

Kunst is the Yiddish Word for ART

ORA is the Hebrew word for light

Everything else in this newsletter is probably in English!

In This Issue



Meet our Co-President: Glenn Dechard

I have been interested in ceramics for a long time. It is one of the oldest of human arts, and nearly every culture has contributed to the function, design and beauty of ceramics. It is also very elemental, in its marriage of earth, water and fire. I took ceramics and art classes after high school, but my interest was soon overwhelmed by schooling, a career, and family life. In midlife my passion for clay resurfaced. I find clay endlessly fascinating. There are any number of techniques I would like to try, or to try again to improve my skills. I love throwing clay on the wheel, and throwing is a perfect metaphor for keeping me grounded and centered. Fortunately, more and more of the "experiments" I try in shaping or glazing, now are successful.

Ora has been my partner in my exploration of clay for several years. Ora has provided sales, educational opportunities and friendships that I would not have had otherwise. Ora is a community of like minded people who are accepting and have allowed me to call myself "artist," and I am grateful.

Linda Bourne, a talented and capable artist, and I have been chosen as Ora co-presidents this year. I believe we will work together well—with your help. I look forward to ensuring that Ora is here for us and for our greater community in the coming months.



Glenn Dechard

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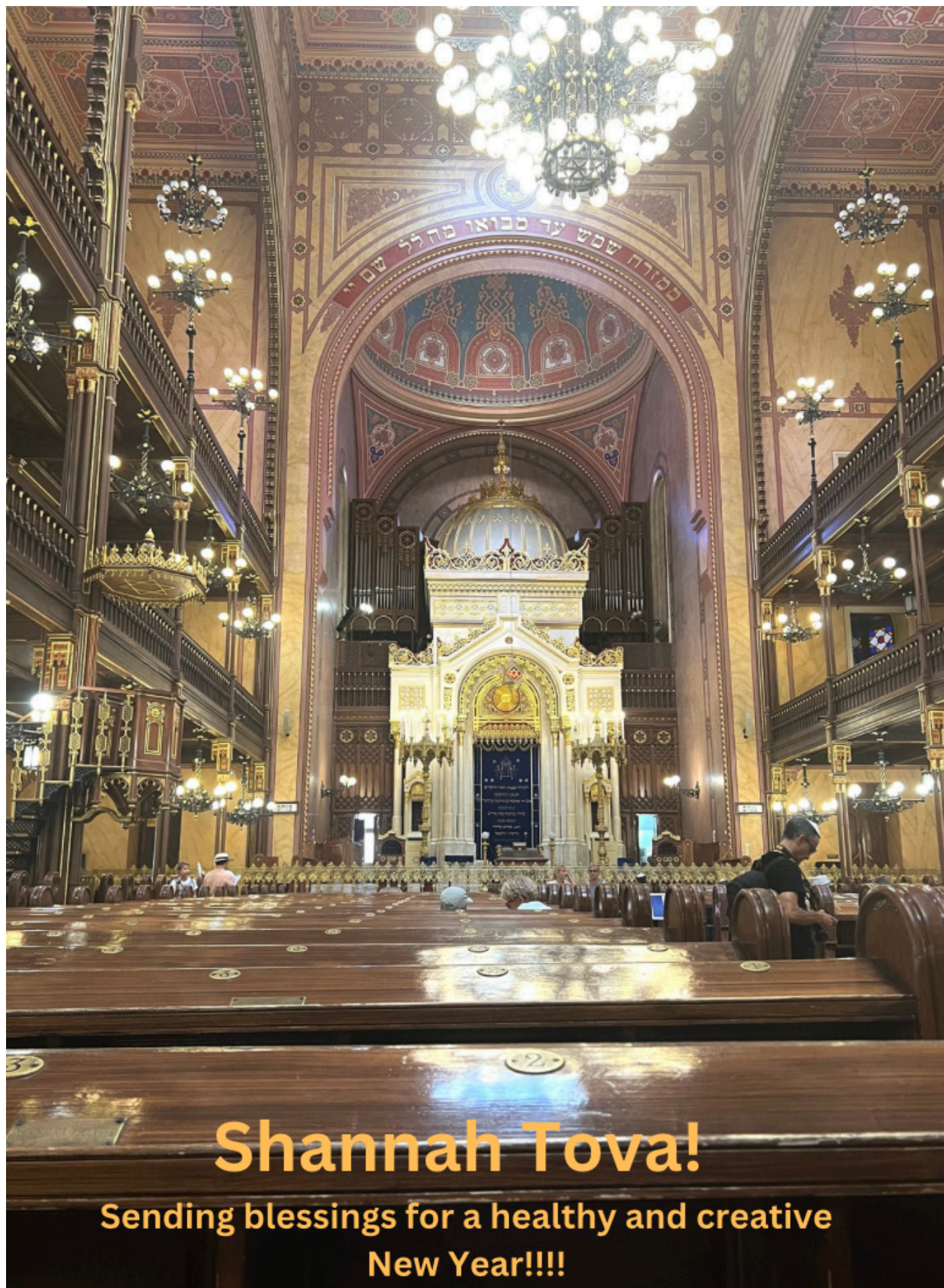
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Shannah Tova!

**Sending blessings for a healthy and creative
New Year!!!!**



FEATURED ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

ORA FRUCHTER

Theater-maker, Puppeteer,
Director and Educator

Ora Fruchter is a theater-maker, puppeteer, director and educator. Her most recent show, *The Amazing Story Machine*, uses found object puppets to celebrate imagination and collaboration. She is the recipient of a Jim Henson Foundation Family Grant, a Young Pioneers Award for innovation in Jewish education, and was selected as one of the Jewish Week's 36 Under 36 (2017). Ora is the artist-in-residence for Learning/Lab's upcoming Tishrei/October series.

In Learning/Lab, Ora is teaching a hands-on introductory puppetry workshop series where participants will explore breath as the key to discovery through the puppet. Over this four week series, we will practice bringing objects and tabletop puppets to life. Through exercises that focus on collaborative theater making, we will work towards developing and performing short puppetry works that grow out of the themes of Jewish texts. (No theater or puppetry experience required.)

Register and learn more about Learning/Lab at linktr.ee/colabjewishpdx

ORA Northwest Jewish Artists is proud to support CO-LAB! Here's a great opportunity!

Puppetry Workshop: Creativity, Breath and Jewish Wisdom (October 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th)

In this hands-on introductory puppetry workshop series, participants will explore breath as the key to discovery through the puppet. Over this four week series, we will practice bringing objects and tabletop puppets to life. Through exercises that focus on collaborative theater making, we will work towards developing and performing short puppetry works that grow out of the themes of Jewish texts. No theater or puppetry experience required. The workshop is designed as a four-part series. Sliding scale pricing is listed on the events website.

Four Tuesdays October 8, 15, 22, 29

6:00pm Optional food, drinks and conversation

7:00-8:30pm Workshop

Puppetry Workshop: Creativity, Breath and Jewish Wisdom (October 8th, 15th, 22nd &

UPCOMING ORA SHOWS!



From the Belly of the Mishkan: Art and Performative Poetry

An Art Launch and Sukkot Ritual Celebration

Thursday, October 17, 6:15 PM FREE~~~!!!

@ the EJC 2420 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland

Join us for an unforgettable evening of interactive art, poetry, and celebration in honor of Sukkot! Founding member artist **Diane Fredgant** will unveil her stunning mishkan, an immersive and sacred piece of art. This is a project years in the making! It is an exceptional piece of art!

Performative poet and storyteller **Brian Rohr** will bring his words to life from the entrance of the mishkan as he reads from his newly released collection, *Shaken to My Bones: A Poetic Midrash on the Torah*—a powerful, creative exploration of ancient stories.

Following these captivating performances, engage in a lively conversation with Diane and Brian as they share the inspiration behind their work. The evening will begin with a short, spirit-filled musical Sukkot service, setting the tone for an event filled with creativity, meaning, and community connection.



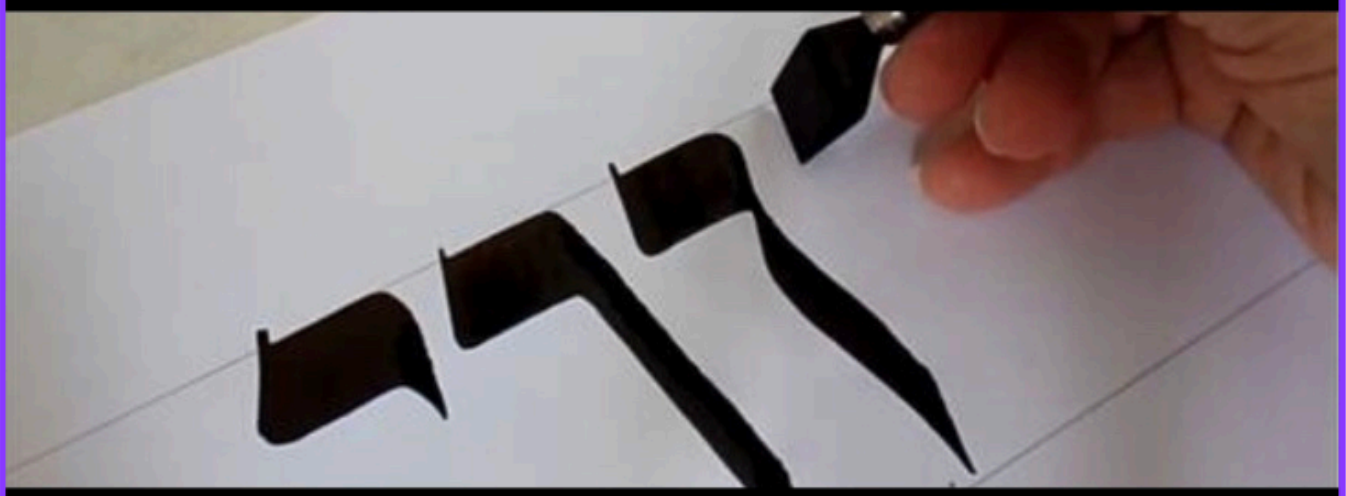
עִים חַיִּים וְשָׁלוֹם
Waters of Life and Peace

This is a wonderful collaboration between Rachel's Well; our community Mikvah, ORA Artists, Community Artists and the Jewish Community Center will open an exhibition at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center on October 30th. The artist reception will be held the evening of November 7th at 6pm.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND! You will however need photo id to enter the building.

ORA's own Simkha Shields is the instructor!!!!

Join us in November for...



Sip & Script: Hebrew Calligraphy

Tuesday, November 5, 6:00-9:00pm

ORA newsletter Fall '24

Join us for a hands-on **Hebrew calligraphy** workshop where you'll master the basics. Relax with friends and embrace the fun of turning letters into art!

\$25 per workshop (CNS/ORA Member)

\$30 per workshop (Non-member)

Professional artist instruction, beverages, snacks, and all materials provided. Fee includes supplies for you to take home.



Register at:
nevehshalom.org/art25



HANUKKAH MARKETPLACE @ MJCC

December 8-12, 2024!!!!!!



Jack Liskear, wood



Avital O'Glasser, writer



Martha Decherd, weaver

Evening Entertainment!

live music! story telling **food** **children's activities**

candles, dreidels, and chocolate gelt
and lots of ORA ARTISTS !

schedule to be announced soon!



Feedback Groups, where artists grow!



Our Feed Back Group has been meeting about once a month, at someone's house or other venue to do an art activity. We've met about once a month to share a pot luck lunch, laugh, discuss our art and make an "art" project. We have discussed an art film, made a collage and made Chanukiah menorah trays to name a few. This time we met in Barbara Bava's beautiful garden to be instructed in the ancient art of ikebana. With Barbara are Sharon Segal, Francine Goteiner, Brauna Ritchie and Glenn Decherd.

submitted by Glenn Decherd

What's your feedback group up to these days????



Ahavah Oblak Z"L

We are sad to report the passing of Ahavah Oblak on August 14, 2024. Ahavah was an active member of ORA. Although Ahavah lived in Eugene, she regularly participated in our sales events. She volunteered her time and expertise to write grants on our behalf. We have reached out to the family in the hopes of honoring her memory within ORA and are awaiting a response.

The following information was published as part of her obituary on Legacy.com

Amy began working in the non-profit world in 2013 and had experience as an executive director, development director and events coordinator. Her work experience included grant writing for a diverse range of nonprofit organizations, including tribal, Jewish, education, environmental and arts nonprofits, spanning over 25 years. She worked with people from diverse cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, promoting diversity and inclusion.

As a Federal Grant Reviewer, Amy reviewed and scored federal grant applications for charter schools, arts research, language preservation, and community development.

Amy wore many hats in her life. She was an educator, organic farmer, gardener, herbalist, daughter, sister, mother, grandmother and development specialist for the Jewish Reconstructionist movement. But at heart, she was an artist, working in an array of media. She drew inspiration from the beauty of nature, particularly the Pacific Northwest and Israel. Amy also travelled to many Grateful Dead and Bob Dylan concerts as she really loved and appreciated their music.

She leaves us with a legacy of a woman dedicated to making the world a better place. Her memory is already a blessing to all who knew her.

ORA's Mission, Vision, Value

With the help of many members at large, ORA crafted new statements regarding our mission, vision, and value proposition during 2021-2022.

Building on that, and the information gleaned from our late summer member's meeting, the board will go on a working retreat (in town- nothing glamorous!) in mid- January to further define our journey as an art guild for the next several years.

Below you will find these building blocks. Our by-laws will be re-drafted following the retreat and will be made available to all our members. Stay tuned for the details!

MISSION: ORA is a community of Jewish artists who share a love of art and creativity. We support each other through camaraderie, networking, and continued learning. We foster confidence and courage through our collective body of wisdom and grow ourselves as artists. Our exhibitions, art sales, and educational opportunities build networking and professionalism within the larger arts community.

VISION: ORA is a recognized regional presence in the Jewish and secular community. a vibrant tapestry of partnerships, collaborations and opportunities across diverse art forms. ORA foster artistic growth and professionalism, We encourage each artistic voice and nurture the creative soul.

VALUE PROPOSITION: We are the home where Jewish artists find support, community, and inspiration.