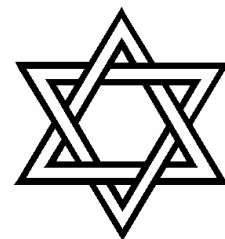


Eastside Voice



The Newsletter of the Eastside Jewish Community of Portland
PO Box 86622 — Portland, Oregon 97286

February, 2009

Vol. 18, Issue # 2

Mission Statement

“Our Mission is to further the Spiritual, Educational, and Cultural experiences of our Jewish community.”

Everyone is invited to EJCoP's Shabbat Dinner— Feb 20th

We look forward to seeing you for EJCoP's monthly Shabbat Dinner and Service at St. Ignatius School, one block north of Powell at 43rd. (3400 SE 43rd Ave.) on Friday, February 20, 2009.

Registration is at 5:30 P.M. and candle lighting at 6 P.M. This is followed by Services at 7 P.M., led by Flip Frisch. The evening will end with a sweet potluck Oneg, so please bring a dessert to share. Call ahead for reservations and if you have any questions about prices. Reservations are required. Email us at shalom@ejcop.org or phone (503) 973-5267 by the Monday before the dinner.

Remember !!!!

Our

Shabbat Dinner

In February & March

Is the

3rd Friday

!!!!

President's Message

February is an excellent month to recognize loved ones and to reflect on Eastside's caring community. In its earliest conception, Eastside Jewish Community founders recognized the need for outreach to unaffiliated Jews and their extended families. Growth, participation, and relevance would have been severely restricted without this open model.

Today, the outreach remains our best example of a caring community. EJCoP embraces differences in religious association among its family members. Our Jewish ancestry does not preclude a welcoming environment to non-Jewish spouses and children. Rather, this community warmly accepts inter-faith relationships and honors them for the uniqueness that they are. Our commitment to this ideal is not easy in the context of traditional Orthodox and Conservative theologies. Though we do not adhere to these stricter movements, our members still struggle with weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, definition of Jewish identity, and strained relationships between Jewish and non-Jewish generations. The struggles can be enormous, sometimes resulting conversion, family dispersal, communication failure, or spiritual alienation. Thankfully, EJCoP provides a coping mechanism for these situations, it buffers the pain wherever it can, and it offers cohesion and closeness in warm Jewish traditions. We personally want to thank all our members and guests, new and old, for your kindness and openness to each other. Let's recognize our loved ones in February and send the world a great big Valentine. EJCoP embraces inter-faith differences among its member community. Thank goodness.

Rita Cohen King and Bob Dragoon

The Simcha Corner—February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays: Noel King

Anniversaries: Bob and Suzi Dragoon



February Yahrzeit

Isadore Blumenfeld (Ruteizer, 2/29)

To include your loved one in future Yahrzeit notices, please send his or her name and date of passing to us at our email address: shalom@ejcop.org

Shevat/Adar 5769 (2009) Torah Portions

Date	Torah Portion	Light Candles—	Shabbat Ends—
February 6 - February 7	BESHALACH	5:06 PM	6:11 PM
February 13 - February 14	YITRO	5:16 PM	6:21 PM
February 20 - February 21	MISHPATIM	5:26 PM	6:30 PM
February 27 - February 28	TERUMAH	5:36 PM	6:40 PM

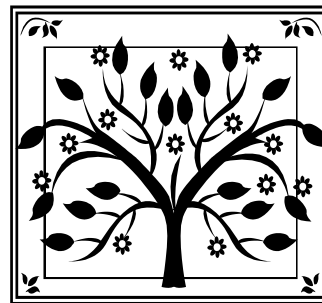
Don't Forget....



Valentine's Day

TRIBUTES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Stanley Held & Karen Fletcher



The Tree of Life

TRIBUTE FUNDS

The EJCoP has established a Tribute System through which our members and friends may honor the lives and achievements of friends and relatives. It also allows for donor gifts to go to selected designated funds and projects. Those may include the General Fund, Educational Fund and the Service Enhancement Fund. Roz Roseman has graciously agreed to be our Tribute Coordinator. The process to honor someone and to make a contribution is to send the information with a check (\$5.00 or more) to the EJCoP, P.O. Box 86622, Portland, OR 97286, and mark the envelope. "Tributes". Your gift will be acknowledged in *The Voice* and a card will be sent to your special honoree. It's a great way (and easy) to acknowledge and/or honor a friend or relative. We hope you use it often.

Volunteer Recognition

EJCoP would like to thank the following volunteers for their assistance with our most recent **Shabbat**:

**Rob Boime, Elaine Cabelly, Bob Dragoon, Elaine Israel, Margie Port,
Roz Roseman and David and Liz Silberman.**

Without your help, there would be no Shabbat celebration.
Our ongoing thanks to Chris Nacheff, without whom
there would be no newsletter.

Please let me know if we've unintentionally missed a name.



Sponsor a Shabbat Dinner

Would you like to honor a friend, family member, or special occasion?
There is no better way than to sponsor a Shabbat Dinner. Contact
Rita Cohen King at (503) 973-5267 or email her at shalom@ejcop.org

EJCoP Board Members

Board Officers:

President:	Rita Cohen King
Vice President:	Sue Sargent
Treasurer:	Rob Boime
Secretary:	Bob Dragoon
Cemetery Cmte Chair:	Michael Kay

Board Members at Large:

Shari Bandes
Elaine Israel
Noel King

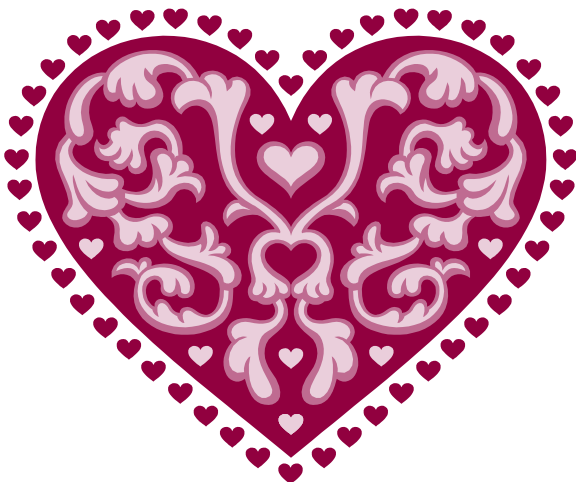
Board Advisor:

Spiritual Leader Flip Frisch



2235 SE 11th Ave. Portland,
Oregon
503-238-8883

Our thanks to Kettleman's for the
donation of our Shabbat dinner
Challahs



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Tu B'Shevat The New Year of the Trees

The evening of Sunday, February 8th, we begin the celebration of Tu B'Shevat. This holiday has changed over the years from a legal obligation to a Kabalistic inspired celebration. Originally this holiday, on the full moon, the 15th day of Shevat, was the Tax Day for all fruits in the days of the Temple. All Israelites were taxed 10 percent of their grain, produce, fruit, calves, and any other gains during the past year to support the Temple, the priests, and the poor. On Tu B'Shevat, all fruit on trees was deemed to belong to the previous tax year. While it seems strange to celebrate the New Year of the Trees even before the spring equinox, the rains have come to the land, and the roots of the trees are bringing up water for the next rebirth of leaves, flowers, and then fruits.

After the Temple was destroyed, the holiday was kept alive in the Diaspora with readings of Psalms (104 especially). About 500 years ago, the Kabalists of Safed added mystical meanings bringing the birthday of the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden into the celebration. Celebrations now included a Tu B'Shevat Seder where 4 cups of wine were blessed; white, white with red, deep red, and deep red with a drop of white, and three kinds of fruits blessed; the kind you eat whole, like a grape or a fig; the kind with a hard center, like plums, dates, or cherries, and the kind with a hard shell or a rind, like coconut, pomegranate, or orange. The wine represented the change of the seasons from bud to blossom to fruit to old leaves.

The festival took on another meaning late in the 19th century; The planting of trees by the Zionist settlers in Palestine became seen as essential to the restoration of the land. The results of the tree planting (an ecological web of seeds, ground water, insects, and small animals) made possible the renewal of agriculture (pollinators were needed). Arthur Waskow writes:

Tu B'Shevat comes at precisely the most precarious moment in the cycle of nature. The darkness of Hanukkah may look more frightening to human eyes, but the actual danger to non-human life is greater when the cold has set in deeper. So deep winter, when trees and other vegetation must struggle to begin again, may be a specially appropriate moment to commit ourselves to protect the environment and to renew the flow of nature's life in our own generation, when it is most in danger. ("Seasons of Our Joy")

Continued page 6

Continued..... **Tu B'Shevat**

Psalm 104 (adapted by Dennis Berman)

Bless Adonai, my soul;
Adonai, my God, You are very great.
You make springs gush forth in torrents;
they make their way between the hills,
giving drink to all the wild beasts;
the wild asses quench their thirst.

The birds of the sky dwell beside them
and sing among the leaves.
You make the grass grow for the cattle
and herbage for human toil,
that we may get food from the earth —
wine that cheers human hearts,
and bread that sustains human life.
The trees of Adonai are green and leafy...
The birds build their nests there,
make their home in the tree-tops.
The mountain goat haunts the high hills,
the badgers find refuge behind boulders.
You made the moon to mark seasons;
the sun knows when to set—
when you bring on dark night
and the beasts of the forest stir...
when the sun rises, they shrink away
and retire to their lairs.
People then go out and work until evening.
Countless are Your creations, Adonai,
all made with wisdom.
The earth is full of Your creatures,
living things, great and small,
and the vast ocean with innumerable creatures.
You open your hand and everything is sated,
hide your face and everything is terrified;
You remove their breath,
they perish and return to dust,
You breathe into them, they are created
and you renew the living earth.
I will sing to Adonai my whole life,
sing psalms forever to my God.
May my meditation please Adonai
as I show my joy in prayer...
Bless Adonai, my soul, Halleluyah.



EJCOP 2008 –2009 Schedule

**Event RSVP: shalom@ejcop.org or 503-97E-JCOP
(503-973-5267)**

February 20 * note 3rd Friday	Shabbat Service and Dinner
Feb 22 2 PM (Sunday)	Annual member meeting
March 20 * note 3rd Friday	Shabbat Service and Dinner
April 10 (Friday)	EJCoP Passover Seder
May 8	Shabbat Service and Dinner
June 12	Shabbat Service and Dinner

Chanukah Party

On December 27th, Eastside Jewish Community of Portland held its annual Chanukah Party and Silent Auction. After all the snow and ice of the previous weeks, we were lucky to have good weather and a great turnout. The latkes were wonderful, as usual, and Michael Kay served up mouth-watering slices of corned beef to go with everything.

The crew of volunteers arranged the auction items, and handled the cooking after setting the tables. Thanks to all of you! One volunteer, after saying she couldn't bid on anything, went home with a touchier lamp her winning bid gained for her upstairs bedroom! And my own newly engaged daughter won Sabina Smith's beautiful New Year's Eve basket. It appeared that everyone happily went home with some terrific booty!

Our deepest thanks to the following companies and individuals for their generous contributions:

Alba Osteria--Kurt Spak
Artists Repertory Theatre
Shari Bandes
Judy Brodsky
City Liquidators
Everything Jewish
Grand Central Baking Co.
The Jewish Potter

Kornblatt's
Lea Ball
Peet's Coffee and Tea
Portland Spirit
Susan Sargent
Sayler's Old Country Kitchen Eastside
David Silberman
Sabina Smith
Tzip Spak

As always, events such as this one would not be possible without our volunteers:

Troy Brigham
Diana Ginsberg
Noel King

Elaine Cabelly
Elaine Israel
Tzip Spak

Bob Dragoon
Michael Kay

Our apologies if we've inadvertently missed someone...

By Sue Sargent, Auction Coordinator

Eastside Jewish Community of Portland

Post Office Box 86622

Portland, Oregon 97286

EJCOP February 2009 At-A-Glance Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18	19	20 Shabbat Dinner	21
22 Annual Meeting	23	24	25 Board Meeting	26	27	28