

# Jewish Federation of Lane County

## REVIEW

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

MAY 2011



Jewish Federation is seeking part-time assistance with clerical work, mailings, and newsletter layout. Full job description is posted on the Federation website, [www.jewishfedlc.org](http://www.jewishfedlc.org).

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### FEDERATION INITIATES SUPPLEMENTAL 2011 CAMPAIGN DRIVE

The Federation Board gratefully thanks those community members who responded to our letters and phone calls last fall and earlier this year by pledging \$56,000 for the 2011 Campaign. This support is especially appreciated during these times of economic stress. However, we must yet raise another \$15,000 in order to meet even reduced commitments to families, children, students and seniors. The \$71,000 goal for 2011 campaign pledges —when met— will, unfortunately, result in planned expenditures which will be \$1,900 less than actual 2010 expenditures. The Board had to reduce planned expenditures in the 2011 budget notwithstanding increasing community social service needs. Requests for emergency assistance for food, shelter, medicine and other life-sustaining essentials from Jewish Family Services are up 30%, one indicator of increasing local needs.

Community members will soon receive or have recently received the Federation's supplemental campaign letter for 2011. If you have not donated to the Federation for 2011 **NOW IS THE TIME!** If you have already pledged to the Federation for 2011, we again thank you. Unfortunately, we must ask you to dig deeper and to make a second contribution. **WE NEED YOUR PLEDGES NOW.** Payments can be made later this year. Use the pledge card enclosed in the campaign letter or go to [jewishfedlc.org/HTML/pledgeform.html](http://jewishfedlc.org/HTML/pledgeform.html) to print a copy. If total new pledge returns exceed the additional \$15,000 needed the Board will be able to amend the budget upward later in the year.

#### Your generous contributions support:

##### Federation's Jewish Family Services (\$48,000)

- o Helping local Jewish families who cannot pay for basic needs
- o Helping Jewish seniors, working with their families to meet their needs
- o Providing support to other Jews in Lane County who need help

##### Jewish Federations of North America (formerly UJA and UJC) (\$9,000)

- o Overseas support of Jews in need in Israel and around the world

##### Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council (\$200)

- o Working with local agencies and organizations to combat anti-Semitism and anti-Israel actions in our community

##### Federation's Education Committee (\$900)

- o Awarding scholarships to Jewish youth to go to camps and conferences

Federation's funding for Hillel, BBYO, Shalhevet at Talmud Torah, ADL, NCSY, Mitzvah Day and our Oral History project (\$5,655)

Give Generously! It's a Mitzvah!

*When you save one life, it is as if you saved the entire world*

- Talmud

# From the President....



**Jewish Federation  
Of Lane County  
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Shalom.

At the Passover Seder last week we sang Dayenu. **It would have been enough.**

Just how much is enough? Yesterday, my dear friend Chris was gunned down during a routine traffic stop. Random violence. **When will we have had enough?**

This week I learned of the anti-semitic graffiti in Amazon Park. Hatred. **When will we have had enough?**

A young family killed in their Israeli apartment. **When will we have had enough?**

Lack of coverage of the IDF's establishment of an emergency hospital in Japan following the sunami. Media bias. **When will we have had enough?**

Defamation of the state of Israel by the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement, especially on college campuses. **When will we have had enough?**

With spring here and Saturday Market open for the season we must once again work as a community to support the state of Israel against the bias delivered weekly by the Al-Nakba organization here in Eugene. The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is developing a plan to provide a presence each week—yes, on the Shabbat—in order to provide positive information about Israel.

The Federation will also, along with JCRC, sponsor a booth at the Eugene Celebration this summer. The goal is to again provide the community with a positive view of the state of Israel.

Just as we don't agree with every decision our own government makes, support of Israel is not an automatic acceptance of every decision their government makes. But we must publicly and loudly and actively promote its right to exist. Help us by volunteering at Saturday Market. Help us by helping at the Eugene Celebration. Help us put an end to hatred, violence and anti-Semitism here and abroad.

Stand up and with a collective voice say, "I've Had Enough."

## Special Occasion Donations

The Federation Board gratefully acknowledges the following special donations, made since January 1, 2011. Your thoughtfulness is acknowledged to the recipient or designee with no mention of the amount given. These donations help us attain our budgetary goals. Visit our website for donation form.

***In Memory of***

**Rosalie Margolis**  
**Lee Levison**

By Esta & Richard Patman

**Freida Rome**

By Marsha and Lee Miller

**Carol Tamarkin**

By Shirley Shiffman

***A Speedy Recovery to***

**Reuben Solonsky**

By Marsha and Lee Miller

***Happy Birthday***

**Len Furst**

By Don Gerrard

***Happy Birthday***

**Gail Pioso**

By Marsha Miller

**Marsha Miller**

By Rae LaMarche

***Thank You***

**Debra Weinman**

By Meryl Solonsky Alcabes

***In Honor of***

**Marsha Miller**

By Shirley Shiffman

**Newsletter  
Deadline**

**Articles &  
Advertising:**

**August 1  
(for  
September  
Newsletter)**

# Jewish Family Services News

## “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

Volunteers are crucial to the success of Jewish Family Service. Their gifts of expertise, energy and caring make a tremendous difference in the lives of clients, and giving to others brings its own gifts to those who volunteer. As the saying goes, “To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world”. All volunteers receive ongoing supervision and training. There are opportunities to volunteer for both time-limited and ongoing projects. The following list suggests only a few of the many rewarding possibilities for volunteering at Jewish Family Service:

**FRIENDLY VISITING** – spend an hour or two weekly or bi-weekly with someone who is otherwise isolated and lonely. Some clients we are presently seeking to match are:

- a senior gentleman at South Hills Rehabilitation who loves to talk and keep up with what’s going on in the world. He enjoys dogs and would welcome a visit from your pet. He has an incredibly positive outlook and great sense of humor.
- a lively senior lady at Gateway Living who really enjoys people but feels isolated in her living facility because she’s so sharp!

**TRANSPORTATION** – Join our transportation team! Some requests are on a regular weekly or monthly basis, but most are ad hoc. As-needed. Various areas of the city. Transportation and/or assistance to do groceries or provide transportation to medical appointments.

### 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, holiday decorating of senior residential facilities, participating in holiday toy drives for needy children, and much more. 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!

If you have some time available, we have the people who need it most. Likewise, if you are in need of any of the services mentioned, please let us know. For the honor of performing any of these mitzvot, please contact Debra Weinman, our Jewish Family Service Coordinator at 541-484-2541, or [jewishfslane@gmail.com](mailto:jewishfslane@gmail.com)

## JFS PURIM BRUNCH A SUCCESS THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS.

A Purim brunch for 58 requires a great deal of planning, shopping, cooking, calling, organizing, decorating, serving and then there’s the cleaning.....

### Special Thank You to:

*Ellen Maddex for your kind donation for a family in need*

*Sherri Seidman and Rebecca Kovach for the 200+ hamentashen you baked for the Federation’s Senior Brunch celebrating Purim.*

*Yedida Bessemer and Temple Beth Israel’s Shalhevet program for hamentashen baking and the creation of beautiful Mishloach Manot for community seniors during the Purim Holiday*

*Sara Siegler for all your help setting up and decorating for the Federation’s Senior Brunch*

*Jewel Nelson for your help serving during the Senior Brunch*

*Susan Bergnon Smith for your endless energy and assistance serving during the Senior Brunch and the amazing help with clean up*

*Alexandra Gerrard for your assistance serving*

*Don Gerrard, Federation Board Member, for the great clean up following the Brunch*

*Laeh Maggie Garfield, Federation Board Member, for the combination stand up and story of Queen Esther that entertained us all during the Brunch*

*Theresa and Itzik Shlesinger for your purchase of B’nai Mitzvah food baskets to honor your son Noah’s Bar Mitzvah.*

*Dharmika Henshel for your purchase of B’nai Mitzvah food baskets to honor your son Jaron’s Bar Mitzvah.*

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS AT THE HEART OF HOW WE HELP

Whether you have time to volunteer, provide resources, or donate funds – we appreciate all you do.

## Student News

### Hillel Looking Forward to a Great Year at UO

April, 4, 2011

Shalom, Federation supporters!

By the time you read this, we will be half-way through Spring Quarter and the thoughts of many will be already turned toward the summer to come.

We have had an eventful 2011, so far hosting the new Portland Federation President Marc Blattner for a day, the Israel Consul-General for the PNW Akiva Tor for another. We finished it all off Winter Quarter by sending a full contingent of 10 students and one staff to Montevideo for our Alternative Spring Break. Spring Quarter also started off with a bang, with two very large Passover Seders; a first night seder on campus for 120 persons, and a Residence Hall seder for a similar number of curious, Jewish and non-Jewish students. In addition, we offered kosher-for-Passover meals throughout the week to all who desire them. And all this, of course, in addition to our full calendar of regular weekly programming!

In addition to these high points, our regular programming is also going strong. 'Challah for Hunger', in which students volunteer to bake and sell challah for a hunger project has raised more than \$3,000 for local and international hunger projects since its inception last year; FYSH (First Year Students at Hillel) continues to be popular, and our Torah on Tap, Desserts and Dilemmas (ethical discussions) have both maintained their following.

We're still running on a reduced staff, but have nevertheless continued to maintain the same level of quality programming this year. As we see it, more Jewish students being allowed to explore their own Jewish identities in a friendly and supportive environment is worth a few more dark circles under the staffs' eyes.

This summer we will also be taking 15 lucky students on a Taglit-Birthright trip to Israel, our first trip in more than a year!

Our community is blessed with idealistic and talented students, and we are privileged to be able to offer them the ability and resources to continue to develop and strengthen their Jewish identities. Thank you for your continued support of Hillel and our students efforts. May you all be blessed!

Kol tuv,  
Paul Bessemer  
Executive Director,  
Oregon Hillel  
(541) 343-8920 ext. 101  
paul@oregonhillel.org

### Shalhevet Program Continues to Instill Jewish Values in Community Youth

Thank you Jewish Federation of Lane County for your ongoing support of the Shalhevet program of Temple Beth Israel. Your financial assistance allows us to offer a variety of activities for students in grades 8-12 who are interested in continuing their Jewish education and socializing with other Jewish teens.

We offer two different programs: The first is Modern Hebrew instruction and the second is an exciting elective program that has a diverse offering of multi-modal activities such as art projects, social action and community service, cooking, special guest speakers, PowerPoint presentations, Jewish films, Israel studies and debate topics.

Our social action serves the local Jewish community as well as the larger community in Lane County. We made *Mishloach Manot* for the seniors' Purim luncheon. In addition, we volunteered at Food for Lane County and plan to participate on Mitzvah Day by creating and writing cards of hope and encouragement to Womenspace residents.

Through all the above activities, we instill Jewish values in our teens and strengthen their Jewish identity. Today's teens will become the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you again for your continuing generous support of our Shalhevet program that benefits Lane County Jewish youth.

Blessings,  
**Yedida**  
Yedida Bessemer  
Principal



# Community News

## Ahavas Torah a Growing Congregation

Thanks to the support and enthusiasm of our community, Ahavas Torah continues to grow and provide ongoing activities.

A recent highlight was our NCSY **New York Experience**. In February 7 teenagers from Eugene flew to New York to experience Shabbat a whole new way.

They toured NY, stayed in beautiful homes in 5 towns, toured Yeshiva University, museums, Times Square, and the Empire State Building. They enjoyed an off-Broadway show and kosher food out on the town.

In addition, they saw a little community activism: Hatzallah, Chaverim (“help,” like if you locked yourself out, or run out of gas) and Shomrim, a neighborhood watch program.

We hosted 80 people for our **Purim** festivities, with jugglers, great food, and our Purim basket gifting program.

Ahavas Torah was proud to host Rabbi Zvi Hollander of Venice Beach, CA. He has over twenty years of Rabbinic

experience ranging from pulpit Rabbi to youth educator, Kashrut supervisor and more. Rabbi Hollander is active in addiction counseling. He graduated from Yale with honors. From Friday to Sunday he spoke on topics such as “*Being a Jew with Your Entire Self*” to bug checking classes and a Havdallah celebration.

We’ve started a Hebrew Immersion Play for preschoolers-kindergarteners, complete with songs, crafts, and snacks on Sundays from 1-3pm in 5-week increments. The next session begins May 22.

If you would like to receive regular updates about our activities please contact Ahavas Torah and Rabbi and Mrs. Derfler at [rmd@portlandkollel.org](mailto:rmd@portlandkollel.org) or 541.844.1340

### On-going events at Ahavas Torah:

Weekly Parsha Class” Wednesdays 6:30pm at Ahavas Torah

*Women only* Parsha (weekly Torah portion) study group Thursdays 8pm at the Buzz in the EMU at the UO Saturdays 2:30 Pirkei Avot – Ethics of our Fathers study group at Ahavas Torah

*High school age only* “Latte and Learning” free coffee! At Starbucks on 18<sup>th</sup> and pearl, Wednesdays 7-8pm

**Linda Garber**  
**Real Estate Broker**  
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# Community News

## Temple Beth Israel Planning An Evening in the Garden

By Nina Korican

Save the date for the 15th annual TBI Dream Auction, An Evening in the Garden on Sunday, May 22nd, 4:30pm at TBI. Experience a spring evening of blooms and vines, brimming with the unique offerings guaranteed to delight and inspire. Wander through the silent auction with its tantalizing items from a Northwest themes dinner and bid on the dessert of your dreams in the "Delectable Dessert Auction."

Reservation deadline is May 10th.

Visit [tbieugene.org](http://tbieugene.org) to register and preview auction items or call the TBI office for details at 541-485-7218.

## JStreet Eugene

By Dick Stein, acting chair

2011 has been busy for the Eugene chapter of JStreet. In January, we hosted a kick-off meeting at TBI that brought an audience of more than 60 people to hear from National Field Director Caroline Luck about the organization's goals. Gordon Gladstone, JStreet's Northwest Regional Director, also attended.

In March we arranged to bring Congressman Peter DeFazio to TBI to speak about "The View from the House in 2011: Reflections on the Changing Landscapes of National and Global Politics." Our aim was to learn first-hand about policy making in the new and increasingly conservative congress. Late-breaking DC commitments forced Congressman DeFazio to postpone his visit, but he is eager to reschedule in the near future.

JStreet Eugene also arranged an April 3 discussion of the award-winning documentary film "Budrus," a joint production of Jewish and Palestinian filmmakers, about a non-violent protest (eventually successful) to save a Palestinian village from division by the Israeli security fence. JStreet Eugene has donated a copy of this film to the Eugene Public Library along with a copy of "Encounter Point," the earlier production by the same team. We hope both can be seen by a wide audience.

Our regular chair, Josh Shulruff, is currently living in Jerusalem as a participant in WUJS Israel Hadassah's Peace and Social Justice program. After a brief ulpan, he'll begin a four month internship with the New Israel Fund. He plans to return with new perspectives and new plans in the fall.

JStreet is a pro-Israel, pro-peace group that advocates for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. More information can be found on the main national website: [jstreet.org](http://jstreet.org). You also may contact our chapter by email: [eugene@jstreet.org](mailto:eugene@jstreet.org). We are eager to welcome new members or those who want to participate in wide-ranging discussions of prospects for peace in the Middle East.

## Recording the Graves

By Reeva Kimble and Reene Gottesman

Honoring the deceased is an ancient Jewish tradition. Prayers are recited annually and [yahrzeit](#) candles are lit to commemorate the anniversaries of the deaths of loved ones. A visit to the cemetery is customary at least once a year. A small stone is placed on the tombstone as a sign that the deceased has been remembered.

Since the Jewish community is a truly world-wandering lot, by virtue of choice or coercion, many family members no longer know the location of family gravesites. However, there is now an online archive of Jewish burials worldwide, where one can search for and find the graves of family members. This service is free of any charges. <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/>

The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) is a growing permanent archive for Jewish burial records on the Internet. As of December 2010, JOWBR had 1.5 million burial records from 3,000 cemeteries in 47 countries. Some of the records include Hebrew names of the deceased, parents' names, place of birth, etc., in addition to the text on the headstone.

More than ten years ago, members of what is now the Jewish Genealogical Society Willamette Valley Oregon (JGSWVO) visited the dedicated Jewish section at Rest Haven Cemetery, recorded the names of people buried there, and submitted the data to JOBAR.

[We are currently updating our cemetery data and expanding the records to other Jewish burial sites in the area. Contact us with information on local Jewish burials that are outside of the Rest Haven Jewish section, so we can include your friends and family members. Also, give us details about the parents of the deceased, their original surname, birthplace, etc. for any Jewish graves in Lane County.](#)

Please visit our web site for more information on JGSWVO, JOWBR and several other acronyms relating to your relatives. <http://www.nwfam.com/jgswwvo.html>

Renee Gottesman  
(541) 484-2307  
[gottesmanr@comcast.net](mailto:gottesmanr@comcast.net)

Reeva Kimble  
(541) 345-8129  
[rkimble@uoregon.edu](mailto:rkimble@uoregon.edu)

# Community News

## The Last Album— Eyes from the Ashes of Auschwitz-Birkenau

The Downtown Initiative for the Visual Arts (DIVA) hosts “**The Last Album: Eyes from the Ashes of Auschwitz-Birkenau**” May 6-June 3, 2011. An Opening Reception will be held during the First Friday Art Walk with curator Dr. Ann Weiss in attendance from 4:30-8:30pm at DIVA, 280 West Broadway, Eugene, Oregon. For information call: 541-344-3482. Web: divacenter.org

### About The Exhibit:

While on a group tour of Auschwitz as part of a diplomatic mission to Poland in 1986, Dr. Ann Weiss was accidentally let into an archive of family photos brought to the camp by victims of the Nazis. There before her were over 2,000 photographs confiscated from families and individuals.

The survival of these photographs is a miracle in itself. The Nazi edict was to destroy not only the people, but also to destroy the symbols of their memories. With these photos, they can be remembered as people, not bodies, and in this sense, they live.”

Historians have surmised that, out of all the transports to the concentration camps, only these photos, from a single transport, miraculously survived.

DIVA will present 72 of the photographs in conjunction with



Temple Beth Israel which will also have a small selection from the exhibit on display. Exhibit hours at TBI will be announced. DIVA’s regular hours are 1pm – 5pm Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday; 1pm – 6pm Friday, and by appointment.

The Jewish Federation Board will be hosting a reception for the sponsors of this event on Wednesday, May 4th.

James Young, in his introduction to the book *The Last Album* explains: “Ann Weiss’ collection of photographs ... shows us what was lost. Moreover ... we not only have a record of how the victims would have remembered their own lives, but we now have a visual record of that which constituted the fullness of life itself...children playing, lovers strolling...the quotidian moments that actually made up life itself...”

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**SAVE THE DATE**

- May 1: Yom HaShoah
- May 8: Mother's Day
- May 9: Yom Hazikaron
- May 10: Yom Ha'Atzmaut
- May 15: Mitzvah Day
- May 16: Interfaith Breakfast with Charlie Kirschner
- May 18: JFLC Board Meeting
- May 22: Lag B'Omer
- May 22: TBI Auction
- May 27-29: NCSY NW Spring REGIONAL at Camp Keats (in Canada)  
open to all Jewish High School-age
- June 8: Shavout
- June 15: JFLC Board Meeting
- June 19: Father's Day
- Sept 29: Rosh HaShana

### Local Congregations and Organizations

#### EUGENE

##### **Ad-Olam**

PO Box 5701  
Eugene, OR 97405  
541-344-7945, [www.adolam.org](http://www.adolam.org)

##### **Ahavas Torah (Orthodox)**

2935 Onyx St.  
Eugene, OR 97405  
541-844-1340, [www.minyan.us](http://www.minyan.us)

##### **Beth Israel (Reconstructionist)**

1175 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97405  
541-485-7218, [www.tbieugene.org](http://www.tbieugene.org)

##### **Chabad House**

1307 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97403  
541-484-7665, [www.chabadofeugene.org](http://www.chabadofeugene.org)

##### **Hillel at U of O**

1059 Hilyard St.  
Eugene, OR 97401  
541-343-8920, [www.oregonhillel.org](http://www.oregonhillel.org)

##### **JSU at U of O**

Erb Memorial Union, Ste. 5  
Eugene, OR 97403  
541-346-4436, [jsu@uoregon.edu](mailto:jsu@uoregon.edu)

##### **Or Hagan (unaffiliated)**

PO Box 5582  
Eugene, OR 97405  
541-434-6551, [www.orhagan.org](http://www.orhagan.org)

#### CORVALLIS

##### **Beit Am (Jewish Comm. Ctr.)**

PO Box 1143  
Corvallis, OR 97339  
541-753-0067, [www.beitam.org](http://www.beitam.org)

#### ROSEBURG

##### **Umpqua Valley Havurah**

PO Box 5044  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
541-677-0575

### 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>