Bees & Brews raise funds for JFCS Disability Support Services

Just prior to Rosh Hashanah, Jewish Family & Child Service held Bees & Brews, a fundraising event benefiting JFCS’ Disability Support Services. Nearly 100 people of all ages – including DSS clients – came to Leikam Brewing for a great evening of nosh, kosher beer, spirits, honey tasting, live music, an art auction and community. Special features included a video about DSS and the opportunity to thank Janet Menashe, who is retiring after seven years of dedication to JFCS and its DSS family. Shayna Sigman, DSS manager, expressed gratitude for every person who joined JFCS to support disability work in our community.

“We all had a terrific time, connecting with new people and also gathering in person with longtime clients and supporters,” she said.

DSS exceeded its fundraising goal, thanks to Bees & Brews attendees and generous event sponsors: Gloria Bacharach Family Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, Rabbi Michael and Cantor Ida Rae Cahana, Rabbi Daniel and Carol Isaak, Esther and Albert Menashe, and Corinne and Larry Spiegel.

For more information about DSS, visit jfcs-portland.org/disability-support-services.

Jewish Movie in the Park celebrates Jewish culture

When Chabad Young Professionals/Chabad Northwest partnered with the city’s Summer Free for All program to produce Jewish Movie in the Park, some 350 people of all ages turned out.

“The goal of the event was to bring people together for a fun, relaxing Jewish-themed evening in an outdoor public setting – to celebrate Jewish life and culture openly and proudly,” says Sheina Posner, who leads CYP/Chabad NW with her husband Rabbi Meir Posner.

Before moving to Portland in March 2020 at the start of the pandemic, Sheina worked at the New York headquarters of Chabad Young Professionals International.

“On the East Coast, you’ll know somebody is Jewish in 10 to 20 minutes of conversation,” says Sheina. “(Here) it doesn’t come up unless you ask … it’s not that strong identity that comes up right away.”

After talking to people in the crowd, Sheina says she estimated about half of them were Jewish. Of the half who weren’t Jewish, she says about half told her they didn’t know anyone who is Jewish.

“Maybe they just don’t know that they (their friends) are (Jewish) because it doesn’t come up,” says Sheina. “We need to be diverse. We need to show our diversity. For me, it’s really important to bring up that awareness.”

The Posners continue to seek ways to reach out to young Jewish professionals and those who live in Northwest Portland. Sheina wants to connect with individuals and organizations to collaborate on making Portland a place people can feel safe and proud to be a Jew.

“Portland is a very nonreligious city in general,” says Sheina. “The people that come to us aren’t religious. … We want them to have the knowledge that there are Jewish things happening, and you can come be a part of it proudly.”

For information on upcoming events or to get involved with CYP/Chabad NW, visit pdxcyp.org or call 503-583-2025.

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