

continued from previous page

I was just very happy to put it there,” he said. “It means everything for a lot of people.”

“We accomplished the goal, which was to get it lit up,” Minch said.

But just as the process wasn't smooth, neither is it over. Two days after the Board of Commissioners meeting and her initial statement, Pederson directed that for the next five-day block, Oct. 17-21, the bridge would be illuminated in all white “representing our collective call for peace.”

“In recent days, we have seen tremendous harm and suffering inflicted on the Palestinian population in Gaza by the Israel Defense Forces, including the terrifying call to remove more than one million people from northern Gaza with only 24-hours notice,” her statement read.

“It was sort of a veiled attempt, in my opinion, to not support Israel,” Minch said.

Oregon Public Broadcasting later reported that bridge operators, who are employees of the county, asked through their union that the county change its policies regarding the lights on the bridge. OPB's story also indicated that a bridge operator refused to work a scheduled shift to protest the lighting of the bridge in solidarity with Israel.

“We are writing to request that in the future you refrain from using the bridges for any political displays that might cause moral offence [sic] to the operators working there, or which might cause them to feel unwelcome in their workplace, or which might make the bridges or the operators a target for political violence,” the operators' letter, delivered through AFSCME Local 88, said.

Text messages to Commissioner Meieran were not returned as of press time.

SUBSCRIBE:
[jewishportland.org/
subscribe](http://jewishportland.org/subscribe)

JFCS hosts survivors for Sukkot celebration

From left, Rabbi Sholom Skolnik of Congregation Kesser Israel, Celia Perelstein, and Jewish Family & Child Service Case Manager Helen Pevzner, shake the lulav and etrog at the Sukkot Café Europa event attended by about 30 Holocaust Survivors Wednesday, Oct. 4 in the Ahavath Achim and Kesser Israel sukkah. Beneath a *schach* (roof) that kept them dry from the drizzle, clients enjoyed a catered lunch, some holiday ritual and community. Rabbi Skolnik said Sukkot is a time to celebrate the divine care and protection that is always with us, linking that message to his grandmother's experience escaping Nazi-occupied Germany. The holiday lunch was made possible thanks to funding from the Conference On Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. (Marina Milman/JFCS)



Rising Tide recognizes JFGP for community mikvah work

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has been recognized by the international open mikvah network for its leading role in the establishment and operation of Rachel's Well Community Mikvah.

The Federation received the Collaborative Community Partner Wellspring Award from the Rising Tide Open Waters Mikveh Network for its operation of Rachel's Well, which opened in 2017.

“In partnership with the Oregon Board of Rabbis and the Portland Kollel, JFGP co-created Rachel's Well Community Mikvah, providing overall leadership, vision, and funding to get the project started,” the award announcement read. “Embodying the value of *shutafut* (partnership), JFGP convened community leaders, businesses, diverse stakeholders, and city officials to ensure the new mikveh was shaped by the voices and visions of every-

one in the community.”

Rachel's Well is the fourth community mikvah in Portland; the first was built in South Portland in 1902 as the Jewish Ritualarium of Portland. Relocations came in 1929 to Southwest Third Avenue and Lincoln Street and to Southwest Harrison Street in 1959 in the wake of urban renewal. In 2016, concerns over maintenance and accessibility led to the desanctification and sale of the old building and the beginning of the effort to build the new mikvah on the Schnitzer Family Campus.

“The JFGP convened a diverse group of Jewish community leaders, businesses, stakeholders, and city officials to create this important and much-needed resource,” Federation board member Sarah Rosenberg Brown said at the virtual award ceremony. “In addition, JFGP took the time to listen to people from all parts of the Jewish community and created a mikvah that is truly a place for everyone.”

Federation Chief Allocations and Engagement Officer and mikvah manager Caron Blau Rothstein accepted the award on the Federation's behalf. She thanked the Oregon Board of Rabbis, Portland Kollel, Oregon Kosher, Federation President and CEO Marc Blattner, and the volunteer immersion guides of all backgrounds that make the mikvah run.

“Rather than doing different trainings for different kinds of guides, we came together because the learning was as much about the people in the room as the content we were sharing,” Blau Rothstein said. “We learned from each other that there is value and meaning, dare I say holiness, in sharing a sacred space. The way we share isn't necessarily to be in the space altogether at one time. The magic is in different people making the space what they need it to be when they occupy it.”

To learn more about Rachel's Well visit jewishportland.org/mikvah.