

# Jewish Federation of Lane County

## REVIEW

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011

תיקון עולם

*Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michaelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.*  
—H. Jackson Brown

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### Federation Kicks Off Fund Raising Campaign for 2011, Honors Elaine and Dick Barrar, Craig Weinerman, Sara Beck and Michaela Gilmer

The Federation initiated its pledge campaign for 2011 in October with the mailing of pledge cards to community members and a Campaign Kickoff Dessert attended by approximately 70 people at the Oregon Electric Station.

**Charles Schiffman**, recently retired Executive Vice-President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland from 1987 to 2010, was the featured speaker. He recapped the past "30 Years of Oregon Jewish Life." He also reminded us of the collective responsibility we have for the future of Israel.

The event was also the occasion to honor **Dick and Elaine Barrar** and **Craig Weinerman** with the Federation's Community Service Award. Dick and Elaine, who recently relocated to Portland, were honored for their longtime support of our local Jewish community. Craig was honored for his leadership as a tireless worker and current chair for the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council. Youth Leadership Awards were presented to **Sara Beck** and **Michaela Gilmer**. These awards are given to students who have shown a commitment to Jewish life through active involvement in our community by doing service, continuing their Hebrew education beyond their bar or bat mitzvahs, and serving as outstanding role models for their peers.

**We thank all of you who supported our 2010 fund-raising efforts for your generosity and the many of you who have already made pledges for 2011.** Contributions for 2010 were less than we received in prior years and we were forced to reduce our financial commitments to services and programs.

**For those of you who have yet to respond for this next year, the 2011 Campaign continues!** We would like to not only return to our prior levels of giving but also increase the support we are able to give to our community. **Please consider increasing your pledge for 2011 and return your pledge card today if you have not already done so.**

The Federation Board will meet early this year to determine allocations for the year based largely upon pledges that have been received at that time. **Actual payment is not due until June 30.** Additional pledge cards are available by calling 484-2541 or visiting our web site at [www.jewishfedlc.org/HTML/pledgeform.html](http://www.jewishfedlc.org/HTML/pledgeform.html). We are proud of our ability to support these activities but regret that we still lack sufficient funds to meet the ever-growing needs of our Jewish communities. **Our responsibility to provide tsedakah for all never stops.** During these recent poor economic conditions Federation has seen a significant increase in our local Jewish population who are in need of financial and other services assistance.

**What we do accomplish we do because of your help.** A motto of the Federation is "Live Generously." We would like to add a corollary: **"Live Generously--so that others may live."** Consider Federation your "one stop" connection for helping Jews from across the street to around the world. (see article, page 4, which describes where your money is spent.)

The Federation Board thanks the following community members who worked with Board members to raise approximately \$20,000 in campaign pledges on Super Sunday: Nina Weinstein, Martha Ravits, Tony LaMarche, Alexandra Gerrard, and Shmuel Shalom (Jeffrey) Cohen.

(see photos, page 9)

# From the President....



Shalom.

As I sit before my computer to compose this, I am confused about what to write. January is always a time of reflection and resolution. Personally, it was a difficult year with the passing of both my mother and my brother. But those events have left me reflecting more and more about what is really important. As the Little Prince said, "That which is really important cannot be seen with the eye."

Two things rise to the top of my "important" list—family and tikkun olam. I am grateful that my father is still alive and lives with me. I am grateful that my daughter has found a new career choice—teaching. I am proud that my son just received a promotion at work. I am proud of my husband who has given nearly 6,000 hours to the Eugene Police Department. I cherish that my California brother and I talk to each other more than we used to—a result of my other brother's death. The legacy of family is tied into my grandmother's dining set, just recently acquired, which causes a flood of memories of Pesach Seder's at her home. The past becomes entwined with the present as my sister and her extended family, my dad, husband, children and granddaughter share Chanukah, high holidays and Passover together.

At the same time, I thank G-d hat I have been given opportunities to help those less fortunate in our community. Do you know that Lane County has over 2000 homeless school aged youth? Are you aware of the growing number of Jewish families in poverty? Many of you may be part of the statistic that puts Oregon (and Lane Co. in particular) at the top of the unemployment figures. In addition to my role as President of the Federation, I work in two other philanthropic organizations. One supports local women and children at risk; the other has the motto: service above self. I have peeled potatoes, called donors, organized events, wrapped presents, organized a garage sale and shamelessly asked for funds. And, I still work.

I am often asked how I find time to both work and participate in so many activities. It's easy. I was given "exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michaelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein." (H. Jackson Brown) It is how I choose to spend my hours.

*Rae*

## Jewish Federation Of Lane County Board of Directors

**Rae LaMarche**  
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Secretary

**Don Gerrard**  
Treasurer

## Board Members

**Paul Bessemer**  
**Laeh Maggie Garfield**  
**Lee Miller**  
**Rob Stein**  
**Robert P. Stein**  
**Bill Trevaskis**

## Other Staff

**Debra Weinman**  
Community Service  
Coordinator

**Reeva Kimble**  
Webmaster

## Newsletter Deadline

## Articles & Advertising:

**April 1  
(for May  
Newsletter)**

## Federation Board Welcomes Bill Trevaskis



**Bill Trevaskis** joined the Board of the Jewish Federation in September. A "behind-the-scenes kind of guy", Bill is active on many committees at TBI and wants to extend his helping hand in the greater community. Please join us in welcoming Bill to the Board.

## Check us out on the WEB

Check out our newly-updated Website at <http://www.jewishfedlc.org>  
The site features a community calendar on the home page and user-friendly navigation among pages. Thanks go out to our webmaster, **Reeva Kimble**, for her donation of time and expertise in the revision and maintenance of the site. Those wishing to add calendar information should submit it to Rae LaMarche, lamarcher@comcast.net.

The Jewish Federation of Lane County has entered the 21st century!

We are also now on FACEBOOK. Be our friend and like us so that you can receive the most up to date information from the community.



# Jewish Family Services News

## Chanukah Tzedakeh

By Debra Weinman

Continuing our tradition of “Community Caring”, groups and individuals in our community answered our need to provide holiday gifts to vulnerable local Jewish families and individuals through our Chanukah Tzedakah Program.

“*Thank You*”, does not begin to say enough to our community partners who helped make this season of light a real family experience of joy and peace. Thank you to

**1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church- Bible Study Group:** Thank you to Lynn Jacobson, and the amazing group of women of 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church- Your generosity and kindness is greatly appreciated. Your kindness helped two families celebrate and enjoy the holiday.

**Ellen Maddex- Your generosity helped a family pay their rent this month.**

**Patty Marpet- Your generosity helped a family pay their rent this month.**

**Rebecca Kovach, Dr. Peter Kovach, Anna and Leah Kovach- For providing gift cards to families so they could purchase gifts for their children**

**Rae and Tony LaMarche-Your generosity helped two families purchase groceries this month.**

With the challenges of today's uncertain economic climate, participation is more vital than ever as JFS delivers essential human services to alleviate suffering, sustain healthy relationships and support people in times of need. We sincerely hope you will join our continuing efforts.

Embrace a family; make a difference in our community.

We are *especially* in need of gift cards for Target, Trader Joes, Safeway, and gas stations – for Hanukkah and year round - to help families and seniors get through these difficult times. If you or anyone you know can benefit from this program, please contact Debra Weinman, Social Service Coordinator, Jewish Family Services, 541-484-2541

### *Volunteering for Kids, Teens and Families*

Inspire your children in giving to others. Volunteer opportunities for kids, teens, or the entire family abound - preparing holiday packages of gifts and food for our local elderly and families in need. Teens can earn community service credits for school. More importantly, doing good deeds (*mitzvot*) strengthens all who participate, from the youngest children, to parents and grandparents. Everyone benefits!

### *Adopt a Family*

Families have needs the year round. Taking her cue from a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, **Marsha Miller** has volunteered to manage a similar program in Lane County. Recognizing the rising needs in our community, Marsha will work with **Debra Weinman**, JFS Community Service Coordinator. Debra will identify the needs of families in our community and Marsha will match community volunteers who can help to meet those needs. All identities will be kept confidential.

If you would like to Adopt a family, please contact Marsha Miller, 541-687-8133. If you are a family in need, please contact Debra Weinman, Social Service Coordinator, Jewish Family Services, 541-484-2541



## Where Does My Money Go?

Through Federation, our community supports a wide variety of activities both locally and abroad and combats local anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiments through the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council. More than 85 percent of all allocations for 2010 were designated to stay in Lane County. [dollar amounts below indicate 2010 budget allocations]

**Jewish Family Services (\$49,000)** Federation's Jewish Family Services (JFS) Coordinator, Debra Weinman, provides ongoing services to families of Lane County. Debra coordinates emergency aid for local Jews in need, provides family support, makes personal visits and phone calls to the seniors in our community, provides regular senior brunch programs, makes hospital visits and assists with discharge planning, provides ongoing support for individuals with mental health needs, and advocates and coordinates with local and state social service agencies. See Debra's article in this issue.

### Youth of Lane County (\$5,900)

- \* Support for B'nai Brith Youth, Hillel, and the Hebrew high school program in Eugene
- \* Support to K-12 students to attend Jewish camps and conferences
- \* Support of various community education events

### Worldwide Aid for Jews in Need (\$10,000)

Federation contributions to Jewish Federations of North America (recently renamed from United Jewish Communities) have helped rescue Jews in Iraq and other Arab countries, resettled Jews making aliyah in Israel, assisted terror victims in Israel, provided help for Jews still in the former Soviet Union, and provided assistance to other Jews throughout the world who have basic social service needs.

### Community Event and Programming Support (\$650)

Example: Collaboration with other local Jewish organizations in the annual "Mitzvah Day" event; support of the Federation's Lane County Jewish oral history program.

### Miscellaneous (\$1,450)

Newsletter to the community; allocation to the Anti Defamation League.

### Administration (\$8,000)

## Special Occasion Donations

### *In Memory of*

**Robin Manela**

Jewish Community Relations Council

### *In Memory of*

**Rae LaMarche's brother, Joel Hirschman**

Sandra and Gene Luks  
Marsha and Lee Miller  
Randy and Jennifer Kessler

### *Happy Birthday*

**Rae LaMarche**

Kaila LaMarche

### *In Memory of*

**My mother, Evelyn and brother, Joel**

Rae LaMarche

*Donation forms are available on the Federation website,  
<http://www.jewishfedlc.org>*

## Thank You 2010 Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the following who have donated to the Federation since our last newsletter. Your generous spirits have provided much-needed support for Jews locally and world-wide.

### **Shamer (Guardians)**

**\$250—\$499**

Judith Baskin and Warren  
Ginsberg  
Barry and Carolyn Rubenstein  
Marion Walter

### **Chaverim (Friends) \$1-\$99**

Jacqui Lichtenstein and  
Paul Haley  
Bonnie Cohn  
Elaine and George Toper

### **Shamas (Helpers) \$100-\$249**

Martha Ravits  
Larry and Susan Lowenkron  
William and Junko Toll  
Emily Heilbrun  
Robert and Peggy Rubinstein  
Ralph David Jacobson  
Lawrence Greenfield and  
Rachel Miller

## Student News

### Students Attend Leadership Conference



In October **Gabi Stein and Tzila Lowe-Cowan** attended an AIPAC high school summit in Washington D.C. as representatives of the local NCSY chapter and the JSU club at South Eugene High School

“We joined up with lots of other teens from around the country. During the AIPAC weekend we were able to take numerous classes to learn more about Israel from the time of Independence to present day. We were able to see on a map how the size and borders of Israel have changed over the years. We also had classes on how to lobby to our representatives in congress. We learned how we can make our voices heard on Capitol Hill and what we need to do to support the issues we

care about. We met with Ron Wyden’s staff members, where we got our first experience with this process. Another class gave us techniques we could use to educate our community about what is currently going on in Israel.

This was a great opportunity for us to learn more about the Israel and the international Jewish community. We are very grateful for Tehila Derfler and Meira Spivak for supporting us in this, and to all the generous donors who helped us attend.”

#### JPAF

**Monday, February 28, 2011**

**12 noon—1:15**

**Oregon Electric Station**

**Cost: \$7.00/soup and salad + beverage**

**\$2.00 coffee only**

**Program: Making our Voices Heard**

**Gabi Stein and Tzila Lowe-Cowan**

**RSVP: Rae LaMarche, 541-343-1036**

**Required for planning purposes**

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## Student News

Shalom, Federation supporters!

Hillel is off to a roaring start this year, and the record enrollment at the UO is showing in our numbers, as well. We have seen *huge* numbers of students this Fall, and have succeeded in both contacting and engaging an ever-increasing number of students this year. So far, our biggest challenge has simply been to serve the increased numbers of students with our reduced staff. We've managed it up to this point, but you can be assured that we're greatly enjoying our Winter Break!

Despite the continued economic situation, we are keeping up a full schedule of programming, including our Friday night Shabbat services and free meals, our weekly get togethers for first-year students (FYSH), tailgates, 'Challah for Hunger' film night, and the High Holidays and our very successful Hanukkah bash.

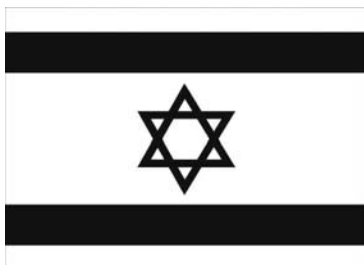
Winter Quarter is also shaping up to be incredibly busy. In addition to a full calendar of weekly events, we be holding our annual snow retreat over MLK weekend, an experience so popular we are forced to cap it at 60 students simply for logistical reasons. We're also working on having several Israeli speakers and films, as well as working on holding an Oregon-wide a Social Justice and Student Leadership Retreat later in the year.

And it's not going to end when the quarter's over: for Spring Break we will be taking 10 students to Montevideo, Uruguay and possibly a second group to a site in the Northwest.

If there is an up-side to the current downturn, it is to be found in its forcing us to be more creative and resourceful. We are having continued success in creating strategic partnerships on campus, with the UO administration, other campus groups and the Greek community, as well as with other Hillels in the Pacific Northwest. Again, the main thing we need in this department is simply more hours in a day (although there are also times when an extra pair of arms wouldn't hurt either).

May you all be blessed in 2011!

B'shalom,  
Paul Bessemer  
Executive Director,  
Oregon Hillel



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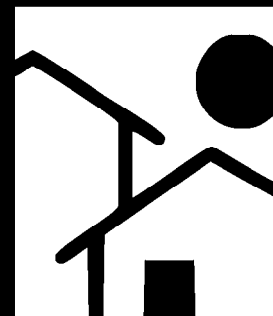
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## Student News



### GROSSMAN FUND SOLICITS GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE 29th YEAR

The Herman Grossman Trust Fund is soliciting grant proposals for programs aimed at Jewish children through age 18. The funds have been generously provided by the family of Herman and Rose Grossman to honor all the Jews who died in the Holocaust. The grants are awarded to further Jewish education, cultural enrichment, and religion-related activities.

This is the 29th year that the Trust has provided grant opportunities for Jewish communities throughout Oregon. The Trust has funded programs in Eugene, Ashland, and Roseburg.

Funds may be used for ANY good purpose that is not being fulfilled by the Jewish community. Even social functions, such as dances, outings, or Chanukah and Purim festivals that may need some "seed" money from the fund, could fall into this category.

If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact the office of Temple Beth Israel (541-485-7218) or Tom Barkin, at 541-343-2619, for an application form. The applications are due February 15, 2010. Call Tom, or Nina at TBI, if you need additional information.

### Ruach Preparations

Both Malachim BBG and Chaim Hazaz AZA are both busy getting ready for Ruach Convention. This year Eugene BBYO is sending 10 teens to Ruach, and one of their very own, Michaela Gilmer is a coordinator. Preparations for contesting, AZA and BBG Broomball are coming along, and Eugene BBYO will be a large presence this year at Ruach.

Know any Jewish teens interested in Eugene BBYO? Meetings are every Sunday at the University of Oregon Hillel from 7 to 8 pm. Questions? Contact Chelsea Landman (541) 514-3006.

*Eugene BBYO is a beneficiary agency of Lane County Jewish Federation*

### The Mosaic That Is Me

By Rae LaMarche

My home is filled with family treasures. My Uncle Benny was a carnival man (prior to becoming a jeweler) and I still have a treasure or two that he gave as prizes. A great story.

I have my grandmother Esther's wind up console phonograph which used to be covered in a white sheet and stored next to the old coal furnace in the basement of her home which also had a small plastic skull in the brick above the basement fireplace. Great stories there.

I just inherited the dining set with memories of Passover seders in a home that was way too warm from all the aunts, uncles, cousins and siblings. And Grandpa's after-dinner walk so he could have a cigarette.

Grandma Julia decided to take up painting ("only when I'm bored") and I have a full portfolio of her art, a few on display in my home.

And I have a CD recording (Story Corps) of me interviewing my parents. I cried as I heard Mom's voice, already showing signs of stroke, a good eight months before she passed away.

But the best thing I have is my father, who continues to research both his and Mom's families. We now know that Nanny didn't swim the Atlantic to get from Russia to New York (he found the ship's manifest). He finally found his great grandfather who was the tall barefoot Rabbi (six feet tall in his stocking feet.)

If you are interested in learning more about your own family, visit JGSWVO. Meetings include programs and help with your own personal search. They will help you develop your own mosaic.

Jewish Genealogical Society Willamette Valley Oregon  
Meetings on 2nd Wednesday of the month  
Web site: <http://www.nwfam.com/jgswvo.html>

## Community News

### Community Celebration to Honor Rabbi Maurice Harris



*You are invited to* A Community Celebration Honoring Rabbi Maurice Harris on Sunday, February 20, 6-8 pm at Temple Beth Israel. This event is sponsored by the TBI Queer Chavurah.

Come dine on delightful desserts, listen to live music with the Yiddish and Ladino music ensemble, Chiribim, and take part in

the award ceremony honoring Rabbi Maurice's commitment to social justice for the lesbian gay bisexual transgender queer (LGBTQ) community.

The TBI Queer Chavurah invites *everyone* -- young and old, gay and straight, friends and family -- to come celebrate, honor and support Rabbi Maurice, a leader in our community who has exemplified and embodied what it means to be an ally and who has helped strengthen our community by promoting and supporting the visibility of all. We wish to joyously affirm his efforts during his role as Rabbi at Temple Beth Israel and present him with an award in recognition of his work. Rabbi Maurice will be leaving his position at TBI at the end of July.

Please mark your calendars and join us for this wonderful community-wide celebration.

*By Tova Stabin for the TBI Queer Chavurah*

#### Requests for Funding Due January 30

Please submit requests for Federation grant funds by January 30, 2010. Applications are available by contacting the Federation directly at 484-2541, or by downloading a request from the Federation website, [jewishfedlc.org](http://jewishfedlc.org). Requests must address the mission of the Federation: to serve the "philanthropic, social, cultural and educational needs in the Jewish community...."

## got mitzvah?

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, May 15, 2011

Mitzvah Day is an exciting day of volunteerism and unity that benefits the entire community. This annual event is an outreach effort coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Lane County.

Mitzvah Day kicks off with a breakfast at Temple Beth Israel after which volunteers go to their assignments in the community. Details and registration information will be coming your way in early April.

### Rabbi Altein to Lead Chabad

Rabbi Yechezkel (Chezky) Altein, born and raised in Brooklyn NY, attended high school at Yeshiva Lubavitch in Toronto, Canada. Rabbi Chezky also served as a student intern, providing educational programs and holiday events, benefiting Jewish communities around the country including Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Harvard University, and Sunny Isles, FL. During the summertime, he spent his time helping run programs for students in Israel, England, and Canada.

Chanale Altein (nee Sossonko) grew up in Miami Beach, FL. She graduated from Beis Chana, the Chabad girls' school in FL. She completed her college year in Machon Shoshana Yerushalayim in the Ramat Shlomo neighborhood of Yerushalayim. Chanale then directed various holiday and educational programs, including Hebrew School and Bat Mitzvah Club, in Marietta, GA. She spent her summers around the world as a counselor in different camps.

The Alteins are joined by their adorable son Menachem Mendel, who already has become a primary partner in his parents' work. They are excited to come join the Jewish community in Eugene and to run the Chabad Jewish center located at 1330 E 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. They will, G-d willing, be arriving early January.

# CAMPAIGN KICKOFF 2011



Federation President Rae LaMarche congratulates Craig Weinerman on his award.



Charley Shiffman entertains attendees with humor and reminds us of our collective responsibility to the future of Israel.



Youth Award winners Sara Beck and Michaela Gilmer.



The Five Rabbis: (left to right) Jonathan Seidel (Or Hagan), Maurice Harris (TBI), Yitzhak Husbands- Hankin (TBI), Moshe Jakov Derfler (Ahavas Torah), Chesky Altein (Chabad)



Award winners Dick and Elaine Barrar

# Community News

## JCRC Continues to Battle Anti-Israeli Action By Craig Weinerman

*(JCRC is a committee of the Jewish Federation of Lane County, operating with its own bylaws and volunteer members.)*

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), as the central public affairs coordinating and advisory body for the organized Jewish community in Lane County, is charged with the responsibility of defending the rights of Jews here, in Israel, and around the world. This has presented us with enormous challenges the past six months.

We recently learned that on July 20, 2010, the Eugene Human Rights Commission (HRC) approved a request by the al-Nakba Project, the virulently anti-Israel group in town, to write a letter condemning Israel's actions in the flotilla incident, send the letter to the City Council, local and congressional leaders, and recommend that the City Council write its own letter of condemnation and send its letter to congressional leaders. The process of writing the letter got bogged down in committee but its completion is imminent.

The Federation and JCRC oppose the decision of the HRC to condemn Israel for the following reason: 1) the HRC strays from its mission and goals, which is to achieve diversity, justice and equity locally, when it takes a position on an international dispute for which it has no expertise; 2) the decision to criticize Israel was taken after hearing only one side and without soliciting the views of the Jewish Community; 3) in denouncing Israel, the HRC is furthering the agenda of a local group that demonizes Israel at every turn, rejects Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, and opposes a two-state solution to conflict; and 4) Israel's actions in the Flotilla incident was the exercise of its sovereign right of self-defense to prevent the smuggling of weapons in Gaza for use by the terrorist group Hamas against Israeli citizens.

**The HRC will hear the request of the Jewish community to rescind its decision denouncing Israel's actions in the flotilla incident on January 18, 2011 at 5:30 pm at the McNutt Room at City Hall. The HRC has an open mike beginning at 5:30 where any member of the community has 3 minutes to speak.** The Federation Board and the JCRC urge that our community turn out in force to speak against the HRC actions and to support our request that they reverse their ill-considered decision to denounce Israel.

## Jewish Leaders Come Together

In an effort to bring together the various Jewish groups in our community, the Federation has invited the leaders of the synagogues/temples and Jewish organizations to meet on a bi-monthly basis. Purpose of the group is to work together as community by sharing needs, concerns, and solutions.

The first meeting was an eye-opener for the Federation when the discussion centered on community perceptions of the Federation, followed by a discussion of who we are and what we do on limited funds. We learned that there are community members who don't know we exist. This will drive a Federation effort at better defining for the public what we do.

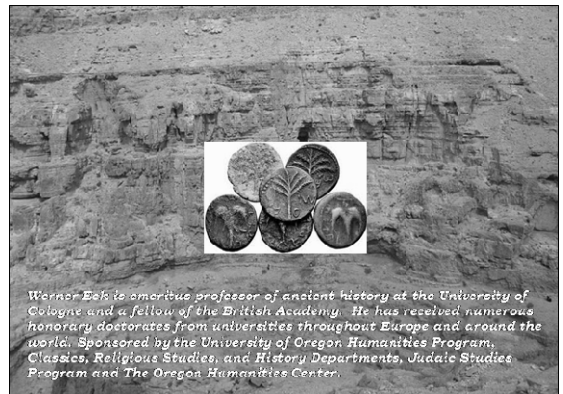
The second meeting identified who was missing and a communication plan in case of emergency.

The most important aspect is the joint discussion among reconstructionists and orthodox Jews; students and adults; affiliated and non affiliated.

### *The Revolt of Bar Kokhba from the Roman Perspective*

**Dr. Werner Eck, University of Cologne  
Monday, January 10, 2011  
3:30 p.m. Room 22 Knight Library**

**Sponsored by the University of Oregon Humanities Program, Classics, Religious Studies and History Departments, Judaic Studies Program, and the Oregon Humanities Center**



*Werner Eck is emeritus professor of ancient history at the University of Cologne and a fellow of the British Academy. He has received numerous honorary doctorates from universities throughout Europe and around the world. Sponsored by the University of Oregon Humanities Program, Classics, Religious Studies, and History Departments, Judaic Studies Program and The Oregon Humanities Center.*

# Community News

## October 2010 AIPAC Mission to Israel by Sharon Ungerleider

In early October 100 participants for the 2010 AIPAC Senate level mission flew to Israel. The mission was exciting, informative and provided a tremendous bonding experience for an active group of Jewish leaders from around the U.S. The group was non partisan, spanned liberal to conservative on domestic issues but all shared one common thread- each participant maintains an ongoing personal relationship with American House and Senate congressional leaders and their chief of staff. There are currently 130,000 member households of AIPAC and this Senate level trip is offered every other year to any leader interested.

Based in Jerusalem, we were treated to an extraordinary whirlwind of high-level meetings and site visits. Led by Jon Missner, AIPAC's director of National Affairs and Development and five regional staff, our group experienced on-the-ground insight into the region's current political realities.

The emphasis of various reports we heard focused on several instrumental themes:

*preventing* rather than deterring Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and combating that country's regional influence;

*strengthening* the U.S.-Israel partnership and cooperation; the importance of Israeli innovation in medicine and science.

*improving* U.S. engagement with anti-Islamist Arabs trying to advance the prospects of peaceful democracy in their societies.

Equally important, the mission gave us critical firsthand "intelligence" on current events in the region, empowering each of us to speak authoritatively with friends, colleagues and our congressional connections about the complex challenges facing U.S. Middle East policymakers. My overall impression is that the current US State Department has effectively engaged every aspect of Israel's and America's security needs.

*According to one key Israeli general, it is the best and closest relationship ever in Israel's history with America.*

A highlight was our last day with Ethiopian teenagers living at the reknown Yemin Orde campus in the Carmel hills facing Haifa. Unfortunately their historic campus suffered serious damage during the recent devastating forest fires. I am proud to report that this remarkable group of AIPAC participants have raised over \$50,000 for the rebuilding of Yemin Orde.

Focusing on the future AIPAC events, this spring Temple Beth Israel and Hillel will once again be hosting Charlie Kir-

schner, AIPAC's dynamic young deputy director for the Pacific NW region for a Middle East briefing and review of regional challenges. Our student leaders will be afforded special time to engage Charlie with their own issues. In addition the annual AIPAC dinner in Portland is set for Sunday March 6 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Over the years AIPAC's annual dinners and luncheons are attended by Oregon Senators, Congressmen and the Governor. West coast AIPAC dinners have featured compelling speakers like Daniel Gordis, Michael Oren, Peter Beinhart and Yossi Klein Halevi. Please let me know if you are interested in attending by February 10. This event fills out quickly, also typically hosting 35 students and student body presidents from all of Oregon's key campuses. It promises to be an inspiring evening dedicated to preserving America and Israel's shared democratic ideals as well as an evening for Jews and Christians to celebrate our passionate commitment to keep Israel safe and secure.

### Oregon Governor Defends Israel Ties *JTA December 8, 2010*

WASHINGTON -- The office of Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski defended a trade agreement it signed with Israel.

A coalition of pro-Palestinian groups in Portland criticized Kulongoski, a Democrat, for the Oct. 27 memorandum of understanding "to develop and strengthen economic, industrial, technological and commercial cooperation," according to a release posted Wednesday on the Salem News website by Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights, or SUPER.

SUPER and other groups say such agreements are out of place until Israel ends "its occupation of Palestinian lands," ends "the second-class citizenship status of Palestinians," and honors the "'right of return' of displaced first-generation Palestinian refugees and their descendants."

The last condition is generally seen as a proposal for a binational state that would replace Israel, where Jews would soon become a minority.

In a response to the group, the governor's office said the agreement "is in the best interest of the people of Oregon. Israel is a strong and democratic friend of Oregon and the United States. This agreement will build on our existing trade relationship with Israel, open up new opportunities to share information and foster commercial ties in areas that are vital to Oregon's economic future."



# Jewish Federation of Lane County

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**January 15**  
Grant Requests due to JFLC

**January 18**  
Human Rights Commission meeting  
5:30 pm, City Hall

**January 19:** Federation Board Meeting

**January 20:** Tu B'Shevat

**February 20:** Reception Honoring Rabbi  
Maurice Harris, TBI

**February 21:** President's Day

**March 21:** Purim

**April 18 ;** First Seder

**April 28:** WICKED"

**May 2:** Yom HaShoah

**May 10:** Israeli Independence Day

**May 15:** Mitzvah Day

**Local Congregations and Organizations**  
*For High Holy Day schedules, please call or check individual websites.*

## EUGENE

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## ROSEBURG

**Umpqua Valley Havurah**  
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## **Shalom Oregon Online Guide Available**

Shalom Oregon is the online edition of the guide to the Jewish communities of Oregon and southwest Washington. On occasion, we think of ourselves as one community, regardless of the great diversity that distinguishes us. At other times, we are keenly aware of the differences we share. In the end, however, we are all Jews. Shalom Oregon is our attempt to bring together in one place a comprehensive resource for every Jew here or who may be considering coming here.

Shalom Oregon is a project of the *Jewish Review*, which is published by the *Jewish Federation of Greater Portland*.

Copy and paste the link below to download a PDF of the complete guide: <http://www.shalomoregon.com/ShalomOregonONLINE2010.pdf>