Public Program

Monday, November 14  7 p.m.
Temple De Hirsch Sinai
1441 16th Avenue, Seattle

Stolen Legacy
NAZI THEFT AND THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE

HOW CAN WE SEEK JUSTICE FOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS whose property was seized and whose lives were torn apart? Author Dina Gold describes the Nazi theft of her family’s business in Berlin, her extensive battle to reclaim it, and the Museum resources that help build restitution cases.

SPEAKERS
SUZANNE BROHAN-FLEMING, Author of Nazi Persecution and Postwar Reparations and Director, Visiting Scholar Programs, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
DINA GOLD, Author of Stolen Legacy: Nazi Theft and the Quest for Justice at Knausenstrasse 19/18, Berlin
MODERATOR
DR. EDNA FRIEDBERG, Historian, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Gold and Brown-Fleming will be signing copies of their books, which will be available for sale. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is required at ushmm.org/events/stolen-legacy-wa.

The back of the Wolff family headquarters in 1919, the year the building was constructed. Courtesy of Mittleman Architectural and Historical Foundation.

HIGH FASHION
EMBRACE THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN COMFORTABLE STYLE, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM LOCAL FASHIONISTAS.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUCIEN KNUTSON
STYLING BY EMMA RANIGER  |  HAIR & MAKEUP BY KATHY EVANS

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2016  |  JEWISH IN SEATTLE  |  19
COVER GIRLS

Mimi Max’s frothy frocks cover all the bases.

BY EMILY K. ALAIVIEFF

FROM FASHION CAN EASILY GO ONE OF TWO DIRECTIONS: FORMLESS AND VANDAL OF ANY STYLE, OR FIGURE-TIPPING BUT HITTING ALL THE COVERAGE POINTS. SISTERS-TO-SISTERS MIMI HECHT, 30, AND HUSKY NOLTIE, 27, WANTED SOMETHING DIFFERENT. INSPIRED TO CREATE OVER-SIZE, EFFORTLESS AND COMFORTABLE YET STYLISH PIECES WITHOUT A DESIGNER PRICE TAG, HECHT AND NOLTIE JUMPED INTO THE FASHION BUSINESS. “LET’S TAKE A SLAB OF MATERIAL AND MAKE SURE IT COVERS ALL THE RIGHT PLACES,” HECHT SAYS OF THEIR FIRST DESIGN DAYS, BEFORE THEIR LAUNCH IN 2013. “WE’RE BOTH BUSY MOMS. WE DON’T FOLLOW MAGAZINES; WE DON’T HAVE MAJOR INSPIRATION. WE WERE JUST THINKING, ‘WHAT DO WE WANT TO CREATE?’ BEFORE THEY COULD BE HAGGAR DOWN IN CREATING A BUSINESS, THEY PUT UP A WEBSITE (MINIMAX.COM) WITH THEIR FIRST PIECES FOR SALE.

Mimi Max first took off in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, where Hecht and Noltie live as part of the Chabad community. But about two months later, they noticed that shoppers were coming to the site from around the world. And not just Jewish women, but anyone who wanted the loose, minimalist, full-coverage items they were creating. Today, their Instagram account (@minimax) has 30,000 followers, and their brand has blown up as part of a modest fashion revolution. They’ve been highlighted in Vogue and Marie Claire.

Hecht (née Noltie) grew up in Seattle, one of Mendel and Leah Noltie’s seven children. Hecht’s brother is married to Mushky (née Hayes), who grew up in a Chabad eminatory home in Ottawa. Both women credit their upbringing as influential. “I definitely feel like being from out of town has shaped my openness and appreciation for diversity,” Hecht says. After some Jewish followers expressed outrage when a Muslim blogger wearing Mimi Max appeared on their Instagram feed, Hecht and Noltie dug in their ditches.

“OUR FAMILIES ARE VERY MIGHTY ABOUT TREATING EVERY HUMAN BEING WITH RESPECT. THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT’S GOING TO STICK AROUND JUST FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY,” HECHT SAYS. “THE LUBAVITCHER REBBIE WAS ALL ABOUT THAT. THERE’S ALWAYS ONE THING THAT YOU CAN CONNECT WITH, NO MATTER HOW DIFFERENT THEY SEEM. IF WHAT WE’RE DOING CAN BE A UNITING FORCE, THEN WE’RE ALL ABOUT THAT.”

The experience became an opportunity for them to express that belief in connecting with all women. Additionally, their role as Orthodox “mommies” has allowed them to break through the stereotypes of oppression and repression they see based on religious women—Jewish, Muslim, and beyond. “It kind of just fell into our laps,” Noltie says. “We didn’t intend to change anyone’s perspective on what Orthodox women were like, it wasn’t part of our mission. We follow a lot of intuition, and we follow where our brand takes us.”

FOR FEAST OR FAST

Substantial layers and loose fabrics perfectly suited for comfortable —clips will take you all the way to break-the-fast.

Heaven side-effect dress. Mimi Max.
Italian cashmere tunic.
Antique silver bracelet. by Seattle-Basin.
Satin and velvet double-layer 18K gold and diamond choker. by Seattle’s Camera Love.
Anna Wu.
18K gold-plated footed cuff.

ROSH HABANAH KNOCKOUT

You can’t go wrong with Mimi Max’s trendy dresses — you go blue that shine.

Silk-embroidered Caftan. Mimi Max.
Arugula V-neck white and red caftan with fringe. by Seattle-Basin.
Adina 18K gold-plated stackable bangles. by Seattle’s Camera Love.
Annika Miller.
18K gold-plated footed cuff.

SHUL CHIC

Page 10: If the closets you’re going to yet, the red carpet is your congregational sanctuary, you may as well glam it up.

Vince Ward叔タクシー Cosmo’s, by Seattle’s Camera Love.
Vera Wang tie-dye dress.
Clack bulk leather and suede handbag. by Seattle’s Camera Love.
Golden liquid-amedid gold-filled bracelet from Yaron Marcas.

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STAY WARM UNDER THE STARS

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MEALS WITH FRIENDS
The holiday dinner table calls for casual comfort. Cameron Levin's hand-blown necklace adds a pop of elegance.

Dina McCarthy
Long-sleeve short-sleeve dress, Chanel.
Alessandra Rich,
Colored Liquid Amour pants, by Alexander McQueen,
Cushnie et Ochs,
Ralph Lauren,
Reformation,
Anya Hindmarch,
Dolce & Gabbana,
Dean and Deluca,
Necklace by B. The Label.

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ACTIVIST FASHION
We love Cameron.
BY AMANDA ZUBIT.

I HAVE A AMAZING PICTURE OF MY great grandfather and his sons in front of their women's tailoring shop in New York," Cameron Levin says. "I guess I'm just in the blood." But Levin's familial predisposition to a career in design wasn't always so evident. For six years she worked in fund-raising at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. Though she had always considered herself an artist of sorts, it wasn't until a few years ago that her path crossed into fashion. In 2009, she enrolled in night classes at a small Seattle design school before officially stepping into fashion design in 2012. Levin describes her collections as thoughtfully curated, designed with artistic, smart women in mind. Her eponymous line (found at lovecameron.com) is inspired by the brands of the past, but современность without being trendy, sophisticated without seeming stuffy, and full of luxurious fabrics and flattering shapes that you'd expect to see at a much higher price point. Her designs catch the eye of the buyers at Butch Blum, one of the region's most lauded boutiques, where Levin is one of only a select few local designers to ever be carried by the shop. Fashion isn't just about the clothes. In 2012, the Susan G. Komen Foundation threatened to cut funding to Planned Parenthood, Levin quickly organized the Pink Carpet Project, a fashion show that raised money for Planned Parenthood Northwest. "Fashion is interesting in that it sits at the intersection of so many social, political, and environmental issues," she says. "The ability to raise awareness for something important can be a way to engage the community. It's another way for designers to be a catalyst for social change."

LEVIN also takes pride in building a brand focused on organic and domestically sourced materials, as well as production done almost entirely in Washington state. "While few consumers are aware of the apparel industry's environmental toll, fashion revolves around natural resources," she says. The result is a higher quality product made with preservation in mind and a garment that the wearer can feel both good in and about. Her ancestors would be proud.●

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BUTCH BLUES

Butch Bluem's cozy wool blends in blue and gray are a perfect fit for Seattle fall.

- Descended from Russian Jews and born to clothing and shoe retailers in Salem, Oregon, Butch Bluem fell in love with fashion. After a trip to Italy in the 1960s, he landed in Seattle as a buyer for The Bar March. In 1974, he opened his self-titled boutique downtown, where he introduced designer European fashion for men and women in the Northwest. Butch Bluem recently changed hands, but the quality and mission haven't. Connoisseurs of fashion flock to Seattle to visit the shop, which has been named a curator of some of the world's finest designs. —EA

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