

JFCS honors survivors Eva and Les (z"l) Aigner

BY JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

Providing stability and hope. That is what Jewish Family & Child Service does for our Jewish and greater Portland communities via its four programs: Disability Support Services, Emergency Aid, Holocaust Survivor Services and Counseling.

"Jewish Family & Child Service is a community organization. We are here for the community, and we are strongest when the community is here for us," says Board President Larry Holzman.

On May 19, our community can ensure JFCS' strength. That date marks Sips & Sweets, the agency's annual fundraiser, honoring Eva and Leslie, z"l, Aigner; featuring Lisa Schroeder, Mother's Bistro & Bar founder and chef; and celebrating JFCS, its clients and its supporters.

Sips & Sweets is a hybrid event. People can choose to attend in person at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center or at home via livestream. The event is free, but registration is required and in-person seating is limited. Doors for the in-person event open at 7 pm, the livestream begins at 7:30 pm and the evening concludes at 8:30 pm.

Also featured during the event are an invocation by Shaarie Torah Rabbi Gary Oren; prerecorded remarks by Congress-

SIPS & SWEETS

What: Jewish Family & Child Service's annual fundraising event

Where: In person at the MJCC or online

When: 7 pm, May 19, online 7:30

Featuring: Honorees Eva and Les (z"l) Aigner, and Lisa Schroeder of Mother's Bistro & Bar

RSVP: While this is a no-cost event, registration is required by May 5. RSVP at jfcc-portland.org/sips-and-sweets-2022.

woman Suzanne Bonamici; red and white sips provided by Durant Vineyards, Stoller Family Estate and Brian Carter Cellars; and a variety of sweets by Century Catering.

Ken Klein of KleinFilms is producing a video that highlights Holocaust Survivor Eva, 85, and her late-husband, Les, who died in August 2021. The pair, who escaped Hungary in 1956 and made Portland their home beginning in 1957, spent decades speaking publicly both in and out of state about the Holocaust and the evil of hate. They also were instrumental in the 2004 construction of the Oregon Holocaust Memorial and the creation of legislation in 2019 that mandates Holocaust education in Oregon.

Eva – a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother – credits JFCS with the stability and hope she and Les experienced arriving in Portland in the late-1950s. They possessed few belongings, no English-language skills and precious little money.

"We truly had nothing but a change of underwear," says Eva, who has been a JFCS client for 65 years.

JFCS provided the young, traumatized couple with gently used clothing and household items to get a start in their small apartment.

"To the average person, it wouldn't mean that much," says Eva. "To us, it meant the world. Jewish Family & Child Service was always a godsend to us and a blessing."

JFCS is so grateful to Sips & Sweets presenting sponsors: The Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Family Fund of the OJCF, Jordan Schnitzer, The Holzman Foundation, Larry Holzman, Elayne and Len Shapiro, and Martha Soltesz.

Next year marks JFCS' 75th year! JFCS is seeking anecdotes about the agency since its founding in 1947, including how you may have benefited from our services. To share and possibly be featured in a video, contact Jenn Director Knudsen, JFCS communications manager, at jdirectorknudsen@jfcc-portland.org.



OREGON JEWISH MUSEUM AND CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Join Us for Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day

MEMORIAL SERVICE

7pm, Wednesday, April 27

at Congregation Beth Israel with the participation of the Oregon Board of Rabbis, Holocaust survivors, and their descendants.

READING OF THE NAMES

10am - 5pm, Thursday, April 28

in Pioneer Courthouse Square, a public recitation of Holocaust victims' names, ages, and birthplaces read by community members and elected officials.