon

Despite more than two decades of programs designed to counter the trends toward higher intermarriage rates and lower affiliation rates, those trends are continuing.

The initial report of a 52% intermarriage rate in The National Jewish Population Survey of 1990 launched a flurry of programs designed to reverse that trend, because intermarried couples also report lower rates of affiliation. Though the intermarriage number was later revised to 43%, the NJPS of 2000 reported the number had risen to 47%. The Pew Research Center's "Portrait of Jewish Americans" released this fall shows that trend accelerating with six-in-10 Jewish respondents married since 2000 having a non-Jewish spouse. Yet the Pew study also reveals three-quarters of Jewish respondents say they have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people, and 94 percent say they are proud to be Jewish.

Now GrapeVine, sort of a social media-based amazon.com for Jewish activities and information, has come to Portland to try to link those "proud Jews" with whatever connection interests them. It enables communities to become customer-centric rather than the traditional program-centric orientation. Portland is the fourth community to offer the virtual concierge program, which launched last year in Columbus, OH, and Rhode Island. New York was next and Atlanta and Los Angeles are in the process of joining GrapeVine.

"GrapeVine is trying to help enable every Jew to take the steps they want to take on their Jewish journey," says GrapeVine founder Sacha Litman. "Our job is to understand each person's unique needs, interests, life stage and geography and to connect them with the right opportunity at the right time. We provide them with the resources to engage."

Just as Amazon offers "recommended for you" books and Netflix recommends movies based on past rentals, GrapeVine uses a sophisticated algorithm to learn about each person to recommend Jewish activities, programs and information that fit each individual's current interests and life stage.

In his role as founder, managing director and CEO of Measuring Success, a consulting firm that works with many Jewish nonprofits to enhance organizational effectiveness, Sacha says he realized every Jewish organization has the same problems: how to find new constituents, retain those touched once and keep a relationship with alumni who have moved on to a new stage of life.


"Everyone's outflow is (potentially) someone else's inflow," says Sacha, noting that after college Hillel participants might join young adult groups and then join a synagogue when they start a family.

While demographic studies agree that only about 20% of Jews are engaged in the community at any one time, about 85% interact with some Jewish organization at some point in their life, said GrapeVine Community & Organization Liaison Deborah Ben-Moshe during an October visit to Portland. Deborah was in town to help local GrapeVine Outreach Coordinator Rachel Rothstein explain the new tool to the community's synagogues and organizations.

GrapeVine rolled out locally Nov. 18, in time to link Portlanders with Hanukkah programs and activities. Members of participating organizations received an email welcoming them to GrapeVine with the option to opt out if they did not want to participate. Others wishing to get GrapeVine recommendations via email, mobile app, Facebook or other social media can download the GrapeVine app on their smartphone or sign up online at Grape-Vine.com.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, with a grant from the Holzman Foundation, is sponsoring GrapeVine for the community for the next three years.

"Part of our (federation's) role is to get people to think about community and not just about their own organization," says Rachel.

"The real hope is that this creates change in the community," says Deborah, adding while the Pew study highlights the problem of lower affiliation, GrapeVine offers a solution to help the community as a whole engage people on their own terms. 



# Barbur Safeway reopens with kosher deli, bakery and more



**OFFICIALLY OPEN** – Safeway officials join community representatives Nov. 6 to “cut the red ribbon” and reopen the store at 8145 SW Barbur Blvd. With about 53,000 square feet of retail space, the store is one of the largest in the company – and the only one in the greater Pacific Northwest to have extensive kosher offerings, including a full-service kosher deli (including kosher sushi) and kosher bakery products. Pictured from left are Kelly Griffith, Safeway executive vice president of operations; Tuvia Berzow, executive director of Oregon Kosher, which worked with Safeway on the expanded kosher offerings; Steve Frisby, president of Safeway’s Northwest Division; Randy Bonella, executive director of the Multnomah Blocks Initiative; Rabbi Moshe Wilhelm of Chabad; State Sen. Richard Devlin, whose district includes Southwest Portland; Diane Phillips, real estate manager for Safeway’s NW Division; and James Brown, manager of the Barbur Safeway. Photo courtesy of Safeway



**LUNCHTIME** – Ella Rogoway and her mother, Abby Gerstein-Rogoway, check out myriad options for a quick kosher lunch at the new Barbur Boulevard Safeway store. Photos by Sura Rubenstein

**TIME TO SHOP** – Meira Spivak, director of Oregon NCSY and JSU, takes time out of her schedule to check out kosher offerings at the newly renovated Barbur Boulevard Safeway store.



**KOSHER SUPERVISOR** – Tehilla Derfler, who recently relocated to Portland from Eugene with her family, is one of the kosher supervisors at the newly reopened Safeway store on SW Barbur Boulevard. Photo by Sura Rubenstein

**CHECKOUT TEMPTATIONS** – Both sides of the entry into Checkout Lane 3 at the newly renovated Barbur Boulevard Safeway store are filled with kosher candy and gum – providing a last-minute chance to satisfy a sweet tooth. Photo by Sura Rubenstein



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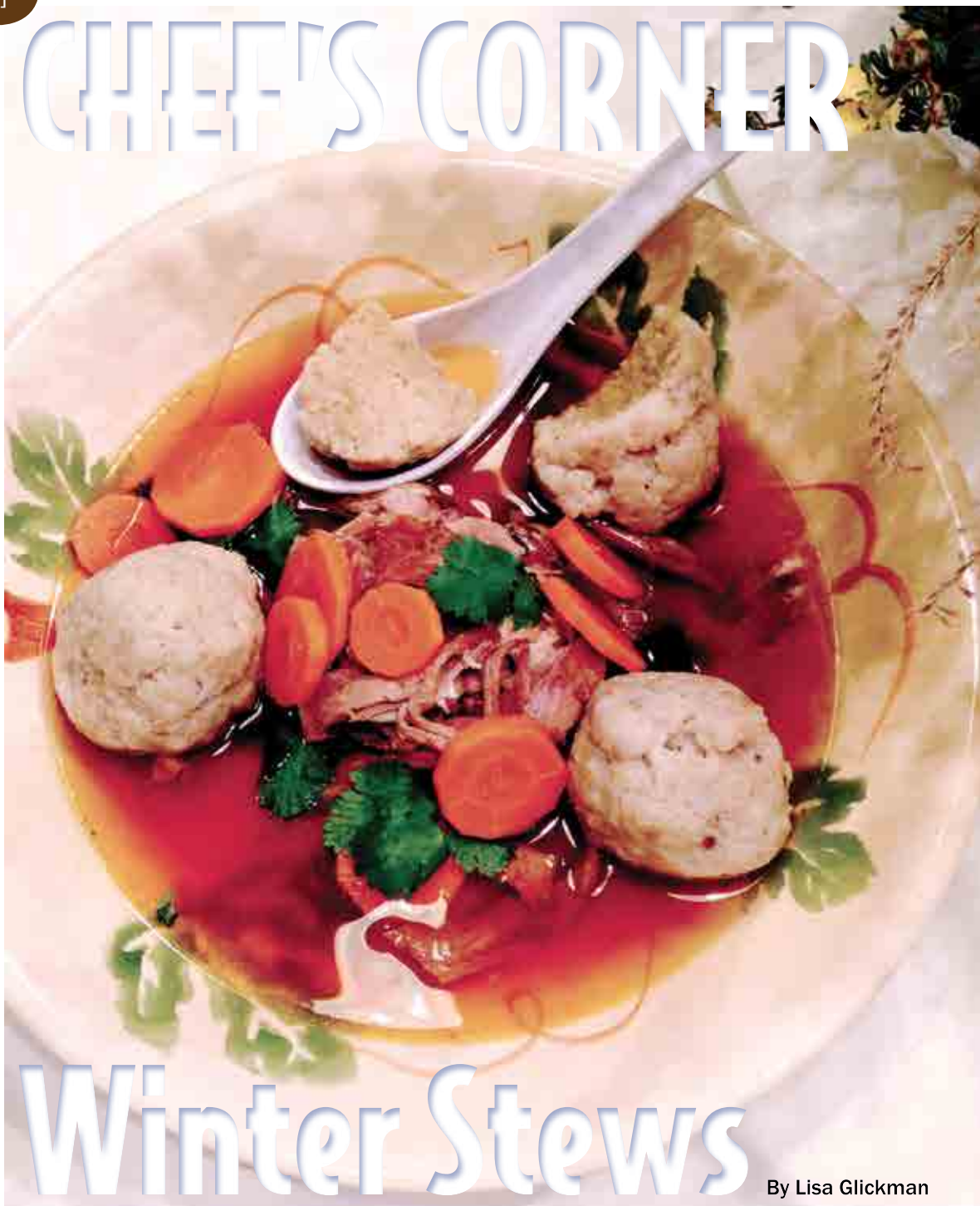


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# CHEF'S CORNER



## Winter Stews

By Lisa Glickman

As seasons change so do our tastes for what we like to eat. When spring arrives, tender baby vegetables, peas and asparagus lure us. Summer invites us to fire up the grill, because a hot indoor oven can resemble an instrument of torture on a sweltering day. Fall is synonymous with pumpkins, butternut squash and the warm scent of apple and cinnamon. On a cold, dreary winter evening, nothing feels more comforting than a slowly braised soup or stew with its wafting aroma wrapping around us like a cozy blanket.

When asked what I love to cook, my answer is usually anything that is created slowly to bring out all the wonderful flavor of a particular dish. Although you might think that demands a long, slow cooking time, it can also be the result of marinating, brining or even pickling. Coq au vin, a French delicacy of braised chicken, red wine, mushrooms and lardoons, actually *cooks* for only about an hour, but it requires marinating the chicken and vegetables in rich red wine and herbs for at least 24 hours to result in the most classic version of this dish. Most of us don't think that far ahead, but once mastered these slowly thought-out dishes are usually well worth the effort.


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





When making a soup stock, for example, care must be given to allow the bones, vegetables and herbs to slowly simmer – without boiling – for 4 to 5 hours to create the perfect elixir. Once prepared, packaged and stored in the freezer, you hold the magic for your weeknight meal to taste like it took all day.








Creating great meals can mean different things for all of us, ranging from head-scratching drudgery to feeling like a talented artist being handed a blank canvas. Food has a way of bringing us together, conjuring memories and creating traditions. Whether it's a five-course feast or an impromptu pizza party, the most important value lies in coming together to share a meal. Traditions and recipes that are handed down through generations are invaluable, but adding a little creativity can result in a brand new version of a well-known favorite.

I put my own spin to this traditional matzah ball soup by replacing the chicken with duck and combining the warm spices and flavorings of the Far East into the broth. Aromatic Asian ingredients including star anise, cilantro, sesame oil and soy sauce are combined to slowly braise the duck. The stock is strained and ladled over the tender shredded meat, and carrot coins are added to make it resemble the original. The matzah balls are scented with ginger and a touch of five-spice, creating this Bubbe/Asian fusion version of a comfort food classic. 

### Asian duck soup and ginger-scented matzah balls

Serves 4

#### FOR THE BROTH:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  4 duck legs with thighs attached                   |  8 cups water  |
|  1 medium onion, roughly chopped                    |  2-3 carrots, peeled and sliced into coins                     |
|  6 slices of fresh ginger root, about ¼-inch thick  |   |
|  3 cloves of garlic                                | <b>FOR THE MATZAH BALLS:</b>  |
|  ½ bunch fresh cilantro                           |  3 tablespoons rendered duck fat                              |
|  2 whole star anise                               |  3 large eggs, slightly beaten                               |
|  1 tablespoon garlic chile sauce such as sriracha |  ¾ cup matzah meal   |
|  ½ cup soy sauce                                  |  3 tablespoons duck stock (taken from your pot on the stove) |
|  2 tablespoons sugar                              |  1 teaspoon salt   |
|  2 tablespoon toasted sesame oil                  |  1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger                              |
|  1 bay leaf                                       |  ¼ teaspoon five-spice powder                                |

Heat a 4-quart Dutch oven to medium-low heat and add the duck legs. Sear duck legs on all sides to render out some of the fat. Continue to brown the legs until about 1 inch of duck fat has accumulated at the bottom of your pot; this should take 30 to 40 minutes. Remove legs and strain duck fat into a glass measuring cup. You should have over a cup of duck fat. Find a jar with a tight-sealing lid to store duck fat – you will want to use this schmaltz later.\* Add onion, ginger, garlic, cilantro, anise, chile sauce, soy sauce, sugar, sesame oil and bay leaf to the pot. Brown ingredients until slightly softened, about 5-10 minutes. Add water and return duck legs to the pot. Bring to just a slight boil and reduce heat to low. Simmer stock uncovered for 2-3 hours, without allowing the stock to boil, until duck legs are very tender. While stock is cooking, combine all the listed ingredients for matzah balls and mix together lightly with a fork; cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes before forming the balls. When ready to form the balls, heat 2 quarts of salted water to a boil and then turn heat down to medium. Shape matzah balls and drop into simmering water. Cover pot and allow matzah balls to cook for 30-40 minutes without lifting the lid. When matzah balls are cooked through, turn off heat and set balls aside until ready to serve. Remove duck legs from stock and cover with foil to keep warm. Strain stock into a bowl and allow stock to cool slightly. Skim additional fat from the top of the soup and pour into another soup pot. Add carrot coins to soup and heat to medium. Continue to cook soup until carrot coins are tender. When ready to serve, shred duck meat, discarding the skin, and place in soup bowl. Add matzah balls and ladle soup over all. Garnish with fresh cilantro, if desired, and serve immediately.

\*Duck fat is delicious for sautéing everything from vegetables and potatoes to scrambled eggs. Save for when you need some schmaltz in any recipe.



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Broder



Daily Cafe



Tasty n Alder  
photo by David Reamer

# Northwest Nosh: Holiday brunches



The Heathman Hotel

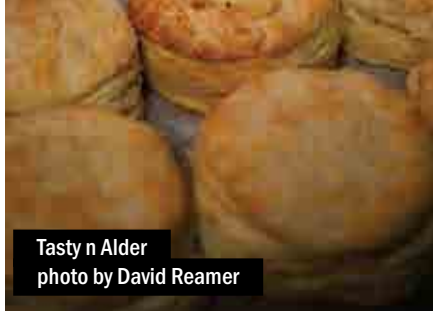
by Kerry Politzer

Family is still in town, and you've cooked up a storm for Hanukkah – who has time to make breakfast? Fortunately, Portland abounds with a variety of morning meals from stick-to-your-ribs scrambles to dim sum. Delight your kids with a make-your-own pancakes outing or impress your elders with a breakfast fit for Julia Child.

**Broder** Get in line. People come from miles around for the grilled fruit fritters and Danish pancakes with lemon curd at this renowned Scandinavian café. Iron-skillet baked eggs are served with walnut toast and your choice of additions like arugula, chèvre and shaved romanesco – or try baked Northwest salmon with dill, shallots and preserved lemon. Don't forget to sample the smoked trout Swedish hash. 2508 SE Clinton St., 503-736-3333. Brunch served until 3 pm. First come, first served.

**Daily Cafe** This casual café is a favorite haunt of Pearl denizens who enjoy a changing menu of brunch specials and pastries. The steel cut oats with brown sugar and bananas is a healthy and tasty way to start the day. 902 NW 13th Ave., 503-242-1916. Breakfast served until 11 am on weekdays, all day Saturday and till 2 pm on Sundays.





**The Heathman Hotel** A brunch at the Heathman is always a treat. It is hard to beat the decadence of Belgian waffles with pumpkin butter and Chantilly cream or fluffy omelets overstuffed with lox and cream cheese. Julia Child's famous oeufs mollets are on the menu (just ask for them without the short ribs). Healthy eaters can order the curried squash tofu hash or the house granola with honey yogurt. There are even bunny-shaped pancakes for the kids!

**1001 SW Broadway, 503-790-7752. Breakfast served till 11am on weekdays, brunch until 2pm on weekends. Reservations recommended.**

**Mama Mia Trattoria** This beloved Italian restaurant has recently been lauded for its creative weekend brunch menu. House-made rosemary scones, brioche French toast, polenta pancakes and four-egg, four-cheese scrambles served with Yukon Gold potatoes are sure to bring a smile to everyone in your family. Make sure to try the house-cured salmon Benedict. There are also vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options for all diets. (Editorial note: Mama Mia is a personal favorite of this columnist.)

**439 SW 2nd Ave., 503-295-6464. Breakfast served from 9 am-1 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.**

**Slappy Cakes** This super-fun pancake joint has recently become an international sensation; so far, it has opened new locations in four Asian countries. Lucky Portlanders don't have to fly to Tokyo to fry their pancakes right on the table. You can choose from six different batters and a list of sweet or savory mix-ins. Have a sweet tooth? Create a tropical delight with dried pineapple, shredded coconut and bananas. Or go the savory route with vegan sausage and local goat cheese. Top your creation with crème fraiche, organic yogurt or lavender honey. Don't feel like pancakes? No worries – there are blintzes, a seasonal vegetable scramble and huevos rancheros.

**4246 SE Belmont St., 503-477-4805. Open weekdays from 8 am-2 pm, weekends from 8 am-3 pm. Waits are long during prime brunch times.**

**Tasty n Alder** No discussion of the Portland brunch scene is complete without mentioning the mini-Tasty empire. The lines are long for Tasty n Sons, Chef John Gorham's original restaurant in North Portland, but you can enjoy some of the same menu items (with a minimum of wait time) at Tasty n Alder downtown. Stack up the small plates (chocolate potato doughnuts, baked prunes with Taleggio cheese, pineapple muffins) or go for something more substantial (baked egg bread pudding, frittatas with butternut squash, leeks and Gruyère). No matter what you order, you are sure to leave with a full stomach.

**580 SW 12th Ave., 503-621-9251. Brunch from 9 am-2 pm. Reservations for 7-10 people only.**

**Toast** A local favorite since 2007, Toast serves up impossibly generous breakfast dishes. Take a stab at the "Rain Man and Rain King," an overwhelming plate of sautéed veggies, greens and potato hash topped with a poached egg and parmesan, or try your luck with the "Eye Popping Omelet," which is stuffed full of herbed ricotta, spinach and red peppers. Health nuts may opt for organic oatmeal or house-made granola – and, of course, toast!

**5222 SE 52nd Ave., 503-774-1020. Open from 8 am-2 pm daily.**

**Wong's King** For a little something different, head over to the Jade District. As you sit at a large round table, you can watch endless carts full of delicacies go by. The servers lift the lids on a variety of steamed, fried and baked items like steamed rice-flour chicken buns, sticky rice in lotus leaves, turnip cakes and even vegetarian "goose." Your kids are sure to love the sesame-studded donuts filled with sweet red bean paste.

**8733 SE Division St., Suite 101, 503-788-8883. No reservations during dim sum hours (9:30 am-3 pm).**

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

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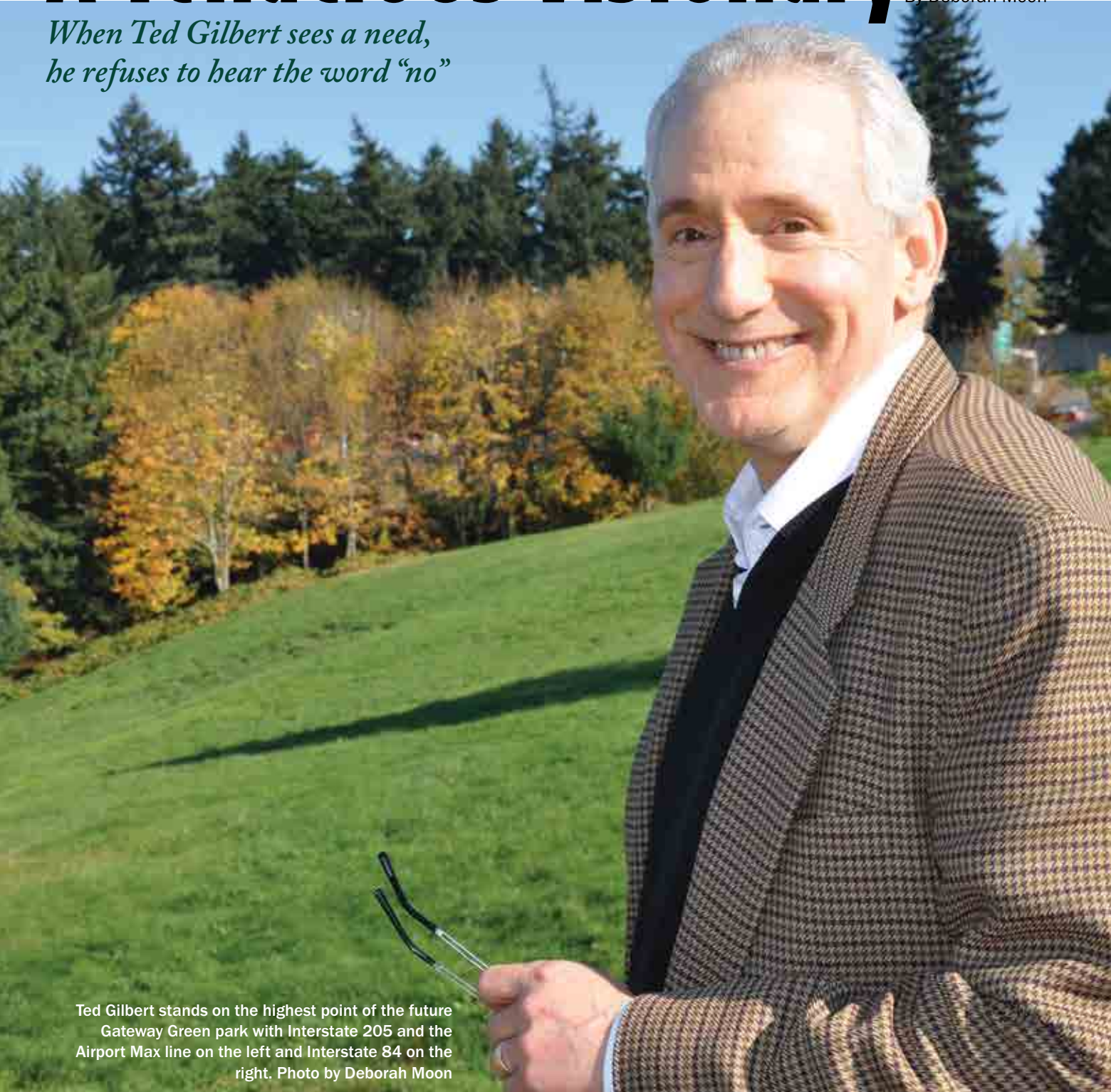
**B**



# A Tenacious Visionary

By Deborah Moon

*When Ted Gilbert sees a need,  
he refuses to hear the word “no”*



Ted Gilbert stands on the highest point of the future Gateway Green park with Interstate 205 and the Airport Max line on the left and Interstate 84 on the right. Photo by Deborah Moon






Relying on the vision, tenacity and collaborative skills he used to launch projects for affordable home ownership, rentals and an artist community, real estate developer Ted Gilbert is focused on bringing a regional bicycle park to Portland's most "park deficient" region.

Gateway Green will be a 38-acre park featuring bicycle paths and trails, picnic areas and a nature-themed play area. Located between Interstates 84 and 205 and owned by the Oregon Department of Transportation, the long, thin strip of right-of-way property is an easy walk from the Gateway Transit Center.

"Ted Gilbert had a vision of transforming dead space into a park," says Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish. "He has been a relentless cheerleader from inception until today. ... It's no longer of question of whether, now it's only a matter of time."

"Ted is a big idea person and wears his passion on his sleeve," Fish continues.

**"Ted Gilbert had a vision of  transforming dead space into a park."**

– Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish

"He just believes in his gut this is a good idea, and he has been pushing public and private partners to make this happen."

Ted envisions a park that serves as a neighborhood gathering place, a regional recreation destination and a world-class, off-road cycling area that could draw 500,000 cyclocross and mountain biking visitors a year – none of whom will need a car to get to the park with three Max lines converging at Gateway Transit

Center, including the airport Max train. "Cyclocross *is* families," says Ted, noting the park will feature a skills area for kids to learn the sport.

Because the plan for a park on ODOT land involved so many pieces and government jurisdictions, Fish says that then Gov. Ted Kulongoski designated Gateway Green an Oregon Solutions project four years ago. Oregon Solutions convened all the partners and, with government staff and resources, created a blueprint for the project. Then Ted and neighborhood activist Linda Robinson pulled together a team and created the nonprofit Friends of Gateway Green to bring the plan to reality. ODOT has agreed to donate the land to the city, and the city has agreed to operate and maintain the park once it is built.

This fall Friends of Gateway Green launched a crowdfunding drive on Indiegogo. Ted says that Oregon Solutions asked the group to try the approach to see whether "crowdfunding could aug-

ment and leverage scarce resources." The \$123,880 raised from 756 donors over the 33-day campaign was a tremendous success says Ted. "In addition to the money, it is an indication of the level of support for the idea."

While the funds will pay to design the park, he says the support also will help the group apply for grants to raise funds to build the park.

Fish says grants will be a key step in



building the park. “Crowdfunding tells us there is an appetite. We are looking for someone with a big check to help us move it forward. ... I have no doubt with Ted at the helm, we will find someone to write the big check.”

Having worked with Ted on some of his earlier projects, Fish has seen the man’s power. He says Ted’s formation of HOST Development, Inc., in 1989 created “some of the most successful

“Ted is a mensch.”

– Eric Friedenwald-Fishman, Congregation Beth Israel board of trustees

affordable single-family developments in the city.”

Ted says he got the idea for the project, Home Ownership a Street at a Time, after hearing how a meth lab epidemic was creating swaths of abandoned houses at the same time a major recession was creating a rise in homeless families.

“I had a desire to give back,” says Ted, adding he thinks the most effective way to do that is by combining what you do for

a living with what you are passionate about. He shared his idea to turn the neighborhood around with brokers, architects, bankers and others. They started at the periphery close to stable neighborhoods and worked in to the struggling areas. He says he has followed that lesson of building from strength in his subsequent projects.

During HOST’s 21 years, Ted says, “We helped 400 families buy a home ... and turned the area around faster and more dramatically than we ever imagined. Today residential brokers will tell you the hottest residential neighborhoods are those close-in Northeast and Southeast neighborhoods that were really struggling.”

Eric Friedenwald-Fishman, founder of the social change consulting group Metropolitan Group, has worked with Ted on HOST and other projects, including Gateway Green. Eric sits on the board of Congregation Beth Israel, where Ted is a life-long member.

“Ted has been an incredible force for good in Portland for over 20 years,” says Eric. He points to HOST’s tremendous success in fostering affordable home ownership along with a similar effort that created about 500 affordable rental options for low-income families (Portland Affordable Housing





Plans for Gateway Green.

250 500 1000



Preservation Trust) and an arts colony at Milepost 5.

Ted describes the Milepost 5 project as an affordable space for artists to live and work. Artists can rent studios and apartments for as little as \$200 in the now flourishing community, he says.

Eric says his Metropolitan Group was hired to do a small project for the Gateway Green project and since then has done pro bono work for Gateway – a project he says will be an off-road cycling area with a national presence, a regional resource and an incredible open space and play area for the people of that neighborhood.

“More people and foundations need to invest in this project,” he says. “If you want young people to be healthy, happy and smart, one of the best investments is open space and recreation opportunities. It gets kids engaged in outdoor, active lifestyles and it builds community – that’s what Gateway Green does.”

“Ted is a mensch,” says Eric. “He sees a need in the community and does the crazy and wonderful act of stepping forward and making it happen and getting others to come on board. Every project benefits working families or communities that have experienced disparity.”



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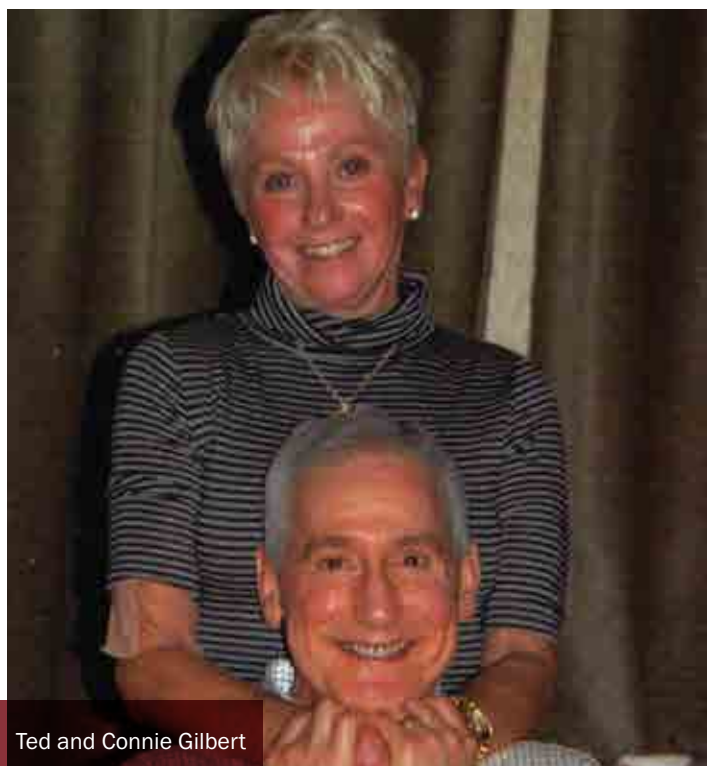
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Ted and Kerry Gilbert with their mom, Rosalie z"l



Friends of Gateway Green board members Tom Archer, Linda Robinson and Ted Gilbert accept a check for the new park from Kaiser Permanente.



Ted and Connie Gilbert

While Eric says Ted has many gifts, he believes two of those gifts have enabled Ted to truly change Portland: He believes in the impossible and is incredibly tenacious.

"He has a willingness to take risks and not believe something is impossible," says Eric. "That is how change happens, you take a leap of faith."

"Ted puts energy into people who actually need help and who others have ignored," adds Eric. "I think it's a very Jewish act of tikkun olam and inviting the stranger into your tent."

Ted's older brother Kerry, who introduced Ted to the real estate business, says that Ted really cares about the community. "Without children, I think this (helping the community) is the biggest thing he wants to do," says Kerry. "Ted is the real deal. There is no hidden agenda."

Ted is not quite so selfless in his description of his own involvement. He believes that community development is beneficial to all involved. Rescuing a crime-infested neighborhood of abandoned homes and turning it into affordable housing for families benefited not only the families, but also those involved in any facet of real estate and businesses in the area.

"You need a job to be able to own a home, so economic development became a passion," says Ted. So he became part of Albina Opportunities Corp., a nonprofit in the private sector offering financing to women, people of color and minorities unable to get financing through regular mainstream means. "We make small loans on a creative basis to build wealth and create jobs."

He says he became involved in Gateway Green because in 1992 he bought an apartment building in the Gateway area "because it was a good deal." He says Metro had classified Gateway as a Regional Center, but despite having jobs, transit, shopping and health care all readily available, "it was anything but a Regional Center." Ted says he wondered what was missing to keep Gateway from being a true Regional Center and decided it was perception. "For most Portlanders, the city stopped at 82<sup>nd</sup> (Avenue)." Learning from the HOST model that had transformed the close-in eastside neighborhoods, Ted says he saw huge challenges and great opportunity in the Gateway district. "If you can do something bold and catalytic to the area and work your way east ... (Gateway can be) the front door of east Portland."

Ted describes Gateway Green as an incredibly visible site since it can be seen from two freeways and the airport Max. He thinks creating such a visible destination recreation area will give people a much more positive perception of Portland east of I-205. "People will live, work and play in the Gateway Regional Center."

Recreation and sports are important to Ted. A former triathlete and marathoner who hasn't competed since 1988, he nonetheless continues to run, swim and bike, and support young distance runners.

"My big brother Kerry has been a tremendous influence and role model for me," says Ted, adding that has made him aware of the importance of a role model for young men.

About eight years ago he says he read a newspaper article about a young man whose family of five was living in one room, yet the young man managed to maintain a 4.0 GPA and was a



talented distance runner. Ted and a friend who had also competed in marathons decided to go to support the boy at the state cross country meet.

"We met him and he's an amazing kid," says Ted. "We kind of adopted him and his family. ... I helped him get a scholarship for running and watched him run for his college in Salem."

People began to point out other talented runners who were succeeding against the odds, and Ted and his wife, Connie, stepped in to help them too.

"I have a love and talent for distance running," he explains. "I just want to be there for them. Where would I be without a role model?"

With four young distance runners under his wing, Ted joined a committee that interviews applicants for the Beat the Odds scholarship for Oregon high school seniors who have "Beat the Odds" by succeeding in school despite daunting obstacles.

"My first year on the committee there were 215 applicants," he says. "One of the young men I interviewed is a remarkable kid. He was one of the winners. We clicked. Connie and I essentially adopted him. Now he's a junior at the University of Oregon."

Of the five young men he is now connected with, Ted says, "It's been a gift for me."


"My father, Al, used to tell my brother and me, 'If you are fortunate enough to succeed in providing for your family, you have a responsibility to provide for the community that helped you get there.'"



Cyclists ride along a 16-mile long bike path that runs through the future Gateway Green, which is slated to become a 38-acre bicycle recreation area in East Portland. Photo by Deborah Moon

He says his mother Rosalie, whose maiden name was Braunstein, and his father both grew up in the Old South Portland Jewish neighborhood. He's still a member of Beth Israel, where he became a bar mitzvah.

"The passion I have for community development feels like a real Jewish thing to me," says Ted.

"My belief is if you can engage the private sector in a community cause, you can be a force for change." 

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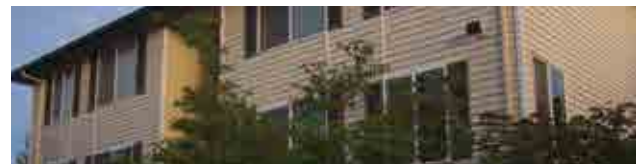
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# REAL ESTATE

## Why choose A REALTOR?

By Joni Browne-Walders

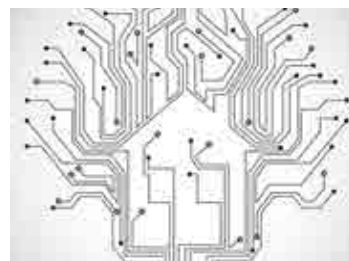
Buying or selling a home can be one of the most stressful and expensive undertakings many people experience in their lifetimes. It's like tiptoeing through a minefield. So proceed with caution, know the warning signs and find an experienced guide who knows where the dangers lie and can lead you safely through them. You'll deal with legal matters, appraisals, market values, financing options, multiple listings, marketing, home inspections, home repairs, home improvements, title searches, contracts, mortgages and, finally, the long hoped-for closing.

You'll face lengthy, anxious waiting periods, during which you'll wonder if anyone will ever buy your place and, if so, will you get your price. If you're buying, you'll worry about whether you'll qualify for a loan or whether you've picked the right house. In either case, you'll agonize about whether it will all go through – or will it all fall apart at the last minute?

So where do you start?

“Consumers don't need to feel like they're alone in this process, especially when suffering from information overload.”

— Oregon Association of Realtors President-Elect Colin Mullane



First things first: Do your homework.

A good place to begin is with the Internet. Search for “How do I buy a home?” or “How do I sell my house?” or “How do I find a good real estate person?” and you're on your way. You should, at least, get some basic information about how real estate works so you understand what's going on.

Some people believe they can sell on their own home and choose the for-sale-by-owner route. They hope to save themselves real estate commission fees. But they usually underestimate all that is involved and can greatly regret their choice in the long run.

Others choose to buy a home without using a real estate person. This can work well if you're buying a brand-new home from a builder. But if you're buying a home from a previous owner, it's wise to have your own knowledgeable agent to represent your interests, to advise you and to hold your hand through the worst of it.

Ironically, in searching the Internet for pertinent real estate information, you may soon feel overwhelmed, because there are thousands of articles online about all aspects of real estate.

“Consumers don't need to feel like they're alone in this process, especially when suffering from information overload,” says Oregon Association of Realtors President-Elect Colin Mullane, principal broker at Full Circle Real Estate in Ashland. “While shopping housing inventory can be fun, and no one knows what you want more than you do, there's a big difference between browsing homes for sale and successfully navigating a complete transaction. On the spectrum of DIY, there's a definite tipping

# Inside:

Why choose a Realtor?

Free resources for home owners

Featured properties

Charitable gifts of real estate



point where engaging a Realtor in the process makes for a much smoother and more efficient experience with a better chance of success."

So how does one find a good representative? And what's the difference between a real estate agent and a Realtor?

One excellent resource for the buyer or seller is the National Association of Realtors, which refers to itself as "The Voice of Real Estate." NAR asserts that its members – Realtors – differ from real estate agents in that real estate agents need only pass a state exam to obtain a real estate license and must adhere only to state laws. NAR members, on the other hand, in addition to obtaining state licenses and obeying state laws, "must subscribe to the association's code of ethics." This code, which is delineated on the NAR website, is very specific. It identifies duties to clients, customers, the public and other Realtors. It seeks "to protect and promote the interests of their client [buyer/seller]" and "to treat all parties honestly." The code forbids members from engaging in unethical behavior. If a complaint is filed against a NAR member for failure to behave ethically, NAR peer committees investigate. If found guilty, the Realtor faces fines, suspension or permanent loss of license, depending on the seriousness of the offense.

Incidentally, NAR's code of ethics reminds one of a Biblical teaching: "Realtors can take no safer guide than that which has been handed down through the centuries, embodied in the Golden Rule." Or, in Jewish terms, to quote the great Rabbi Hillel, "That which is hateful to you, do not do unto others."

NAR, founded in 1908, is also an enormous trade and lobbying association with more than a million members (real estate salespersons, brokers, property managers, appraisers). Members are required to continue their education, and NAR offers courses, seminars and conferences on all matters dealing with real estate issues and laws, along with required classes for realtors to regularly review its code of ethics.

Why would a licensed real estate agent choose not to join NAR? Since NAR exists primarily for residential home sales, many commercial real estate agents may not join. Or agents who work in a builder's office selling new subdivision homes only need a state license. Ongoing dues and continuing education requirements also dissuade some real estate agents who are not pursuing real estate as a full-time career.

So if you're facing the minefield of home buying and/or selling, it's up to you to decide how you want to get through it. Of course, you can choose to do it on your own but, remember, it's very risky. As for me, I'll get by with a little help from my experienced, qualified, Realtor friends. 📞

Joni Browne-Walders is a produced playwright, editor and freelance writer. She can be reached at [jonibw@hotmail.com](mailto:jonibw@hotmail.com).





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# Free Public Service Resources for Home Buyers and Home Owners

By Elizabeth Coffey

The Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors, a nonprofit trade association for Realtors, provides two public service resources for the home-buying and home-selling public. HOWNW.com is a stand-alone website that covers the home-buying and home-ownership experience, including the ABCs of home ownership, home-buying programs and much more. PMAR.org/green was developed by PMAR's Sustainable Practices Committee as a resource for sustainable home ownership.

"Both of these public service websites were developed as part of PMAR's core value of protecting and promoting home ownership," says PMAR CEO Kathy Querin. "Our goal is to provide trusted, accurate information to help consumers realize the American dream of home ownership."

## HOWNW.com

Home buyers looking for unbiased information about home ownership can turn to HOWNW.com, a unique public service website that acts as a comprehensive home-ownership resource.

HOWNW.com contains a searchable, multilingual (translatable into more than 50 languages) database of home-buying programs available in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas

counties. Consumers can enter the county they live in or wish to live in, number of people in the household and annual income to discover what financial programs, options and resources are available.

The website walks consumers through the home-buying process and includes features such as 100 Questions and Answers for Buying a Home, information on finding a loan, a real estate glossary and much more. In addition, information on consumer issues such as predatory lending, finding a healthy home and credit is provided to help educate potential home buyers. The site also includes resources for veterans and military service members.

New this year: home-ownership retention and renovation resources available to individuals desiring to stay in their own homes indefinitely. Consumers can look to the site for an unbiased explanation of reverse mortgages, help evaluating the economic factors of aging in place, tips for accessible renovations and much more.

"Home ownership can be the single greatest achievement any one of us makes," says Portland Housing Center Executive Director Peg Malloy. "Thankfully, staying in a home over the



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long haul has been made easier by PMAR with the addition of its Forever Home, a link to resources and information for those of us who would like to stay put in our homes but do so comfortably and safely.”

#### PMAR.org/green

PMAR.org/green is a public service website compiled by the Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors with trusted, accurate information on sustainable home-improvement projects, recycling, business practices, sustainable preservation and more. The site includes:

- Comprehensive lists of federal and state tax credits, cash incentives and financing options for:
- **Sustainable home-improvement projects**, organized by project.
- **Sustainability 101 primer**, including a glossary of terms.
- **Recycling resources**, including construction salvage, hazardous waste, heating oil and more.
- **Sustainable preservation tips** for weatherizing older homes, window repair, etc.

The site is updated quarterly, at minimum, to ensure information is accurate and up to date. The site only links to nonprofits or governmental agencies rather than promoting individual companies. The one exception is in the Realtor Education section, where the site links to a few for-profit education providers. 

Elizabeth Coffey is the communications director of the Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors.





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If you own a personal residence, vacation home or commercial real estate that has appreciated over time, it's possible to sell the property and increase income while getting as many tax advantages as possible. You can accomplish all of this and at the same time create your Jewish legacy for the organizations you care most about. The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation can help you accomplish this through a charitable gift of your residence or commercial real estate.

### Charitable Gifts from the Sale of Your Home

If your goals include the ability to live in your home and receive a current tax deduction, a life estate reserved may be the plan for you. With a life estate, you deed your home to charity but reserve the right to continue using it for life. You benefit from a current charitable tax deduction, and OJCF receives your home in the future to create a charitable endowment in your name to support the Jewish organization(s) of your choice.

A bargain sale is another option. By selling your home to OJCF at a discount, you will receive a charitable deduction for the difference between the market value and the sale price. Your \$250,000 home exclusion (\$500,000 for married couples) may cover the taxable gain on the cash you receive for the sale of a personal residence, and any remaining gain may be offset by your charitable deduction. OJCF will then sell the home on the open market and set up a donor-advised fund or an endowment in your name.

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### Gifts of Land and Commercial Real Estate

A charitable gift of land or commercial real estate may provide you with a way to sell your property tax free, increase your income for retirement and benefit from a charitable tax deduction. Options that provide charitable deductions and tax savings include outright gifts to OJCF, charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities, which also provide fixed income.

For more information on how you can use gifts of real estate to create your Jewish legacy for our shared Jewish community, call the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation at 503-248-9328 or email [info@ojcf.org](mailto:info@ojcf.org).

OJCF does not provide tax or legal advice. This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

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# This New Year's Eve it's time to go glam again

By Kira Brown


Since the economy took a nosedive, I have witnessed and experienced a cooling-off period in fashion. Prior to 2008 when the economy was hot, dressing chic, accessorizing to the max and frivolous shopping spending were the norm. Since then, spending and dressing have become largely more practical as well as more creative, as we have found ways to stretch our shopping dollar to maintain a sense of style and freshness in our wardrobes.

This year, unlike the most recent years, I'm ready to go glam again – especially for New Year's Eve! I'm ready to spend a little, dress up a little and celebrate me and my style a little. Most importantly, I'm ready to have fun with fashion again. I hope you are too!

Here are my top picks for a glamorous New Year's Eve:

**Extensions** – There are so many fun, fashionable hair extensions available now that look amazing and make you feel amazing. In the past, they have been expensive and time-consuming to put in. However, new products like Platinum Seamless are affordable, last for weeks and take just one hour to complete.

**Dangly earrings** – Nothing says glamour like brightly colored chandelier or long earrings. So bright and bold – a must for New Year's Eve! I love Kendra Scott's jewelry, which you can customize by color and more.

**Dresses** – Go black, go bold or stay home! An old standby and wardrobe staple is the little black dress. Pair a fab new black cocktail dress with your hot new hair and long earrings and you're instantly glamorous. Or this year go bold with bright colors in orange, red and more. You'll instantly feel like the life of the party in a brightly colored party dress. And the more color, the fewer accessories you need; opt for a black patent shoe and bag and you're done! 



Ann Taylor dresses





## Style Tip of the Month:

Going out this New Year's Eve? Make sure to take a coat or wrap and a small bag with a stash of emergency necessities. Pack cash and a credit card for last-minute cab fare, a keychain flashlight, a compact, lipstick, makeup wipes, tester of your favorite moisturizer, Emergen-C packs and mints. You'll be set for whatever the night/early morning may bring!



**ABOUT AURORA** – To crown Kendra Scott's year of globe-trotting, she entices you with one last world excursion, this time to the majestic land of snow-capped mountains and a skyline lit by the beautiful aurora borealis. Inspired by the northern lights, a breathtaking rainbow in the night sky, glimmering, iridescent stones like iridescent drusy, gunmetal drusy and iridescent agate come to life in this brilliant collection. These dazzling gems from Kendra Scott's Aurora Collection epitomize the enchantment of the holiday season. [kendrascott.com](http://kendrascott.com)

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](mailto:kira@fashionphoenix.com).



Platinum Seamless hair extensions



# Malkas: Living & loving diamonds



The Malka family is a diamond team. Photo by Gloria Hammer

**By Gloria Hammer**

David and Ronnie Malka opened Malka Diamonds & Jewelry about four years ago on Southwest Third Avenue, across the street from Tel Aviv Diamonds, which David's father, Yossi Malka, has owned for 32 years. I spent an afternoon talking to the three about the family and the diamond business. What you will find is that behind every diamond is a love story. Their replies have been edited for brevity and clarity.

## What is the history of the evolving diamond business in your family?

Yossi: In 1955 my family emigrated from Morocco to Israel. Growing up in a large family both a high school and college education were not available. My option was to learn a trade. My uncle was an Israeli diamond cutter and I became his apprentice. His cutting factory was in the central bus station of Tel Aviv. This was when Israel was evolving into having one of the largest diamond industries in the world.

## How did you meet David's mom?

Yossi: It was in 1968. I remember getting a call from a friend who said, "I'm meeting two young American girls." I didn't speak English but I was taking a Berlitz night class. I went to meet them. One of them, Judy Policar from Portland, came to Israel to work on a kibbutz. I fell in love with her immediately and I took the bus every day from Tel Aviv to Netanya to see her. We dated and married that same year.

## How did you get to Portland?

Yossi: In the fall of 1969, we came to Portland for a year. I spent that year working for Judy's father at the Puritan Fish Market on Third and Yamhill while Judy worked at a pharmacy. We decided to return to Israel. I opened my own diamond-cutting factory in the same area where I worked as an apprentice. Our two sons were born there. In 1976, we wanted to return to Portland to be with family. I decided to mortgage everything and started Tel Aviv Diamond Company



to import and wholesale diamonds in downtown Portland. I leased an office in the Willamette Building and have been here ever since.

#### How do you feel about your son's venture into Malka Diamonds & Jewelry?

Yossi: I am very happy about their success. It is very satisfying for parents to see their children maintaining the future business.

#### Where did David and Ronnie meet?

Ronnie: We met in Israel on a high school one-year program for American students. David was from Portland and I was from California. We became good friends and reconnected in our early adult years after David served a three-year term in the Golani brigade of the Israel Defense Force. We try to visit Israel as often as we can and most recently took our two daughters, Maya and Ellie, for an amazing summer trip. In 1998 we moved to San Diego where David attended the Gemological Institute of America and earned a GIA Graduate Gemologist degree. David opened Independent Gemological Services in the Willamette

Building doing appraisals and evaluations of jewelry and diamonds. Then we had an opportunity to lease a space on the street and the rest is history!

#### What is it like being a husband and wife team in downtown?


David (chuckling): The store is a next generation mom and pop shop. Ronnie works here five days a week and we are blessed that we can work together so well. When people come in and see our wedding picture on the wall they immediately make the connection. We work as a team – Ronnie helps with the creative side and I make sure the technical part of the project is correct. Our customers frequently tell us they feel like we are family, and we have enjoyed being part of their families' special life events.

#### Who are your customers?

Ronnie: 75% percent are guys who are about to propose. They are looking for value, quality and an education. Whether they are looking for a modern, vintage or custom ring, we have them covered. The other 25% seems to be people wanting to create something special. We either start

from scratch or in most cases, we take items they have and recreate or restore them. You would be surprised how many people have jewelry in their drawer that they will never wear. We love to help them redesign the piece so it is worn again.

#### Are diamonds a good investment?

Yossi: Diamonds have been one of the best investments in the last 100 years. Diamonds in the last 20 years have increased in value close to 150 to 200%. When you buy the diamonds at the source, such as Malka Diamonds & Jewelry, it's a great investment. 

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## SOUNDBITES

# *“What is the best advice you ever received?”*



**Corrie Grudin  
Bend**

When I was learning to drive, my father, who worked at a gas station, told me that when I stopped to get gas and they were washing the windshield, make sure to keep my knees together if I was wearing a skirt! And I still do to this day.



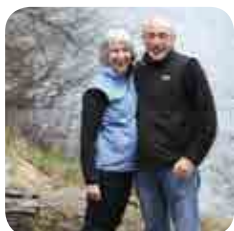
**Lauren Olander  
Bend**

“Fight naked.” It was advice when getting married.



**Jeanne Freeman  
Redmond**

When I began working at age 12 for my father’s business he told me that I’d be starting at \$.90 an hour. He explained that meant I needed to give \$1.10 an hour worth of work and when I was raised to the \$1.10, I should give a \$1.25 worth of work. It’s held me in good stead in business throughout my life.



**Patti Barkin  
(Pictured with husband Tom)  
Eugene**

Over 40 years ago, our rabbi said to us in a pre-wedding meeting, “Don’t fight over where to put the couch.”



**Joan Steele  
Ashland**

The best advice I ever received came from my Russian-immigrant grandmother who had arrived in Astoria in 1903 at the age of 18, penniless but determined to build a successful life in this strange new country. She told me, many years later, “Always save 10% of whatever income you have and you will have a secure future.” Looking back on that advice from a fabulous retirement in Ashland, I have often savored the wisdom of those words.

## MAKE 2014 A “SHEHECHIYANU” YEAR!

By Amy Hirshberg Lederman

“When was the last time you did something for the very first time?”

I can think of no better time to ask that question than right now as we enter the new year. So I have decided to create my own challenge by making 2014 a year of “firsts.”

What I’m talking about is taking time each month to try something I’ve never tried before. Not only is this an exciting way to embrace the new year, it affords a very significant Jewish opportunity as well – that of being grateful for the blessing of having new things in our life.

The Jewish tradition has a wonderful way of honoring firsts with a blessing called the Shehechianu, which means “who has kept us in life” in Hebrew. The Shehechianu gives thanks to God “Who has kept us alive, preserved us and brought us to this special time.” On its face, it gives us a way to thank God for new and unusual experiences – such as watching a baby take her first steps, beginning a new job, moving into a new house or tasting the first vegetables from a garden. On a deeper level, it directs our attention and awareness to our surroundings, so that we develop an ability to “see” and “feel” the spiritual significance of events in our life.

The Shehechianu is the Jewish way of acknowledging how blessed we are to be alive and witness the wonderful new things that come into our lives.

Amy Hirshberg Lederman is an author, Jewish educator, public speaker and attorney. Visit her website at [amyhirshberglederman.com](http://amyhirshberglederman.com).

NEXT MONTH: *“When was the last time you did something for the very first time?”*

To share your reply, please send your short answer, name, city and photo to [editor@ojlife.com](mailto:editor@ojlife.com) by Dec. 6.



# Rabbinic Reflection



*Rabbi Daniel Isaak reflects  
on one concept in the Torah that has  
impacted the world*

*"And God created the human in  
His image, In the image of God He  
created him, Male and female He  
created them."*


(Genesis 1:27, Alter translation)

All human beings, regardless of race, nationality or religious heritage, are of equal value before God. This cardinal ethical principle emanates directly from the story of creation in the first chapter of Genesis. Many Jewish notions about the nature of God, humanity and their interplay are laid out in the first two parshiot of Genesis, before we are introduced to Abraham and the emerging epic of the Jewish people.

No class of human beings may think of itself as innately superior. Though depicted in Western art as white, God creates Adam devoid of race or ethnicity. Thus all human beings mysteriously are envisioned as evolving from a single progenitor. And created simultaneously with Eve, at least according to the first chapter of Genesis, we are also mandated not to conceive of superiority in gender either.

Though wars may be explained as based in rights over land or economics or ideology, at base human conflict emerges essentially from the notion that one group conceives of itself as superior to another. The imperialist mind often sees its mission not only to rape the conquered territory of its natural riches, but to civilize the primitives. Similarly reprehensible were Nazi notions of racial eugenics.

Rava, a famous Talmudic authority, best articulates this Jewish notion of the essential sanctity and equality of every human being. He was confronted by a man who related that the governor of a particular city had ordered him to slay another or be killed himself. Rava warned, "Rather than slay another, you yourself must submit to death. How do you know that your blood is redder than his? Perhaps his blood is redder than yours!" (Sanhedrin 74a) By killing in order to save one's own life, the killer would act immorally by placing his life on a higher plane than that of his victim.

Mercifully none of us confronts the conundrum of Rava's inquirer. However, whenever we prioritize ourselves over that of our fellow, asserting superiority or pushing others aside, we too are guilty of claiming our blood as redder. Shoving ourselves in line ahead of others is the example Rabbi Joseph Telushkin offers. In doing so, we proclaim our interests and our time of more value than that of others. Perhaps, as Rava suggests, their blood might just as well be as red or redder than ours. 

Rabbi Daniel Isaak is senior rabbi of Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland.





  
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By Kerry Politzer

A dynamic duo is taking Portland's classical music scene by storm. Called 106 Keys, the group is the brainchild of pianist/composer Beth Karp and flutist Amalia Blumberg. Since moving to Portland from the East Coast, the accomplished musicians have been performing a wide-ranging repertoire that features the works of Jewish composers.

The duo's creative programs incorporate works like the "Sonata for Flute and Piano" by Erwin Schulhoff, a Czech composer who perished in the Holocaust. Other works draw from folk music, pieces by Philip Glass and Ernest Bloch, and the oeuvre of local composers like Reed College's David Schiff. Says Karp of Schiff: "We've decided to take on his 'After Hours.' This piece was written as five pieces that could be performed either as encores or together as a suite. And although they're very tightly structured, they also sound jazzy and improvisatory ... just a lot of fun."

In addition to being a performer, Karp is a skilled composer who finds inspiration in Jewish music. She explains: "I was raised in a fairly religious household. I was singing at shul, and I went to a Jewish school

for 12 years, learning contemporary Jewish and Israeli music as well as songs from the prayer service."

Karp decided to pursue music as her vocation and received a bachelor of music in piano and composition from Cornell University and a master of music in composition from the Longy School of Music. After graduating in 2009, rather than return to her hometown of Potomac, MD, Karp chose to move to Portland. "The Pacific Northwest looked really appealing," she says. "I moved here in part so I could get outside more, especially to go kayaking, but I find that I just do music all the time. Portland's given me a lot of great opportunities."

In addition to performing with 106 Keys and teaching at Portland Community College, Karp is writing music for silent films. Her most recent work is a solo piano score for "The Golem," a 1920 German Expressionist film. Says Karp, "The score, which was a labor of love, draws on classical, Renaissance, minimalist, pop and traditional Jewish influences. The film presents a strange, beautiful, problematic version of the legend." In Karp's work, one can hear the late Romantic harmonies favored by the composer as well as the repeated arpeggios of Philip Glass. To Karp, modern classical music often lacks the rhythmic propulsion of folk music; she enjoys focusing on this element. Future works by Karp include a score for larger ensemble for hand-colored film shorts from the early 1900s and a musical about New York politician Anthony Weiner.

Blumberg is a graduate of the flute programs of UMass Amherst and the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance in Israel. She is the recipient of a Fulbright grant that funded her involvement in a "peace through music"

initiative between Israelis and Arabs. The flutist performed with the Jewish Arab Orchestra, which presented a blend of Eastern and Western music.

Blumberg says that her time in Israel inspired her to find and play music by Israeli and Jewish composers. She explains, "I love finding hints of folk melodies in the music from the country of origin or from the cultural background of the composer."

The young flutist met Karp after a performance of "The Golem," and 106 Keys was born. Blumberg teaches private flute lessons in Portland and performs as a member of Portland Chamber Music. She also teaches Hebrew to kindergarteners at Portland Jewish Academy.

106 Keys has an exciting schedule of performances coming up, including a concert on Dec. 21 at the Portland Piano Company (711 SW 14th Ave., 503-775-2480). This performance will feature a program of music by David Schiff, Philip Glass and Darius Milhaud among other Jewish composers. Other upcoming concerts include a Dec. 22 show at the Rose Schnitzer Manor and an "After Hours Candlelit Concert," which is part of the March Music Moderne: Listening to the Here of the Now series. This unique performance, which features the aforementioned Schiff piece, will take place by candlelight at 11 pm on March 14. (Karp bills it as "21st century music, 13th century lighting.")

Learn more about Beth Karp and 106 Keys at [betharielkarp.com/106keys](http://betharielkarp.com/106keys). 

# 106 Keys makes a splash in classical music scene





# Lisa Lieberman's jazz passion pays off

By Polina Olsen

Lisa Lieberman turned to jazz one short year ago. A singer since her high school choir days in San Diego, she'd grown up with folk music and soft rock. Despite the newness, Lisa won the Jazz Society of Oregon's Amateur Vocalist Contest on Oct. 15. She's delighted and looks forward to years of learning, jamming and entertaining. And this settles something she's always known: It's never too late to follow your passion.

"I took voice lessons for years," Lisa says. "Three years ago, I started going to Puget Sound Guitar Workshop ([psgw.org](http://psgw.org)) and got dropped into heaven. Someone gave a class in jazz standards." Since then Lisa has taken Mitzi Zilka's Jazz Singers Workshop at Portland Community College four times. Lisa's voice teacher, Theresa Koon, encouraged her to enter the contest.

"I'm 63 years old. I had to unlearn a lot," she says. "I'd developed vibrato and put emotion into song. Jazz is reserved. You are telling a story but containing it. It requires a different use of muscles in the throat, and I'm learning how to improvise."


Jazz seems to run in the family. Lisa's cousin, George Fendel, served as the Jazz Society of Oregon's president for three terms and writes CD reviews for its publication "Jazzscene." He hosts the Sunday radio show "George Fendel's High Standards" on KMHD 89.1 fm and produces a jazz piano concert series at Classic Pianos in Southeast Portland.

"She always had an ear for the Gershwins, Ellington and other great jazz vocalists," George says when asked about Lisa's recent award. "I was surprised and excited that she won. She competed with several other people."

In addition to her interest in singing, Lisa is a clinical social

worker specializing in disability in the family. Her son, Jordan, who has been diagnosed on the autism spectrum, often speaks with her on coping with the condition. Inheriting the family love of music, he sings with the choir at their synagogue, P'nai Or, and plans to take the jazz workshop at PCC this year.

Meanwhile, Lisa intends to use the wireless microphone she received as a prize for future singing engagements and open mike nights. Mitzi Zilka hosts an open mike at the Marino Adriatic Café (503-231-1313) on SE 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Division the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 pm and a fourth-Sunday Crooner's Corner from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Vie de Boheme ([viedebohemedpx.com](http://viedebohemedpx.com)) on SE Seventh Avenue and Clay.

"I'm in love with the people," Lisa says. "Music feeds my soul, especially when I'm singing in a community." She hopes her award will inspire others to never give up because of their age. "You are never too old to follow a passion," she says. 

Hear Lisa sing at the Jazz Society of Oregon amateur jazz vocalist contest by visiting [youtube.com/watch?v=CtIEzWWdGGA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtIEzWWdGGA).

For more information on the society visit [jsjazzscene.org](http://jsjazzscene.org)

Receive notices on George Fendel's concert series by emailing [jazzfens@comcast.net](mailto:jazzfens@comcast.net)



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# Jordan Schnitzer gives WSU \$5 million for Museum of Art

At right: Philanthropist Jordan D. Schnitzer of Portland, center, joins Washington State University President Elson S. Floyd, left, to announce the largest act of private patronage to the arts in WSU history. WSU Museum of Art Director Christopher Bruce, right, and Floyd made Jordan Schnitzer an "Honorary Cougar" in recognition of his gift of \$5 million to the university's Museum of Art capital campaign. Schnitzer said his contribution underscores his fundamental belief that the arts reflect the highest ideals of our society. Schnitzer's gift launches the \$15 million campaign for a new and larger museum of art at WSU into the public phase of fundraising. For more information on the project, visit [museum.wsu.edu](http://museum.wsu.edu).



Below right: Two WSU students view "Welcome to the Water Planet: Where the Water Goes" (1989 by James Rosenquist). The pressed paper pulp with lithographic image is part of "Made in U.S.A.: Rosenquist/Ruscha," a new exhibit on the Pullman campus at the university's current art museum located in the Fine Arts building with a single gallery. The exhibit features works from the collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer and the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation. Photo by Robert Hubner, WSU News



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## BRIDGETOWN MEETS THE KINGS of IVORIES



**Vladimir Feltsman**  
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**JewishPDX**

# Vancouver teen uses science for tikkun olam

*Mitchell Kaiser at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa.*

By Kerry Politzer

Vancouver teen Mitchell Kaiser, a senior at the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, was only 11 when he became aware of the issue of clean water. Dismayed at the pollution in local rivers and streams, he began volunteering with StreamTeam, an initiative that improves the health of the watershed. In the ninth grade Mitchell began an intensive program of environmental study that culminated in his designation as a Watershed Steward.

Now at age 17, Mitchell is already performing high-level research to improve the environment. He recently participated in SciTech, a prestigious science and technology research camp that pairs talented teens with veteran Israeli researchers to solve world problems. Mitchell's research, which was conducted at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, involved the development of a quick way to detect bacterial contamination in drinking water. Explains the teen, "In a world where fresh water is becoming more difficult to find, this ability would be invaluable." Together with other students and a mentor, Mitchell discovered a system that could enable communities to detect contamination within one hour.

Not only did Mitchell gain valuable experience during the program, he forged a lasting connection with other participants. "We grew to feel like a family, and there wasn't a single dry eye when the program was over and we left," he says.

Visiting Israel for the first time was an amazing experience for Mitchell: "I have always wanted to go to Israel. I feel overwhelmed with pride having seen all the progress we have made in 60 years. I came up a week early to travel around the country and enjoyed every second of it. It's amazing to think that after nearly 2,000 years of exile, this place is once again our home." Judaism has always been a large part of the teen's life. A devoted member of Congregation Kol Ami, Mitchell teaches Hebrew every Thursday at the synagogue. Jewish values like tikkun olam and the performance of mitzvot are "of the utmost importance" to the teen, and he hopes to use his scientific abilities to these ends.

In addition to being a talented researcher and humanitarian, Mitchell is an accomplished filmmaker, visual artist and musician. At the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, he draws and sculpts, performs with a choir, plays guitar, and works as a cinematographer, director, editor and audio engineer. In August, a film he worked on ("The Lone Alpaca") placed first in Clark County Fair's Weekend Film Challenge.

Says Mitchell of where he sees himself in the future, "I'm planning to go to college for chemical engineering and eventually earn my doctorate. I have this grand plan of overhauling the nation's energy economy, but we'll see how that goes." He is also working on a three-dimensional printer.

No matter what Mitchell does, he is bound to excel. ♻️



## SOCIAL ACTION GRANTS FOR TEENS

*Nominate a socially conscious Jewish teen who is creating change locally or globally*

Jewish teens involved in social action projects are eligible for \$36,000 awards from The Helen Diller Family Foundation. Nominations are due Jan. 5, 2014, for the 2014 Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards, which recognize as many as 10 Jewish teens with \$36,000 each for exceptional leadership and visionary actions that are helping to repair the world.

Up to five teens from California and five from other communities across the country will be acknowledged for their socially minded volunteer service. Bay Area philanthropist Helen Diller began a major commitment in 2007 to support California Jewish teens who exemplify the spirit of tikkun olam (repair the world). The prestigious awards program has since expanded nationally, recognizing 40 Jewish teens across the country with nearly \$1.5 million to support and further their volunteer service projects and education. Last year's recipients came from California, Iowa, New York, Rhode Island, Missouri and Massachusetts.

The Jewish Federations of North America and its network of 155 Jewish federations throughout the country continue to collaborate with the Helen Diller Family Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, to inspire and encourage Jewish teen volunteer service nationwide.

"We are thrilled to once more collaborate with and support the Helen Diller Family Foundation as they so generously empower young Jewish philanthropists across the nation seeking to make a real difference in the world," says Jerry Silverman, president and CEO of JFNA.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINATION

- Teens may be nominated by any community member who knows the value of their project – except a family member – or may self-nominate.
- Candidate must be a U.S. resident aged 13-19 years old at the time of nomination and must self-identify as Jewish.
- Community service projects may benefit the general or Jewish community locally, nationally or worldwide.
- Teens compensated for their services are not eligible.

**To nominate: Complete the simple online form at [dillerteenawards.org](http://dillerteenawards.org)**  
Information: [dillerteenawards@sfjcf.org](mailto:dillerteenawards@sfjcf.org) or 415-512-6432.



# University of Oregon student named Jewish World Watch fellow



By Will Reuben

University of Oregon sophomore Erin Horwitz was recently awarded a campus fellowship with the anti-genocide organization Jewish World Watch for the 2013-14 academic year.

Founded in 2004, JWW is a nonprofit organization that draws on traditional Judaic values while aiding in the fight against the ongoing crimes against humanity in Sudan and the Congo. JWW programs include the Solar Cooker Project, which aims to reduce the risks Sudanese women face when leaving the safety of refugee camps to collect firewood.

Long involved in her Jewish community while attending Los Angeles Hebrew High School, Erin was already familiar with the nonprofit when her Freshman Interest Group professor Shaul Cohen pointed her toward the fellowship opportunity.

"I took a class in 10th grade which was called Jewish Civics Initiative, and it's all about Jewish advocacy and tikkun olam, but mostly the advocacy side," Erin says. "One of the things we did was we got involved in Jewish World Watch."

Along with the fellowship, Erin is deeply involved in Oregon Hillel on the University campus and serves on the student board as vice president of tzedakah (justice and righteousness).

Oregon Hillel Executive Director Andy Gitelson believes there's great value in combining the mission and resources of JWW with those of the Hillel, especially the way in which the nonprofit applies the lessons and messages from the Holocaust to combating current crises.

"I think that having that outlet on this campus is unique given the makeup of our student population – our Jewish population on campus," Gitelson says. "We're now able to tap into a resource center to help have more conversations about what

happened during the Holocaust, to have more conversations about what the fallout was from that – other than the creation of the state of Israel, which was a very important fallout."


For Erin, the practice of using the Holocaust as a teaching tool and weapon against present and future genocides is less of a tactic and more of a responsibility.

"The thing I think about most – the Holocaust happened," Erin says. "So many people were there to help the Jews after the Holocaust; we all say 'never again.' I feel like people have more of an obligation to help stop genocides, because we say 'never again' – it happened to us."

Equipped with her knowledge of the issues and the resources of JWW, Oregon Hillel and the university at large, Erin is aiming high with her goals for the fellowship. Not only does she hope to have an event at the Hillel house, she's looking to involve other humanitarian organizations on campus.

"My big idea is to have a big "Dar-Fest" where you have bands play... and have all the different groups represented," Erin says. "In Darfur, the crisis doesn't affect just one group of people."

Her goals may be big, especially on a campus full of religious, ethnic and political groups, but Erin believes that JWW can gain traction with students of all backgrounds.

"I think the University of Oregon just cares so much about issues," Erin explains. "Every issue, people seem to care about it. It's not like I'm forming a new group of followers; I'm going to be taking people that are already involved in different aspects and just teaching them more information, so they can go teach more people." 

Will Rubin is a junior at the University of Oregon with a major in journalism and an internship at Oregon Hillel. A lifelong resident of Eugene, Will has covered the Oregon Ducks for the Oregon Daily Emerald and AddictedToQuack.com, and currently writes for DuckTerritory.com. In the future, he hopes to write for a major metro publication or work for a collegiate athletic department.

# Seeking Clarity

*Oregon Jewish Community Foundation hosts program on shifting same-sex marriage laws*



Christine Costantino (center) with OJCF President Sharon Morell (left) and OJCF Executive Director Julie Diamond. Photo by Polina Olsen

By Polina Olsen

James Phelps may be director of development at Portland Jewish Academy and the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, but when it comes to taxes, he has problems. He and his partner originally filed both state and federal returns individually. When Oregon passed the Domestic Partnership law, he filed state taxes jointly and federal individually, thereby confounding tax preparation software.

Things changed again when he and his partner married in Canada. By this time, the 2013 United States v. Windsor Supreme Court case made federal recognition of his marriage the law of the land. However, Oregon does not recognize same-sex marriage. If your head is spinning, so is his.

Phelps was among the attendees at “New Legal Issues for Same Sex Couples,” a lecture by Family Law Attorney Christine R. Costantino from Samuels Yoelin Kantor, LLP. As part of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation’s Professional Advisors Group series, the Oct. 24 gathering at the Multnomah Athletic Club attracted 50 people seeking clarity amid a rapidly changing landscape.

Costantino began by reviewing the series of laws that have affected the state’s same-sex relationships beginning with domestic partnership rulings.

These ironically started with contention between an opposite-sex couple in 1978. In 2007 the Oregon Family Fairness Act granted same-sex couples who register as domestic partners the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as married couples in Oregon. Meanwhile, on a federal level, Congress enacted the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 1996. In the 2013 United States v. Windsor case the Supreme Court declared the DOMA section defining marriage as between one man and one woman unconstitutional.

As of this writing, marriage is marriage according to federal law, but at a state level – not so fast. In 2004 Oregon amended its constitution to define marriage as between heterosexual couples. Yes, this is being challenged by a ballot measure and a lawsuit. Furthermore, a memo written to state agency directors by chief operating officer for state government, Michael Jordan, stated that on Oct. 16, 2013, the Oregon Department of Justice ruled “Oregon agencies must recognize all out-of-state marriages for the purposes of administering state programs. That includes legal, same sex marriages performed in other states and countries.”

But bottom line, Oregon’s constitution could remain an issue.

“For now, we are advising our same-sex clients who reside in Oregon and have decided to marry to register as domestic

partners in Oregon in order to guarantee their rights under state law, and to marry in jurisdictions which allow same-sex marriage, like Washington or California, to avail themselves of the federal rights and benefits of traditional spouses,” Costantino said.

She also emphasized the importance of professional estate planning and urged same-sex couples to travel with a copy of their advance directives since state laws vary and emergencies happen.

“For same-sex couples, the law is Swiss cheese with lots of holes,” Phelps said. “This ball is moving along faster than anyone anticipated. Christine (Costantino) clearly pointed out that in this time of flux, it’s even more important for same-sex couples to have a plan. What happens if one partner gets sick? You need a will and medical power of attorney. Make sure property goes to your surviving spouse, or relatives may swoop in. Who are your life insurance beneficiaries, and will property pass to a surviving spouse? Sit down with your attorney and look ahead.”

Contact Christine Costantino at 503-296-2966 or [chris.costantino@samuelslaw.com](mailto:chris.costantino@samuelslaw.com).

The OJCF Professional Advisors Group meets three times a year to learn about tax and legal issues important to advisors working with donors in our Jewish community. It also serves as a networking platform for estate attorneys and financial planners, and is an opportunity to share news about the impact of the OJCF. Sponsors are First Republic Bank, Rosenbaum Financial, LLC, Oregon Angel Fund, and Brian Suher, Sr. Vice President, RBC Wealth Management. For more information about OJCF visit [ojcf.org](http://ojcf.org) or call 503-248-9328. 



# Ask Helen

## Turn disastrous visits into family stories

**Dear Helen,**

*Every time my parents come to visit something goes kablooey. It's like we are cursed. I have broken out in severe attacks of eczema. My husband had a car accident. Our daughter needed an emergency appendectomy. The water heater died. The cat died. That's not all but I want you to keep reading. My folks are scheduled to visit during Hanukkah. Honestly I'd prefer a quiet weekend at home with the doors locked and the phone unplugged over another catastrophe. I love my family, but my kids are beginning to think that their grandparents travel in a bad supernatural vortex. Can you explain this seemingly doomed confluence of people and events or make a suggestion about how to avoid another calamity?*

**Yikes!!!!**

**Dear Yikes!**

Yes, statistically you're describing an unusually high frequency of annoying, even serious, events. "Calamities" are relative. I'd pick all of them over, say, a life-threatening diagnosis. Sometimes bad things happen to good people at exactly the wrong time. You've convinced me that there's lots of stress when it's time to get together. I'm curious if the same types of things occur when your husband's family visits.

Also how do your parents feel when they come? Do they think they're seeing normal life in your household? Do they act as though they're part of the stress, politely ignore what's happening or jump in to help and resolve what's happening?

Assuming you want to have your folks continue to visit, I'd recommend finding a way to bond over these disastrous visits. Try turning them into great family stories of the "Do you remember the time when ..." variety. Once you all start laughing, the stress will abate and I'm betting the number of disasters will drop precipitously. That sure beats having your children grow up thinking they come from some accursed line. The alternative: meet them in some resort, but try to avoid zones known for hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and earthquakes. (And warn the rest of us where you're headed.)

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](http://kabbalahglass.com)).

Please email your questions to [helen@yourjewishfairygodmother.com](mailto:helen@yourjewishfairygodmother.com) and check out the blog at [kabbalahglass.com/blog/](http://kabbalahglass.com/blog/)



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# Multi-faceted Emily Simon being honored for lifetime achievement

By Deborah Moon

Longtime Havurah Shalom member, legendary matchmaker, irrepressibly funny woman, advocate for the have-nots, Torah scholar and youth mentor Emily Simon is receiving a lifetime achievement award for her professional accomplishments – as a criminal defense attorney.

Emily will receive the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association's Ken Morrow Lifetime Achievement Award Dec. 6. Created in 2000 the award recognizes the lifelong commitment and significant achievements of attorneys who have worked in the defense community, and those who have made important contributions to the administration of justice. This year's award dinner includes the choice of a kosher salmon meal, enabling Emily's many friends in the observant Jewish community to attend.

One of the award presenters will be David McDonald, a criminal defense attorney who says, "I have known, played, strategized, supported, obtained support from, laughed and suffered with her for 21 years now!"

With all her sundry activities, one might wonder how she has time to practice law – but practice she does, even when on sabbatical.

"Dogged in her pursuit of justice, tenacious in her negotiations with prosecutors and one of the fiercest in trial, Emily has dedicated her entire professional career to fighting for the rights of all and against oppression," says McDonald. "Among other accomplishments, Emily is well known for her passionate sense of justice, combined with her yearning to teach and mentor others. That passion drove her decision to try to change the way Oregon's youth were viewed by the justice system and to

educate them about the unfathomable consequences slammed down upon them by the passage of Ballot Measure 11 (1994 mandatory sentencing law). After the measure took effect, she took a 'working' sabbatical, obtained funding, created materials, toured the state and became the force in Oregon attempting to ameliorate the impacts of Measure 11. Her work during that time rekindled her spirit for the law and criminal justice, and since then her main focus has been as a self-appointed protector of juvenile rights."

Her attention to youth extends beyond the legal arena.

"She has done a lot of teaching in the Jewish community," says Havurah Shalom Rabbi Joey Wolf. "For 10 years she coordinated an ad hoc group of teens to 'play act' a contemporary version of the Torah portion for the High Holidays."

"Emily is Havurah's national treasurer," he adds. "She is my sidekick in Torah discussions. If you have an audience of 1,200

and want to get into a flash debate, just make a comment that will arouse a response and you know Emily will come out with a sharp counterpoint."

Rabbi Wolf adds, "It is clear to me that the way she considers a moral argument in court or Torah is through the logic behind the words – what are people truly trying to say and on what principles does the argument hinge?"

Her attention to detail, perceptiveness and concern for others seem to be a central theme for many who know her.

"She introduced me to my husband when she was actively matchmaking," says Barbara Slader. "I know several couples she introduced 20 to 25 years ago when she was actively matchmaking, and most have lasted really well. She is very, very perceptive and does it out of concern for people to be happy with their life companion."

Another of Emily's matchmaking success stories, Sura Rubenstein, says,



**WHAT:** Ken Morrow Lifetime Achievement Award  
**WHO:** Emily Simon  
**WHEN:** 6 pm, Dec. 6  
**WHERE:** The Benson Hotel, Portland  
**TICKETS:** \$60/person, \$100/couple  
**INFORMATION:** 541-686-8716 or ocdla.org



“Emily also (seems to) know – and sing – every Broadway show tune ever written.”

Emily seems to be an entertainer on many levels. Almost everyone comments on what a funny woman she is.

“She can take any experience in her life and turn it into a story that has you falling off of your chair,” says Barbara.


“You can’t help but think of Emily and smile at the same time,” says Rabbi Wolf, who notes she is also a bit of a conundrum. “For all her political progressiveness and her advocacy for LGBT, women and the have-nots, Emily is a Jewish traditionalist. She loves Torah and the

rhythm and customs of Jewish practice.”

She is also rather modest.

“I am humbled by this recognition from my peers,” says Emily. “But this award does not belong to just me. It belongs to all of those who work with me in the pursuit of justice for those individuals that it appears our society has the least interest in protecting: youth charged with serious crime, persons accused of sex offenses, LGBT foster kids who have run away because they have no place to go, families whose lives are being disrupted by DHS (Oregon Dept. of Human Services), children who need

their rights protected in court and adults who are facing the overwhelming power of the federal government.

“I feel blessed that I have had the tools in my life to fight for those least able to fight for themselves, and hope that I am able to continue to do so, for justice is indeed a constant struggle.” 

## Congregation unveils one-of-a-kind prayer book

A dream more than two years in the making became a reality for members of Congregation Shir Tikvah on Portland’s Eastside on Friday evening, Sept. 27.

The congregation inaugurated a new Shir Tikvah-specific prayer book, or siddur, as part of its annual Simchat Torah celebration and honored congregants who went through a painstaking process leading to the publication of a book that weighs in at a hefty 488 pages, including translation and transliteration of prayers into English.

“This is a peak moment in our 11-year history,” says Rabbi Ariel Stone, Shir Tikvah’s first and only spiritual leader. “It is so very much like our members to customize a siddur to match our approach to Jewish learning and prayer, and especially appropriate that it arrives as we celebrate the Torah and begin reading it anew as we do each year on Simchat Torah. This is a very big deal for us and highly unusual for any shul.”

Shir Tikvah, located at 7550 NE Irving St. in a building it shares with the Bridgeport United Church of Christ, has always charted an independent course since 15 Portland families founded it in 2002. Several years ago after a yearlong consideration of whether to affiliate with a Jewish movement, members of the now nearly 150-family congregation voted overwhelmingly to remain independent. Until now, loose-leaf binders have been used for services.

The Shir Tikvah siddur was developed with a Cleveland-based company, Custom Siddur ([customsiddur.com](http://customsiddur.com)), which usually produces ceremonial prayer books to commemorate individual wedding or confirmation ceremonies. It had never undertaken a project like this, working with a congregation to develop and publish a permanent siddur crafted to its needs.

“The prayer book is diverse in content, egalitarian, yet true to Jewish tradition with an emphasis on teaching as it goes along – a lot like Shir Tikvah itself really,” says Jennifer Coury, former chair of Shir Tikvah’s tefillah committee. “After helping us borrow and ‘test run’ a few other siddurs, I organized the initial effort to create our own book.” A technical editor, Coury found



Jen Coury, Kate Farrell, Miles Hochstein and Rabbi Ariel Stone presented Shir Tikvah’s new siddur to the congregation Sept. 27.

Custom Siddur to publish the book and helped proofread the siddur before publication.

Other Shir Tikvah members who took leadership roles in the project were Kate Farrell, who succeeded Coury as tefillah committee chair, and Miles Hochstein, who worked with Rabbi Stone on the translations.

“The prayer book’s reception was joyous,” says Coury. “I can’t speak highly enough about Kate’s efforts to bring this to fruition and Miles’ and Rabbi’s wonderful sense of the language, balancing literal meaning with poetic spirit.”

Farrell agrees: “Rabbi Ariel and Miles Hochstein created beautiful and at times startling translations of the Hebrew texts.”

“The balance of Hebrew, transliteration and translation interact together to create a space in which we pray,” says Farrell, who headed the project over the past two years. “During our committee meetings we had some passionate discussions about the translations that are in this siddur. The passion came because the new translations moved us to reflect on what we believe about God, about prayer, about community. I expect that we will have more of these passionate discussions as we delve deeper into the siddur.”

“The unveiling of the siddur on Simchat Torah was an amazing, joyous celebration,” says Farrell. “I was delighted with seeing the complete book, and the reactions of those around me were exuberant and joyful.”

# Volunteers make congregation's history accessible for all

By Sura Rubenstein

On Friday night, Dec. 12, 1941 – the first Shabbat after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor – Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz offered words of comfort and inspiration to his congregation.

“There is no question that all of us are entering the hardest period of our lives,” he told members of Portland’s Congregation Beth Israel, which he had served since 1928. “This is the time when you must learn again to pray for courage and faith. ... Tonight we pour out our petitions to Him.”

The rabbi’s Pearl Harbor sermon – along with his other sermons and a trove of other writings, memorabilia and even notes about fishing vacations – are part of a wealth of Oregon Jewish history currently being catalogued by more than a dozen volunteers from Beth Israel and the community.

“We’re very fortunate to have all of Rabbi Berkowitz’s papers,” says Pete Asch, archivist at the Oregon Jewish Museum, where the volunteers have been reviewing and archiving materials going back to the congregation’s founding in 1858.

The materials, which include everything from board minutes to building blueprints to Sunday School lesson plans, comprise some 200 feet of records, about half of the total collection of congregational records originally stored at Beth Israel’s landmark building in Northwest Portland.

“The records are massive,” says Asch. “And



**FIRST CONFIRMATION CLASS** – This 1872 photo, discovered as part of the Congregation Beth Israel Archives Project, records the first Confirmation Class of the congregation. Beth Israel was organized in 1858 as the first Jewish synagogue west of the Rocky Mountains and north of San Francisco. Photo courtesy of Oregon Jewish Museum/OJM 30

this is such an important collection. So much of the city’s history is intertwined with the history of the temple.”

He notes that Beth Israel is the oldest Jewish congregation west of the Rockies and north of San Francisco, and its members – and rabbis – have been key players in Oregon, and sometimes national, civic, political and religious life. “The temple records are sort of a ‘Who’s Who’ of the community,” he says.

Asch sees the project, in part, as reclaiming history. “We’re getting Beth Israel’s records in one spot – and organizing them so that anyone can access the information easily,” he says.

The project began about a decade ago, when Gerel Blauer began working with the Beth Israel archives. Several years ago, Beth Israel decided to have OJM

organize and store historic records (those “inactive” as of 2000). Asch reviewed the 400 feet of materials stored at Beth Israel and selected items for the OJM volunteers.

“Many of us had worked on processing records of the National Council of Jewish Women for OJM,” says Carol Chestler, who now is sifting through minutes of Beth Israel’s committee meetings. “When we finished that – after five years – we were ready for another project.”

The volunteers, many of whom are seniors with long histories in the state’s oldest congregation, typically spend two hours a week sorting through and cataloging records. Chestler, a founding member of Havurah Shalom whose son, Stuart, is the current Beth Israel



**CATALOGUING HISTORY** – Volunteers Alice Meyer (left) and Eve Rosenfeld sift through boxes of papers from Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz as part of the Congregation Beth Israel archives project at the Oregon Jewish Museum. Meyer and Rosenfeld are among more than a dozen volunteers sorting and cataloguing massive amounts of material documenting the history of the congregation. Photo courtesy of Oregon Jewish Museum





**SERVING HIS COUNTRY** – Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz, center, who served as a US Navy chaplain during World War II, joins sailors in listening to a shofar during this undated photo. Berkowitz, who was nearly 50 when he volunteered to serve as a chaplain, served both on U.S. Naval bases and on ships and stations in the Pacific. Photo courtesy of Oregon Jewish Museum/OJM 07229

president, observes that the records sometimes include minute details.

“They even had notes about who ordered a tuna fish sandwich – and what it cost – during their committee meetings,” she says. For the record, it was about 50 cents during the 1950s.

Rose Rustin, a Beth Israel member since 1972, pulls a double shift – working four hours each week. Like the other volunteers, she takes delight in uncovering an up-until-then forgotten piece of history.

“One of the most interesting things, I think, is a copy of Julius L. Meier’s speech to the congregation in 1934 – when he was both president of Beth Israel *and* governor of Oregon,” she says. And it wasn’t just his dual role – interesting as that was – but also his discussion of the congregation’s financial distress in the depths of the Depression.

By 1934, at the congregation’s 75th annual meeting, Meier noted that Beth Israel was struggling to meet its \$12,500 annual mortgage payment on the impressive Byzantine-style temple it had completed in 1928. “From the standpoint of membership enrollment and income, we have been put back 20 years,” he said. “All

**A MAN OF MANY TALENTS** – Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz, who served Congregation Beth Israel from 1928 until his death in 1954, was a leader in local and national religious and civic arenas. Photo courtesy of Oregon Jewish Museum/OJM 02230

salaries have been brought down to the lowest possible point ... and by closing this building entirely except for Sunday mornings, we have dispensed with the services of the additional janitor.”

Other records being processed include some of the founding documents of the congregation, membership forms from recent decades (with financial and other sensitive information edited out), Hebrew school and sisterhood records, marriage and conversion records, various histories of the congregation and photos.

When the processing is complete – at a date not yet set – Asch says that in addition to being available at OJM some of the files will be uploaded to the Portland State University Archives website, where there will be a public search tool. Currently, the “Congregation Beth Israel Collection: 1858-2000” includes an outline of what is or will be in the files. The link is: [archives.pdx.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&cid=138&q](http://archives.pdx.edu/archon/?p=collections/findingaid&cid=138&q).

Asch says OJM has used the Beth Israel project as a template for future projects with other congregations. The museum is in discussions with several congregations about curating and preserving their records as part of its mission to document the community’s history.

“What we tell people is that this process – of curating, cataloging and preserving their records – actually gives them more access to their history,” he says. “It’s preserving your history – and making it accessible – for all the generations to come.”



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**ACTIVE INDEPENDENT SENIOR LIVING**

# Wendy Westerwelle, Fully Fabulous at 65

By Polina Olsen

Actress and comedian Wendy Westerwelle wakes up every day feeling fabulous – “Medicare-fully Fabulous” in fact, which is the title of her upcoming show. Playing at the Sanctuary Theater this February, it’s about finally having health insurance and discovering that at 65, she’s never looked or felt better.

“I wrote the show,” she says. “It’s about the last part of my life and what I’m doing – love, laughter, relationships and finding my spiritual life again – my Judaism.” Expect Westerwelle to transform into her collection of characters like Aunt Golda Rosenstern from Miami who marries Sol the linoleum king. “There’s Mallory, the new age therapist, a woman who does Botox and my dentist,”

Wendy says. “The characters are based on real people, except for Aunt Golda, who is a combination of all my relatives.”



Wendy Westerwelle in October 2013.  
Photo by Polina Olsen

Wendy grew up in Chicago and came to Portland at age 26 after her first husband tragically died of leukemia. That was 1974. She took a job at Old Town Pizza – “where we were all crazy young artists and actors” – and eventually found her way to the Storefront Theater, an avant-garde troupe based on North Russell Street. Soon she was writing plays, the first about a scary high school gym teacher named Mrs. Feldman. “She had a whistle and wore Bermuda shorts and asked the popular girls to choose teams,” Wendy says. “I was fat and had glasses and didn’t get picked.” She also wrote and starred in the play she is perhaps best known for, “Soph: A Visit with the Last of the Red Hot Mamas” about the late, great Sophie Tucker.

Still, Wendy describes herself as in recovery. “I’m a foodaholic, and I’ve lost 130 pounds and kept it off for almost five years,” she says. “At 58, I looked like Humpty Dumpty – 267 pounds. While I was working at a boutique grocery, I fell, broke my knee and was unable to walk. I made a decision.”

With the help of a support group and a return to her childhood religion, Wendy was able to turn her life around. “You need a spiritual practice to get well,” she says. “I joined Congregation Beth Israel and have a Jewish home now. I pray and go to temple, and mostly I’m in gratitude and try to be kind and decent. I practice radical self-care; you weigh and measure food. Every morning I get up, pray, thank G-d and have my decaf and apple.”

Wendy lives in Southeast Portland with her husband of 34 years, Mark Larsen, and holds a part-time job at Switch Shoes and Clothing, a Multnomah Village shop that specializes in Israeli products. She also runs her own stylist business, Your Fashion is My Passion.


“I’m a style Sherpa, I guide them,” she says. “I look through their closet,



Wendy Westerwelle as Sophie Tucker. Photo courtesy Donald Horn/Triangle Productions

give anything away that doesn’t work and create a good look for them that we work on together. People call at 7:00 in the morning and say, ‘I have a gala on Wednesday.’ I go to their house and take them shopping.”

Wendy also squeezes in daily rehearsals for her upcoming play. “About 15 years ago, I did a show called ‘Recovering from Myself,’” she says. “It was the beginning of figuring out what to do. ‘Medicare-fully Fabulous’ is more about being 65 and finding out who I always should have been. It’s a show about hope and renewal and being older and loving it. I hope this encourages people who are over 64 or 30 or 20 to live every day as if it’s the most important. Wake up, get dressed and look fabulous. Be beautiful.”

See “Medicare-fully Fabulous” between Feb. 6 and March 2, 2014, at the Sanctuary@Sandy Plaza, 1785 NE Sandy Blvd. Showtimes are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. (no show Sunday, Feb. 9). Tickets cost between \$15 and \$35. For more information or to purchase tickets visit [tripro.org](http://tripro.org) or call 503-239-5919. For more information about Wendy’s stylist business visit [wendywestewelle.com](http://wendywestewelle.com) or call 503-231-6577. 



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# Not Always a Hallmark Holiday

By Nancy Raske

When families gather for the holidays there is great anticipation of joyful reunions and the creation of happy memories. Unfortunately, all too often these hopes are disappointed and concerns are raised when families experience noticeable changes in their family members.

Did this holiday season raise concerns about physical and cognitive changes in your family members or friends?

**Here are some frequently observed changes that should cause family members concern:**

- Memory lapses – forgetting important names or events – loss of ability to follow and track in conversation. Repeating things said without remembering that the question or story has already been asked or told.
- Withdrawing from social interaction, in particular large family gatherings, as these are felt to be overwhelming or over-stimulating for the senior.
- Mood changes – increased depression or moodiness.

- Unkempt appearance or notable deterioration in hygiene (frequency of bathing) or wearing of unsuitable or unwashed clothing.
- Noticeable change in housekeeping – house not kept up to the standard of customary cleanliness – dishes unwashed, floors not vacuumed, accumulation of dirty laundry and linens unclean.
- Medications not being taken correctly and on time. The importance of taking medications as prescribed cannot be emphasized enough; 68% of hospital admissions for the elderly are the result of medication mismanagement.
- Unexplained bruises or injuries.
- Hoarding of food or other items such as toiletries, newspapers and household items.
- Purchases from television vendors.
- Dents and scrapes on a senior's car that cannot be explained.
- Spouses "covering" for each other – one spouse compensating for the diminished capacity of the other – finishing sentences, answering questions asked of the other.
- Significant weight loss or gain, signifying the elder individual is not able to feed themselves in a manner that is nutritionally sound.
- Excessive television viewing to the exclusion of human interaction.

If you or other family members have observed such changes in elderly relatives during recent holiday family functions and are concerned for the well being of your parents or senior loved ones, do not discount these changes or wait until your relatives come to serious harm. In the field of senior care, we see far too many elderly individuals who have been significantly harmed or hospitalized because they were neglected by relatives who meant well and did not want to interfere – at significant risk to their loved ones. ☹

Nancy Raske is founder and owner of NW Senior Resources, Inc., which offers free placements and referrals for seniors needing assistance. She opened her company seven years ago after working in the senior living industry for six years. During that time, she worked with in-home care, assisted living and memory care, as well as volunteering with a hospice agency. If you are concerned and wish to speak to a professional about the safety and health of your elder loved one, Nancy can be reached at 503-680-9407.



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# Cross-cultural CONNECTIONS

*Iraqi girl connects with seniors during long journey*

Ban Al-Malika

Photo and story by Polina Olsen

When Ban Al-Malika grew up in Iraq, she knew America from television and war. Cultural stereotypes ran deep, both for foreigners and other Muslim denominations. Her mother had grown up in a more liberal time when girls had prospects. Now bombs rocked cafés where women worked. The Jewish musicians who had once dominated Baghdad's cafés had long since left, and sectarian violence shook the city.

"My mother said that there were lots of Jewish people in Iraq, and nobody had a problem," said 22-year-old Ban (pronounced Baahn) during an interview. "But, after Israel and

Palestine, Iraqis said they are bad people. Sunnis don't consider Shias Muslim and vice versa. I used to believe that, too. Now I think having the same values but different ways to connect to G-d is what's important."

Ban's journey from Bagdad to Oregon and new ways of thinking involved travel, education and the help of good friends. It started with a scholarship to the Japanese Ashinaga High School (ashinaga.org) summer program in Tokyo. The organization provides education and support worldwide for children who have lost one or both parents. Both Ban's father and stepfather had passed away.

During the summer program, Ban and her brother met young people from around the world. When the organization invited her back to attend Waseda University, her close family hesitated to send a 17-year-old girl abroad alone. Still, after two years studying English at an Iraqi college, everyone was ready for her to take advantage of this golden opportunity.

"It was different from Iraq; I wasn't memorizing," Ban said about her studies in Japan. "It was the first time I could share my opinions of the world." Although classes were in English, Ban learned to read and write Japanese. And her international relations major helped her qualify for a junior year abroad at the University of Oregon.

## The Portland Connection

Bonnie Messenger and Steve Mullinax were delighted to welcome the Iraqi student to their home. They'd met through Bob Cooper, Ban's student advisor in Japan. Bob's mother, Marsha Cooper, lives at Rose Schnitzer Manor and is an old family friend. Messenger introduced Ban to Ellen Fineman and Patrick Ward and to David Fuks, the CEO of Cedar Sinai Park, and his wife DeAnn. During semester breaks, Ban has stayed with all three families and interned at CSP's Rose Schnitzer Manor.

"It's been a delight," said Messenger. "Ban is open to all kinds of new experiences. She didn't know what gardening was about, but on my birthday friends came to garden and she helped. In April, we joined a chorus with young people from a Christian denomination. All three families went with her to the Interfaith Iftar, the evening meal at the end of Ramadan. Ban is curious as to how people practice their religion."

Ban's hosts have taken her hiking, canoeing, even to a rodeo. Together they discovered the Iraqi restaurant Dar Salam (dar-salamportland.com) on Northeast Alberta, which has become a home away from home. Ban prepared a presentation on dealing with Muslims for the Cedar Sinai Park staff. She hopes to return to Oregon for graduate school next year after finishing her degree in Japan.

"This has been my first experience with Jewish people," Ban said. "I've changed the stereotype first in myself and then in my mom, brother and friends. Now I can think in a Christian or a Jewish way. In Iraq, it's not good to go to a church if you're Muslim, but DeAnn, Ellen and Bonnie come with me to the mosque. When Ellen has the Sabbath, I enjoy how Jewish people pray; when I meet my Christian friends, I enjoy how they pray; and, when I go to the mosque, I pray as a Muslim." ☞



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# Life on the Other Side

## UnReal Estate

by Anne Kleinberg

Real estate is a unique matter in Israel (isn't everything?). And I should know – I bought land and built a home here.

My previous experience with being a homeowner was buying a condo in Manhattan. Nothing very special in that – saw it, loved it, signed the papers, owned it. But in Israel? Oh! My! God!

We decided on Caesarea (well actually, I did and he went along) because it's just about heaven here. Bougainvillea everywhere; no unsightly electric or telephone poles; located on the edge of an ancient city and port; breathing spaces between properties. Pretty and peaceful. We found the perfect lot – high above the golf course with the most magnificent sunsets you can imagine.

Surprise #1 came when we were just about to sign the papers. "The property is yours, but actually, it may not be. It could take a year for you to get permission to build. And it might never happen. But anyway, pay the full amount and wait – maybe in a year it will be OK." The reason? Two municipalities owned the property, and they were fighting over it.

We took a chance and forged ahead. We hired an architect and gave her our plans – a rough sketch done on the computer of what we considered to be our dream house. And at the end of that year – Hurrah! The land was ours. Time to start building!

First step – throw money in the hole. Literally! It's a custom to toss some coins into the first hole that is dug to ensure good luck. After I gave up on finding ancient artifacts (which have been discovered in many other building sites in Caesarea), I tossed in a bunch of coins and we were off!

Two months later I was wondering why our architect never showed up to see what was happening. I'm an interior designer from New York – I thought it was accepted practice for your architect to oversee the progress of the project. Apparently not! "If you want a supervisor, hire one! That's not my job."

Then there was the staircase fiasco. Our contractor built them and was so proud to show them off. My husband said something was wrong – they just didn't look right. Sure enough – there were 17 instead of 18 steps. Meaning that every stair was higher than it should be – and not according to standard. Standard, did I say?

Once again, back to the architect. "Oh. Maybe my assistant made a mistake." Ya think? "Wait two weeks until I get around to fixing the plans." Excuse me? We're working on a deadline! I wanted to have an official opening of the house on Israel's

"The property is yours, but actually, it may not be. It could take a year for you to get permission to build. And it might never happen. But anyway, pay the full amount and wait – maybe in a year it will be OK."

Independence Day, and it was less than a year away. Every delay would cost precious time. I think it was around then that we decided to fire her and handle it ourselves. GEVALT! Luckily we had a wonderful contractor. AND my husband showed up every day with his tape measure, and I made decisions and stuck with them – changing your mind is not an option when you are building with a deadline.

The building process proceeded. Can't say it was roses all the way – there were arguments, disappointments, unexpected delays and of course the inevitable overspending. (Does anyone stick with a budget when building?). There was also the painter who fell through the hole in the floor made for the laundry chute; the truck driver who argued with me as to why if we were only two people we needed such a big house; the workers who took time off every day for their coffee ceremony and praying to Allah; my husband's fall backward into the empty pool (two broken arms – but it could have been so much worse); and the drywall workers who insisted they didn't need a level to put up the walls (and thus ... we ended up with ceiling moldings to cover up all the uneven corners). But by the end ... the mezuzah went up, the guests arrived and we celebrated the opening of our house in fabulous style.

Real estate in Israel? As everything else here, always an adventure! 📍

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



# Jerusalem election shenanigans recall 1964 film “Salah Shabbati”

By Mylan Tanzer

This column is not about the Israeli skepticism of the current Iranian/American romantic interlude that I planned to write about. And despite the next few paragraphs, this column also is not about the Israeli film industry.

We are proud of the profound transformation in Israeli cinema. Over the last decade, four Israeli films have been finalists for the best foreign language feature at the Oscars, and other films have been finalists in categories such as best foreign documentary. During this time, many prestigious international awards have been won by Israeli movies, which have come a long way in a short time. As recently as the late '90s, serious Israeli movies that tried to shed light on important themes did not succeed either at the box office or in impacting the political discourse.

The Israeli movies that did succeed were made-for-the-masses fluff flicks. These so-called “Bourekas movies” are named after the inexpensive street pastry popular in areas with large concentrations of immigrants from North African and Middle Eastern countries.

Ironically the film credited with launching the Bourekas genre was actually the first Israeli film ever nominated for an Oscar. “Salah Shabbati,” the 1964 comedy classic directed by the late, great satirist Ephraim Kishon, overcame significant cinematic imperfections through its relevant and biting criticism of the Israeli establishment. The protagonist, a recent immigrant portrayed by Haim Topol, overcomes his naivety, innocence and helplessness. He transforms into a true Israeli by leveraging his frustration into a power base that the politicians crave. Politicians reward him with an apartment for his large family in return for him delivering the votes of his fellow dwellers in the temporary camps for new immigrants. While we wish this practice, called “combinas,” was a disappearing phenomenon, it is still alive and kicking in certain areas of Israeli politics.

Alas, to the subject of the column: The October elections in all municipalities and local authorities reminded me of “Salah Shabbati.” The most dramatic election was in Jerusalem – not because it is the capital or the biggest municipality, but because one of the biggest combinas ever conceived hovered above the city like clouds of acid rain.

Since 2008 Jerusalem has been led by Nir Barkat, who in my opinion is the poster boy for what Israel can and should be and sometimes is. Born in Jerusalem in 1959 to a dance instructor and Hebrew University physics professor, he served for six years in an elite paratroop unit and was discharged as a major. After receiving his degree in computer science, he founded a software

company called BRM in 1988, which specialized in antivirus software. The company became an incubator venture firm that invested in companies such as Check Point and Backweb. He later helped found the social investment company IVN. Several successful investments made him one of the wealthiest Israelis. In 2003 he entered politics, winning a seat on the Jerusalem city council. Through his efforts in the opposition to improve services, education and infrastructure, and also due to his considerable wealth, he successfully won the next mayoral election.

Barkat's agenda has been to ensure that the unique character of the city is protected while simultaneously modernizing and establishing Jerusalem as a center for Israeli and international political, educational, cultural and artistic events. This has not only increased tourism, it has also strengthened the city's economy, helping to reduce the emigration of the young and professional secular population. The benefits that the image of a young, energetic, athletic, handsome, successful entrepreneur running a revitalized Jerusalem projects on the national and international stage is both a concrete and intangible asset that is invaluable to Jerusalem and Israel. Barkat has chosen to draw an annual salary of one shekel.

Barkat has maintained a pragmatic stance and cannot be labeled right or left wing. He has steered clear of national politics, which has helped him maintain the religious and ethnic status quo between secular, religious, Ultra-Orthodox, Muslim, Christian, etc. But this balancing act has made him vulnerable. If this doesn't create antagonism, it can create Election Day apathy that almost always hurts incumbents. His international vision for the city also created a dissonance with many residents of lower socio-economic neighborhoods, whose progress has been slower than the rest of the city. Despite this, like Yair Lapid, Barkat is another example of a successful Israeli with every life option available to him, who entered politics not for personal aggrandizement but to give something back and make our lives better.

Against this background, two national politicians, Avigdor Lieberman, the leader of Yisrael Beiteinu, and Ariele Deri, the leader of the Orthodox Sephardic party Shas, joined forces to attempt to unseat Barkat and regain the political power both men had lost since the national elections in March. Deri presided over a disappointing national election that left Shas out of the government for the first time in many years.

They put up as their candidate accountant Moshe Leon, who had been a Netanyahu chief-of-staff in the late '90s, and who has only periodically resided in Jerusalem. Lieberman was to deliver the votes of the approximately 40,000 Russian-speaking



immigrants. Deri was to bring the sizable Sephardic religious vote as well as Ashkenazi or Lithuanian Ultra-Orthodox votes through his connections with the groups' leading rabbis. They calculated that the vast majority of secular voters would be apathetic, and that the nationalist religious and modern Orthodox vote would be divided, and therefore the combina, imposed from above, would unseat Barkat. They also hoped to win many other municipalities where they made similar deals and put up candidates. As Disraeli commented, "nothing in politics is contemptible."

With this political machine behind him, Leon set out to try to assert his legitimacy while trying to deny the combina hovering in the air. But this would not deter the voters who the two kingpins had supposedly lined up. Barkat, with superior finances and use of technology (his brother and business partner developed an app that allowed the campaign to locate supporters on Election Day and to encourage them to vote), used the combina as a rallying point to portray Leon as a puppet. "It shows the political hacks culture" he said. "I heard that he (Leon) didn't even want to run. He is a marionette, a tool in the hands of Lieberman and Deri. It is a combina of outside politicians trying to take Jerusalem by force. ... I feel that I need to defend Jerusalem from those that want to manipulate the city for their own goals."

Not only did Barkat use money, technology and rhetoric, after the elections it was revealed that Barkat had his own little combina going, promising a third mayoral candidate, the Orthodox Haim Epshtein, the place of deputy mayor if he remained in the race to divert some of the Ultra-Orthodox voters away from the big combina. While it might not have been savory, it's an understandably astute maneuver that took advantage of the sharp divisions in Jerusalem's Ultra-Orthodox community.

Although the results were frighteningly close, Barkat won the elections because the big combina collapsed. Neither Lieberman nor Deri could make good on all they were supposed to deliver. Veteran columnist Nahum Barnea commented that "residents who didn't necessarily support Barkat, felt the artificiality and insincerity of Lieberman-Deri alliance. While they are close personal friends, the opinions of the sectors that they represent, do not mix, especially on a municipal level." He said it was absurd to think that the Russian immigrant from Gilo, who wants a non-kosher butcher, entertainment and services on Saturday and secular education, would vote for the same candidate as the most extreme Orthodox voters from Mea Shearim. Lieberman and Deri also badly underestimated the rivalries between the Ultra-Orthodox and modern Orthodox and within the Ultra-Orthodox community itself.

But it was close and Barkat's faction lost seats on the city council, which will make his job even more challenging. Despite the welcome defeat of the combina, the results are nonetheless worrying. Barkat was issued, as blogger Nir Hasson called it, "a yellow warning card" by voters for prioritizing investment and resources for the Jerusalem of the future at the expense of the present. He would have justifiably won much more handily had Lieberman and Deri not hatched the combina. In the words of Yossi Verter of Ha'aretz, "only a breath of a hair separated the defeat of Leon, a bland, irrelevant candidate who does not

## While it might not have been savory, it's an understandably astute maneuver that took advantage of the sharp divisions in Jerusalem's Ultra-Orthodox community.

belong and lacks any public stature and has the word peon written in shining letters on his forehead, from an upheaval which would have set back Jerusalem by many years."

In the end, Lieberman and Deri were the ones who were set back. With Lieberman's not-guilty verdict handed down in November on charges of fraud and breach of trust, he and Deri (who was released from prison in 2002 after serving a three-year term on these same charges) will still play major roles in Israeli politics. I hope that their unsuccessful foray into municipal politics will deter them from future schemes like this. But from a glance at many other election results, there are more would-be Salah Shabbati's out there to ensure that municipal elections in Israel might be even more lurid than national politics. ♡

Mylan Tanzer is a Portland native who moved to Israel in 1981. He was the founding CEO of the first Israeli cable and satellite sports channel. Since 2005, he has launched, managed and consulted for channels and companies in Israel and Europe. Tanzer lives in Tel Aviv with his wife and five children. He can be reached at mylantanz@gmail.com.



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We sincerely appreciate each and every donor. **Please note all contributors will be listed in our year-end Annual Report.** We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If your name is misspelled, omitted, or in the wrong category, please let us know. We appreciate your understanding.



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## Are “Q” Ready?

Calling all trivia buffs. Can you answer any of the following questions? All 10 of them have been asked at previous “Q” events. Don’t worry if you can’t; at the actual Q trivia night, you will be answering the questions together with your handpicked, well-rounded team of eight. This year’s Q is sure to surpass expectations with event co-chairs Chantal Rosenthal and Allison Sherman.

1) Quotable Quotes: Match this quote with the correct motion picture:

“What we’ve got here is failure to communicate.”

A) Cool Hand Luke B) RoboCop C) Ushpizin D) Dirty Harry

2) What is the official term for bloodletting or drawing of the blood?

A. Phlebotomy B. Hematology C. Leukodepletion D. Cosmetology

3) Which batter hit the famous ground ball to Bill Buckner in the ‘86 World Series?

A. Lyndon Johnson B. Mookie Wilson C. Daryl Strawberry D. Ray Knight

4) Which band’s Grammy for “Best New Artist” was withdrawn in November 1990 after a controversial musical hoax?

5) Which South American country is located entirely in the Northern Hemisphere?

A. Ecuador B. Bolivia C. Venezuela D. Peru

6) How many lightbulbs are used to light the Eiffel Tower at night?

A. About 20,500 B. About 32,300 C. About 14,400 D. About 42,200

7) Which Pulitzer Prize-winning novel begins: “To the red country and part of the gray country of Oklahoma, the last rains came gently.”

8) Which song was purchased by Warner Chappell in 1990 for \$15 million and is listed as the most recognized song in the English language, according to the 1998 *Guinness Book of World Records*?

9) What was the first successful prime-time animated series to air in the United States?

A. The Alvin Show B. Top Cat C. The Jetsons D. The Flintstones

10) In 2008, What “Funny Guy” became the second person ever to win a posthumous Academy Award for acting?

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The Q is an annual trivia contest where teams of eight compete to win the Q title, trophy and assorted prizes (including bragging rights!). The evening is the most fun fundraiser around, and all proceeds support NCSY programming in Oregon (including JSU clubs in public high schools, lobbying visits, Jewish Drivers Ed, Israel trips, local Shabbat Shebang events, weekends away, Jr. NCSY and more). **This year’s Q will take place on Saturday night, Jan. 25, at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.** Contact Meira Spivak for more information at 503-757-3037 or meira@ncsy.org. Register at: portland.ncsy.org.

Answers 1) a) 2) a) 3) b) 4) Millie Vanilli 5) c) 6) a) 7) The Grapes of Wrath 8) Happy Birthday 9) d) 10) Heath Ledger

## SEPHARDIC FILM FEST RETURNS FOR EIGHTH SEASON

On Dec. 10 the eighth annual Sephardic Winter Film Series begins at Congregation Ahavath Achim with seven free films shown over five months.

Films are shown the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at Portland’s first Sephardic synagogue, which is located at 3225 SW Barbur Blvd., Portland. Each film is followed by a speaker and a dessert reception. Admission and Sephardic desserts are free.

The annual series is sponsored by Ruben and Elizabeth Menashe, Charles and Jo Levy, Richard and Judi Matza, Ron and Pam Sidis, and The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

For information, call David Tver at 503-892-6634.

This year’s festival opens Dec. 10 with “The Rape of Europa.” This compelling documentary details how the Nazis looted both public and private art collections during World War II. The film explores the Nazi plunder of art treasures from occupied countries and the consequences. It covers a range of associated activities including appropriation and storage, patriotic concealment and smuggling,

## WEEKEND IN QUEST FEB. 28-MARCH 2

Go West, Young Mensch is the theme of this year’s Weekend in Quest in Astoria Feb. 28-March 2, 2014.

Scholar in Residence: Prof. Ellen Eisenberg, Willamette University, will present four study sessions: “Worth a Thousand Words: Images of Jewish Reinvention on the Pacific,” “Protest, Silence or Collaboration? Western Jews Respond to Japanese American Removal During WWII,” “Cultivating Jewish Farmers,” and “Jewish Politics: Running, Serving and Voting in Oregon.”

In addition to the study sessions, participants will gather for Shabbat services Friday evening and Saturday morning led by Beth Hamon and Elizabeth Schwartz. Meals include Friday and Saturday dinners, Saturday lunch, and (for those staying overnight at the hotel) Saturday and Sunday breakfasts. Beth and Liz will provide Saturday evening entertainment.

Deadline to register: Feb. 17, 2014. More info: [weekendinquest.org](http://weekendinquest.org)

## CHILD TRAFFICKING PROGRAM EARNS BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD NATIONAL HONOR

Women of Reform Judaism/Beth Israel Sisterhood will receive the distinguished Gold WRJ Or Ami “Light of My People” Award during WRJ’s 49<sup>th</sup> Assembly & Centennial Celebration, Dec. 11-15, 2013, in San Diego, CA. The award, for social justice programmatic achievement during 2011-13, recognizes WRJ/BIS’s March 2, 2013, program on child trafficking in the Portland area, which featured U.S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici.

Portland has been identified as an area where child sex trafficking is particularly rampant. Members of the BIS Critical Issues Committee wanted to learn about the scope of the problem and determine who was at risk, who was working to eradicate the problem and what could be done to help. The result was a well-structured forum in which to share their findings and spur the community to action. Attendees had an opportunity to speak with the experts one-on-one following the formal presentation. Daphna Stadig, chair of the Critical Issues Committee, was instrumental in planning and organizing the program, which was free and open to the entire Portland community.

“I am proud and grateful that our sisterhood was able to bring awareness and inspire action in our community,” says Beth Israel Sisterhood President Linda Harrison-Fintzy. “Receiving this award is a considerable honor and will hopefully inspire others to take action in their own communities to aid the vulnerable victims of child trafficking.”

“As we celebrate WRJ’s Centennial year, we are pleased to recognize exceptional WRJ District and women’s group programming with this renowned award,” says WRJ President Lynn Magid Lazar. “These programs represent WRJ’s continued commitment to tikkun olam (repairing the world) for the past 100 years, and they will ensure that commitment will continue for the next 100 years and beyond.”

discoveries by the allies, and the extraordinary tasks of preserving, tracking and returning works of art by American officers. (English, 117 minutes, 2007, produced by Bonni Cohen, Richard Berge). Speaker: Judy Margles of Oregon Jewish Museum.

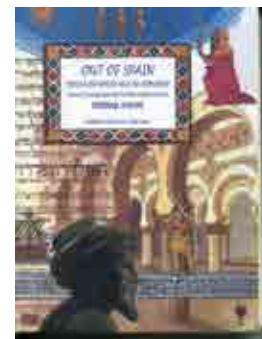
Other films in the series are:

Jan. 14, 2014: “Quest for the Lost Tribes.” Speaker: Esther Menashe-Perkel.

Feb. 11, 2014 (Double Feature): “The Key from Spain” and “Expulsion and Memory.” Speaker: Rabbi Michael Kaplan, M.A. in medieval Jewish history.

March 11, 2014 (Double Feature): “Out of Spain (Episodes I & II): The Spanish Connection & The Golden Age.” Speaker: Mark Abolofia.

April 8, 2014: “Secret Passage.” Speaker: To be announced.





**TAKE ROOT** – On Nov. 3 Congregation Kol Ami hosted to a special benefit concert for Take Root, a locally based national non-profit that provides the only support program available to victims of child abduction when they are no longer missing. Volunteers included Congregation Kol Ami members (from left) Enid Beck, Deawn Hermann and Sue Meyer. Take Root is the brainchild of local resident and Fulbright Scholar Melissa Haviv, who was herself once a missing child. Melissa's husband, Israeli Avi Haviv, treated guests to a rare evening of his original music. Just over \$7,000 was raised for the nonprofit. (takeroot.org)



**GARDEN PUB** – Lift Urban Portland's end of summer Garden Party fundraiser at the World Forestry Center raised more than \$51,000 through a silent auction, paddle raise and other fundraising efforts. Eve and Alan Rosenfeld are presented with a check from Congregation Beth Israel's Social Action Committee to launch the Rosenfeld Food Fund. Pictured from left are: Alan Rosenfeld, Rabbi Rachel Joseph (Congregation Beth Israel), Ilene Davidson (CBI), Eve Rosenfeld and Bonny Groshong. Lift Urban Portland is an interfaith community of volunteers who Lift Up neighbors in need with food, living and wellness options. Photo by Harold Hutchinson/hhclick.com



**BETTER THAN BROADWAY** – Cantor Ida Rae Cahana and special guest Harold Pollin sing "Sunrise, Sunset" during Congregation Beth Israel's Oct. 19 fundraiser, Better than Broadway. Following the touching duet, the more than 200 guests sang a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" to Harold. Ted Nelson and Tiffany Goldwyn chaired the cabaret-style show held at Pure Space in the Pearl that netted nearly \$140,000 for Beth Israel services and programs. Photo by Sydney Baer



**J STREET VISITOR** – Alan Elsner, J Street Vice President for Communications, spoke at Havurah Shalom Nov. 4. Elsner, an Israeli citizen and a veteran of the Israeli Defense Force, served as a White House correspondent for Reuters and spent years covering the Middle East. During his talk he outlined the current obstacles that Israel and Palestine are facing reaching accord for a two-state solution.





CHAPTER ONE – Jewish Theatre Collaborative brought Chapter One of Meir Shalev's *A Pigeon and a Boy* to more than 150 people at three venues around town Nov. 3-5. The staged reading included, from left, Darius Pierce, Sara Fay Goldman and Brian Allard. JTC's Page2Stage Season continues with *Memory's Landscape* Jan. 26-28 and *Wrestling with Home* Feb. 23-25 before culminating in a mainstage production March 22-April 12. Photograph by Friderike Heuer.



STAMPFER WEEKEND was a joyous weekend of events to mark the achievements of Rabbi Joshua and Goldie Stampfer. Renee and Irwin Holzman pose with Rabbi Stampfer in front of the life-sized painting of Rabbi Stampfer by Dutch artist and Portland-based, Henk Pander. The Holzmans purchased the painting and donated it to Congregation Neveh Shalom to be hung on the wall leading into Stampfer Chapel. Weekend chairs Toinette Menashe and Carolyn Weinstein pose with the rabbi at the gathering to honor all donors to the Capital Completion Campaign. The weekend was a mix of services, study and celebration. The weekend concluded with "Man and the Myth" featuring the rabbi's first bat mitzvah and first wedding, pianist Tom Grant and more than 400 in attendance. Photos by Andie Petkus Photography



TYING TZITZIT – Abby Millender and her father Michael Millender tie the tzitzit on the tallit for her bat mitzvah at Congregation Shaarie Torah. Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman taught Abby and her family how to tie the knots. She was joined by sister, Sarah, parents, Michael and Ellen Millender, and her grandparents.



ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists annual Celebration of Art included guest artist Diane Russell with her drawings and paintings. The Nov. 3 exhibit at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center featured booths of ORA members and guests including collage, paint, silk, fused glass, fiber, precious metals, beadwork and photography. Photo by ORA member Hank Keeton



MUSEUM BOOK TALK – Sam Silberberg addressed a packed auditorium at the Oregon Jewish Museum on Nov. 6. He was joined by local author Carolyn Buan who adapted his memoir *What Made Sammy Run?* for young adults. Not a peep could be heard as Sam described his harrowing experiences as an adolescent living in Poland and eventually in a concentration camp during the Holocaust. Pictured with Carolyn Buan, seated in the center, and OJM Education Assistant Cheyenne McClain.

## Now through Jan. 26

OJM Exhibits: Bat Mitzvah Comes of Age & Meditations on Equilibrium: Works in Glass and Paper by Alex Hirsch in the Menashe Gallery. 503-226-3600 or ojrm.org

## Dec. 1

The Reindeer and The Dreidel . Dragon Theater Puppets rod puppet show. 4 pm at Ping Pong's Pint Size Puppet Museum, 906 SE Umatilla St. \$7. puppetmuseum.com or 503-233-7723

Havurah Shalom Hanukkah Celebration. 4-6 pm at Havurah Shalom, 825 NW 18th Ave, Portland. 503-248-4662 or havurahshalom.org

Latkefest. 4:30-7 pm at Congregation Kol Ami, 7800 NE 9th St., Vancouver, WA. 360-896-8088 or jewishvancouver.org

## Dec. 2

Thanksgivukkah Party. 6-8:30 pm at Congregation Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Dinner: \$15/ adult, \$9/child, \$48/family. Beer and wine, open bar. 503-246-8831

## Dec. 4

Shaarie Torah Hanukkah Party. Food, fun and craziness for the entire family. Children's author Eric Kimmel will be there also. Kids: \$5, Adults: \$10, Family max: \$36. 6-9 pm at Congregation Shaarie Torah, 920 NW 25th Ave, Portland. education@shaarietorah.org or 503-226-6131

## Dec. 7

Peter Zisa & Friends Season of Lights Concert. Free concert; donations benefit Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel, founded by Portland native Lee Gordon. Program and artists represent: Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Christian traditions, including Beth Israel Cantor Ida Rae Cahana and Yiddish Hour co-host Ed Kraus on clarinet. 7 pm at the First Christian Church, Southwest Park Avenue & Columbia Street. 503-229-9211 or fccpdx.com

## Dec. 8

Super Sunday Community Action Day. 9:30 am- 8:30 pm at the MJCC. Register for a 2-hour shift at jewishportland.org/supersunday or 503-245-6219

Israeli Folk Open Dance. Geared toward experienced dancers. 1-2:30 pm. MJCC Dance Studio. Members free, \$10 guest fee with member, \$15 guest fee. Space limited. 503-244-0111

Davenology - Pathways into the Heart: Silence, Song and Prayer with Rabbi Yitzhak Husbands-Hankin. 1 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E 29th Ave, Eugene. Also Dec. 15. Free for TBI members, guests \$15. Pre-register by Dec. 3. thiebene.org/community\_education

## Dec. 6

Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association gives lifetime achievement award to Emily Simon (See page 44)

## Dec. 9

MJCC Artworks Series Presents Local Potter Glenn Decherd. 3-7 pm at the MJCC. Free.

## Dec. 10

Sephardic Winter Film Festival Presents The Rape of Europa. A compelling documentary of how the Nazis looted both public and private art collections during World War II. Judy Margles of Oregon Jewish Museum will speak at dessert reception following film. 7 pm at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 3225 SW Barbur Blvd. Free. David at 503-892-6634 (See page 59)

## Dec. 11

Bistro Night at the MJCC. Featuring the folk and blues music of Hester Carr. 6:30-7:30 pm at the MJCC. Free.

## Dec. 12

Deeksha-Film, Dance and Conversation about Coming of Age in India. Local filmmaker, Alissa Nicole Creamer, will screen selections of her in-progress film Dance India (working title) at OJM at 7 pm. The feature length documentary follows teenage sisters as they prepare for one of the most important event of their lives, their Arangetram. This event is the culmination of years of studying Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance form, and a rite of passage for the young women who practice it. Includes a short live dance performance. General Public: \$10; OJM Members: \$8; Students: \$5. 503-226-3600 or ojrm.org

Jewish Dad's Night Out with Rabbi Arthur Zuckerman. Meet in a local pub and take part in a relaxed

conversation on a topic pertinent to Jewish dads. Dads of all ages and stages of parenting are welcome. Beverages and food are included. Free. Monthly Dad's Night is co-sponsored by Mothers Circle and the MJCC. Contact Jennifer Greenberg at jgreenberg@nevehshalom.org or 503-293-7313 for location details, and to get added to the email list.

## Dec. 13

2013 Jonathan Newman Memorial Law Conference - Hate Speech: Has the U.S. Gone Too Far? 8:30 am-noon, Jury Assembly Room, Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse, 1000 SW Third Ave., Portland. Presented by the Oregon Law Institute of Lewis & Clark Law School and Institute for Judaic Studies of the Pacific Northwest. Speakers include the Hon. Michael H. Simon, Rabbi Ariel Stone and attorneys Elden M. Rosenthal and Steven T. Wax. \$75 registration by Dec. 9, \$95 registration after Dec. 9. portlandjudaicstudies.org or info@portlandjudaicstudies.org

## Dec. 14

Chop Shticks - Come! Eat! Laugh Until Your Kishkes Hurt! 6:30 dinner, 7:30 show at Congregation Shir Tikvah, 7550 NW Irving St., Portland. Featuring the comedy of Wendy Westerwelle, Betsy Kauffman, Joanie Quinn & more and Chinese dinner. \$36. Adults only. shirtikvah.org or 503-473-8227

Rabbi Arik Ascherman of Rabbis for Human Rights will speak on "A Rabbinic View of Human Rights Issues in Israel." 7 pm at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E 29th Ave, Eugene. 541-343-8005

## Dec. 15

Sunday Night Fever: Portland Jewish Academy Auction. 4:30 pm at the MJCC. \$75 per person. Register at 503-244-0126 or pjaproud.org/auction

Challah Making with member Abbey Vanderbeek. 1 pm at Temple Beth Shalom, 1274 Cunningham Ln SE, Salem. tbsholom.org or 503-362-5004

## Dec. 31

New Years at Noon: A Family Bash. 11am-1 pm at the MJCC. 503-244-0111

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

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

COME! EAT! LAUGH UNTIL YOUR KISHKES HURT!

# CHOP SHTICKS

SATURDAY EVENING  
DECEMBER 14

WITH HANUKKAH SO EARLY,  
WHAT TO CELEBRATE IN DECEMBER?

CONGREGATION SHIR TIKVAH PRESENTS  
AN EVENING OF COMEDY WITH WENDY  
WESTERWELLE, BETSY KAUFFMAN, JOANIE  
QUINN, NIKKI SCHULAK & DAVID FUKS.  
PLUS OUR TIME-HONORED SEASONAL FARE,  
CHINESE FOOD.

\$36/PERSON  
ADULTS ONLY  
6:30 DINNER 7:30 SHOW

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for the Modern Child

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## Winter Camp

The Winter version of  
our popular Summer camp...

This year's theme

# P-town

**December 23-27  
2013**

### DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

**GRADES  
K-2, 3-5**



HOME DEPOT WORKSHOP



UP-CYCLING



GOING GREEN



ANIMAL GROOMING



MARATHON OF KINDNESS



ART-FEST



BRIDGE IT



WORKBENCH



SHABBAT PORTLANDIA



MUSIC FEST

**PRESCHOOL  
from 18 Months**



ART STUDIO



WHEN I GROW UP



NATURE DETECTIVES



BUILDING WORKSHOP



MUSIC & MOVEMENT



LITTLE CHEFS



FIRE TRUCK DAY



PRETEND ENGINES



SHABBAT PARTY



CHALLAH BAKING

**MONDAY  
DEC. 23**

**TUESDAY  
DEC. 24**

**WEDNESDAY  
DEC. 25**

**THURSDAY  
DEC. 26**

**FRIDAY  
DEC. 27**

### Times & Rates

Full Day: 9:00 - 3:00

Half Day 9:00 - 12:30

Extra Care: 8 am- 6 pm

Week: \$200 (\$125 1/2 day);

Day: \$50 (\$30)

## COME TO CAMP FOR FREE!

CHILDREN WHO HAVE NEVER  
BEEN TO A GAN ISRAEL CAMP MAY CHOOSE  
ANY ONE DAY TO COME FOR FREE.

(If attending for more than one day,  
you can still take advantage  
of the one FREE day.)

# REGISTER TODAY!

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503.246.KIDS (5437)**

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#Living Forward