

## = Shemanski Fountain =

Shemanski Fountain , also known as Rebecca at the Well , is an outdoor fountain with a bronze sculpture , located in the South Park Blocks of downtown Portland , Oregon , in the United States . The sandstone fountain was designed in 1925 , completed in 1926 , and named after Joseph Shemanski , a Polish immigrant and businessman who gave it to the city . Carl L. Linde designed the trefoil , which features a statue designed by Oliver Laurence Barrett . The sculpture , which was added to the fountain in 1928 , depicts the biblical personage Rebecca . Shemanski Fountain includes two drinking platforms with three basins each , with one platform intended for use by dogs .

The fountain underwent major renovations between 1987 and 1988 and in 2004 . It has been vandalized on several occasions and has been used as a reference point for gatherings . It has also has been included in public art guides and walking tours of Portland . According to " cultureNOW " , the statue Rebecca at the Well is part of the City of Portland and Multnomah County Public Art Collection courtesy of the Regional Arts & Culture Council ? the agency that maintains the sculpture . The fountain surrounding the statue , often considered part of the artwork , is maintained by the Portland Water Bureau with assistance from the Regional Arts & Culture Council .

## = = Description = =

Shemanski Fountain was designed by Carl L. Linde in 1925 , and is located behind the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall between Main Street and Salmon Street in Shemanski Park , part of the South Park Blocks of downtown Portland , Oregon . It was gifted to Portland by Joseph Shemanski ( 1869 ? 1951 ) , a Polish immigrant who became a successful businessman after founding Eastern Outfitting Co . , to " express in small measure gratitude " for what the city offered to him . The fountain is triangular and cast from Oregon sandstone . The Italianesque trefoil supports two drinking platforms with three basins each , with one platform intended for use by dogs . Inara Verzemnieks of The Oregonian described the fountain 's lower water basins as " cute little bowl @-@ sized pools at the base " for the purpose of serving pets " who did not have a place to cool off " . Thayne Logan , a designer who worked for Linde , said that Shemanski " wanted something for the little animals " . Logan also said that the fountain 's original design called for granite , but it was constructed of cast stone because of that material 's popularity at the time . According to the Regional Arts & Culture Council , the fountain is 144 inches ( 3 @. @ 7 m ) high and has a diameter of 224 inches ( 5 @. @ 7 m ) . An inscription around the top of the fountain reads : " To the People of / The City of Portland / By Joseph Shemanski " . Other inscriptions include " O. Barrett SC ' 27 Cal . Br . Foundry , L.A " and a signed Founder 's mark . The bottom of the fountain is decorated with busts of females . It is maintained by the Portland Water Bureau with assistance from the Regional Arts & Culture Council .

The fountain 's original design included a large planter , but following its construction Shemanski hired Oliver Laurence Barrett to create a bronze statue to replace the vase . Barrett , an arts professor at the University of Oregon , designed Rebecca at the Well , though his reasons for depicting the Biblical personage Rebecca fetching water are unknown . According to Portland Parks & Recreation , which operates the South Park Blocks , he chose Rebecca for " her hospitality to strangers and kindness to animals " . The bureau has also said that Rebecca was chosen because of her offers to draw water for Abraham . The statue , which depicts Rebecca holding a jug on her right shoulder , was added to the fountain in 1928 . Rebecca at the Well measures 42 inches ( 110 cm ) x 18 inches ( 46 cm ) x 14 inches ( 36 cm ) and is maintained by the Regional Arts & Culture Council .

## = = History = =

Shemanski petitioned the City Council to let him gift the fountain , which began operating on September 3 , 1926 . In 1987 , the fountain 's plumbing was repaired and a new base was poured as part of a renovation of the South Park Blocks . That same year , Logan and two other men ?

David L. Lipman and Jeff Wolfstone , grandson and great @-@ grandson of Shemanski , respectively ? approached the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation , advocating for the fountain 's restoration . During the renovation process , the fountain was thoroughly cleaned , had missing pieces such as finials and urns replaced and chipped corners repaired , and was coated with a sealant to protect it from the elements and graffiti . In July 1988 , the fountain re @-@ opened following nearly a year of reconditioning . A dedication ceremony to mark the restoration was held on the afternoon of July 18 . One park designer with the Park Bureau said , " the water will be turned on for the first time that anybody can remember . " Lipman , Logan and Wolfstone attended the ceremony . Logan , aged 88 , was the only surviving person who participated in the fountain 's design and construction . The men offered funds for part of the renovation and the purchase of a bronze plaque that includes the original rendering done by Logan and describes the fountain 's history and recent work . Costs for the plaque and renovation totaled \$ 14 @,@ 000 .

The fountain and sculpture were surveyed by the Smithsonian 's Save Outdoor Sculpture ! program in 1993 . Lee Lacey advocated for a 2004 restoration of the fountain ; his lobbying efforts , among other accomplishments , earned him the Downtown Neighborhood Association 's inaugural First Neighbor Award in 2005 . The restoration was completed by conservator Marie Laibinis @-@ Craft and Pioneer Waterproofing . In 2008 , The Oregonian reported that the fountain was " completely dry " .

According to The Oregonian , the fountain and statue " commemorates kindness " ; however it has been vandalized on several occasions . In 1988 , three brass bowls were removed from the recently renovated fountain . In 2007 , the statue of Rebecca was pushed off its base , resulting in nearly \$ 10 @,@ 000 in damage . In 2008 , one of the fountain 's three brass nozzles was stolen . In December 2011 , when Occupy Portland protesters were camping at Shemanski Park , a cup of coffee was drawn on the statue using a marker or paint .

The fountain has been used as a reference point for gatherings . In 2001 , following the September 11 attacks , a peace shrine consisting of flowers , " scrawled words " and candles was erected at the fountain . In 2003 , People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals displayed photographs of slaughterhouses next to those of Nazi extermination camps by the fountain . In 2006 , a PDX AIDS Day Promise Vigil was held in conjunction with World AIDS Day at the site . In 2010 , 600 Catholic women and their supporters gathered at the site for the first " One Spirit ? One Call " event , which brought focus to their role within the Church . Shemanski Fountain was chosen at the gathering site for its depiction of Rebecca .

= = Reception = =

AOL Travel said that Rebecca is depicted " with motion and grace " . Shemanski Fountain has been included in public art guides and walking tours of fountains in downtown Portland . In 1988 , The Oregonian 's Suzanne Richards referred to Shemanski Fountain as " one of the city 's favorite fountains " . In 2006 , Bonnie Darves of The Oregonian included the fountain in her walking tour of Portland landmarks , and said it is " worth getting wet for " .