

Be a history sleuth for Jewish Family & Child Service

This is the 75th year of Jewish Family and Child Service – the perfect opportunity to celebrate the agency’s past presidents and remember those who were in that role but are no longer with us. Yet, JFCS is stuck: We have an incomplete list of past presidents, including their years of service.

Here is where you come in: Please reference the list below. If you recognize a name (or two) missing, or can fill in a blank be-

side an individual’s name where their years of service should be, please email the information to JFCS Communications Manager Jenn Director Knudsen at jdirectorknudsen@jfcs-portland.org.

Thank you for channeling your inner Sherlock Holmes! You can help ensure that all of JFCS’ past presidents receive the recognition they deserve for their support of the community’s only Jewish social services agency.



JFCS Board Vice President Bill Treuhaft and wife, JoAnne Treuhaft, carefully comb through JFCS documents, but they need help from you. Photo by Robyn Taylor.

- _____ : Marianne Buchwalter, z”l
- _____ : May Georges, z”l
- _____ : Clifford Alterman, z”l
- _____ : Pearl Gevurtz, z”l
- _____ : Leonard Goldberg, z”l
- _____ : Elaine (Weil) Savinar
- _____ : Richard (Dick) Dobrow
- _____ : Alan Goldsmith, z”l
- _____ : Harriet Steinberg Towne, z”l
- 1962-64: Leah Durkheimer, z”l
- 1964-66: Eve Rosenfeld
- 1966-68: Madeline Nelson, z”l
- _____ : Merritt Yoelin, z”l
- 1969: Alan Goldsmith
- 1970s: Jack Schwartz
- _____ : Yonah Geller, z”l
- _____ : Frances Markewitz, z”l
- _____ : Augusta Reinhardt, z”l
- _____ : Charlotte Schwartz, z”l

- 1980s: 1st Beverly Bookin
- 1985: Steve Kantor, z”l
- 1989-91: Mark Rosenbaum
- 1997-98: Bernard Asarnow
- 1997-98: Bernice Shulevitz, z”l
- 1998-99: Howard Feldman
- 2001: Lucy Kivel
- _____ : Lesley Isenstein
- _____ : Deena Klein
- _____ : Betsy Russell
- 2002-04: 2nd Beverly Bookin
- 2005-06 & 2008: I. Kenneth Davis
- 2007: Michael Wendrow
- _____ : Miriam Feder
- 2010-14: Michael Millender
- 2014-17: Les Soltesz, z”l
- 2017-19: Lee Cordova
- 2019-23: Larry Holzman

PJ LIBRARY (continued from page 1)

“PJ Library seems like an amazing avenue for connecting with folks,” adds Shaw.

The MJCC has programming options for children as young as 6 months. Many first-time families or those new to the area will have the opportunity to learn about the youth programs the community center has to offer, including camps, childcare, and other activities and events.

“I am so excited for this opportunity for the MJCC to take on a new family engagement program, and I look forward to partnering with them in a variety of ways,” says Rachel Nelson, who has managed PJ Library since 2015 in her role as JFGP Director of Educational Initiatives. “This is a community partnership to help families connect with the Jewish community and find their Jewish home in Portland.”

PJ Library already has introduced thousands of families to the resources the Jewish community has to offer and has helped families already connected to the community to access free books to enrich their families’ Jewish engagement.

“The MJCC is extremely grateful to JFGP for its partnership on the PJ Library program,” says Albert. “While the books are subsidized by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the cost is still substantial, and the J doesn’t have the financial resources to cover the cost of the books. The Federation’s support of the purchase of PJ Library

books is critical to offering this program to the Portland Jewish community.”

Albert calls Youth Programs Assistant Manager Holden Regnier “the point person for PJ Library.”

Regnier will write and distribute the PJ Library e-newsletter, lead story hours and oversee the program in general.

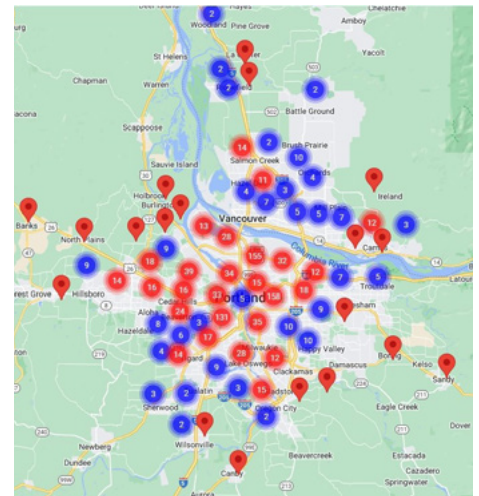
“Youth programs are returning to the good turnout we had before the pandemic,” says Regnier. “This is an opportunity to connect with more families in the Portland area.”

The J will bring back story time to Chai Baby sessions beginning this month, with story hour during the Jan. 5 Chai Baby Indoor Playground. On the first Thursday of the month, the MJCC opens its Indoor Playground from 10 am to noon to non-member parents/caregivers and their children ages 6 months to 5 years old.

The J will also apply for engagement grants from PJ Library national to help fund additional programs to find new families, build relationships between families, engage them in high-quality Jewish experiences and empower parents to take the lead in their family’s Jewish life.

“This is a great way to promote the J’s camps and afterschool programs to people who are not connected with the JCC,” says Regnier.

“I look forward to working with Holden and the JCC as they grow and expand their young



The map shows the distribution of families receiving PJ Library books in the Portland catchment area, which includes Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties in Oregon and Clark County in Washington.

family engagement program,” says Nelson. Through her work with newcomer families and the Portland Area Jewish Educators, she will continue to look out for young families and connect them with PJ Library.

Kids from birth to age 8 enrolled in PJ Library receive a free Jewish children’s book every month, and kids ages 9-12 who sign up for PJ Our Way can go online each month and choose a comic book or graphic novel.

To sign up kids for PJ Library, visit pjlibrary.org/communities/portland. To sign up for PJ Our Way, go to jourway.org.