

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Starr, Rosenbaum

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Lori Brocker, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: In memoriam: Emily Georges Gottfried, 1955-2013.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ms. Gottfried’s work on behalf of and within Jewish community in Portland and throughout state
- Ecumenical work and advocacy
- Co-founder of Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger and work with Oregon Food Bank
- Capacity for bringing people and communities together
- Commitment to social justice and creating better world for all
- Creator and nurturer of “bridges” to other faith traditions from her foundation in Judaism
- Organizer and leader of Holocaust Remembrance Day events
- “Linchpin” for many people and organizations
- Memorial service celebrating Ms. Gottfried’s life

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Specifically references Emily Gottfried’s ecumenism, efforts against intolerance, and advocacy against hunger.

BACKGROUND: Emily Georges Gottfried was born March 19, 1955. A native Oregonian, she grew up in Southwest Portland, where she graduated from Wilson High School before earning two college degrees: one in religion from Pomona College and another in music education from the University of Oregon. Ms. Gottfried also received a master’s degree in vocal performance from the University of New Mexico. She used her extensive musical skills in a variety of ways, including as cantor at Congregation Albert in Albuquerque, N.M. from 1983 to 1988. Ms. Gottfried and her young family returned from New Mexico to Portland in 1988. From 1988 to 1999, she was the Cultural Arts, Special Events and Publicity Director at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland. She was named the Director of the American Jewish Committee, Oregon Chapter, from 1999 to 2009, becoming Executive Director of the new entity, the Oregon Area Jewish Committee, in 2009. She was serving in that capacity at the time of her death.

Ms. Gottfried was a great leader, and well-loved beyond the Jewish community she served so well. She was a key figure in Catholic-Jewish dialogue in Portland and worked tirelessly to nurture ecumenical relations with many faiths. She was active in fighting hunger throughout the state, particularly with the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger, an entity she helped organize. Ms. Gottfried also organized and led the events surrounding Holocaust Remembrance Day, including the reading of victims’ names in Portland’s Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Emily Gottfried died January 27, 2013 at the age of 57. A celebration of her life was attended by more than 1,200 people who had been touched, nurtured and mentored by her. Ms. Gottfried is survived by her loving family and countless friends.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 3A honors and memorializes the life of Emily Georges Gottfried.

5/13/2013 1:52:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.