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# THE JEWISH REVIEW

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OREGON & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S JEWISH NEWSPAPER

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## Pride puts on a show in Portland

Right: Jewish drag queen Poly Poptart delights spectators at the head of the Jewish Pride Greater PDX contingent in the annual Portland Pride Parade Sunday, July 20 in Northwest Portland. See more photographs from the Jewish groups in the parade beginning on page 10 and read perspectives from columnists Jessica Anderson and Rockne Roll on pages 16 and 17, respectively. Below: A marcher, sporting a rainbow *kippah*, awaits the parade's start in the North Park Blocks formation area. (Photos by Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



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**The Jewish Review Podcast**



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## Where politics and *Pirkei Avot* intersect

*Portland City Council President Elana Pirtle-Guinea is the only Jewish member of Portland's City Council. In her first term representing District Two, which includes North and Northeast Portland, she led the council in establishing its operating procedures following charter reform and passing a city budget amidst difficult cuts and divergent priorities. She joined Jewish Review Editor Rockne Roll for a discussion of how the city's new government model has developed and how her Judaism and her experiences in politics intersect. A portion of their conversation is transcribed below. For the full conversation, check out "City Conversation with Elana Pirtle-Guinea" on The Jewish Review Podcast, available on all major podcast platforms. This transcript has been edited for brevity and clarity.*

**The Jewish Review:** So, in addition to being the president of the council, you carry another distinction in that you are, to my knowledge, the only Jew on the city council. I want to cover first, the routine question that I'm sure you get a lot, how does your Judaism impact your work as a lawmaker?

**Elana Pirtle-Guinea:** I grew up with the brand of Reform Judaism that was all about social justice and environmentalism and economic justice and labor rights, and all of those values that have influenced my work in every point of my career and certainly influenced my take as a lawmaker come from the Judaism that I was raised within. It's just a fundamental piece of who I am, right? The Pirkei Avot line about not needing to finish the task, but also not being free from starting it is a piece of how I've approached everything that I do.

**JR:** So now let's flip that question on its head, perhaps, how has your experience in politics influenced your outlook on Judaism?

**EPG:** I like that. I like this flip. Every experience that you have gives you greater insight into other pieces of your life, and sometimes you don't realize how much something influences your outlook and your decision making, until you realize how differently other people approach that same work. As context, I sit politically in the middle on council. People talk about the leftist wing, the moderate wing; I am not a part of either of those groups. I had one of my colleagues say to me early on, in kind of a snarky way, 'well, sometimes I think you just want to be in the middle for the sake of it, find compromise for the sake of it.' I paused and I thought about how Judaism encourages debate, and how Judaism encourages you to question what you're given. I did policy work before being on City Council, as well. This is something that has been true throughout my career, and is certainly true in how I work as a city councilor, and my outlook on policy making has always been to take what I'm given and ask 'What else? What other information isn't there? What would your opponents tell me? Even if I agree with you, I want to know what your opponents are going to say. I think policy is

made better by hearing from your opponents and adjusting based on that feedback, not necessarily to compromise for the sake of compromise, but to find the vulnerabilities and the weaknesses in a policy and strengthen it, and that very much is tied to the Jewish ideas of questioning and of debate and of digging deeper that are a part of Torah study.

**JR:** I was going to say that sounds almost Talmudic.

**EPG:** Yes, and I think that that Talmudic approach very much influences how I do policy work.

**JR:** I have to imagine that the building consensus and finding those compromise points has become more challenging in the era of politics that we're currently in where policy issues get litigated on social media and policy making sometimes takes a back seat to political positioning. From your lens, working in labor issues and then getting into city governance, how have you seen that play out?

**EPG:** The national rhetoric has trickled down. I think the national rhetoric is worse now than ever before, but in modern history, there's always been that biting tone at the national level. In between doing labor work and being on city council, I did policy work at the state level, and I remember watching the change as the rhetoric at the state level got more and more reflective of the national rhetoric. I didn't grow up here, but I moved here when I was 17, and the Oregon that I moved to still had that kind of libertarian on both the left and the right feel, this sense of 'we do things a little bit differently here,' and I watched the national rhetoric creep in more and more to state policy making. I think it's different at the local level, because the issues that we tackle are so different, we're not going to see that same level of national rhetoric, but we do see the dynamics even at the local level, not just in Portland, in a lot of local governments, more than I think we probably did 20 or 30 years ago.

**JR:** We've even seen international rhetoric trickle down into the local level in, of all issues, Israel and Palestine, which I'm sure impacts you differently as a Jewish person.

**EPG:** It does, and one of the things that I said during the campaign is that my job as a city councilor is to make sure that this is a safe, respectful, comfortable community for all Portlanders, and that includes Jewish Portlanders, that includes Israeli Portlanders, that also includes Arab and Muslim and Palestinian Portlanders. When people asked me during the campaign to weigh in on resolutions and things that I knew were going to make this an uncomfortable at best, and unsafe at worst, place for any of those communities, I kind of took offense at that, frankly, because our job is to make this an inclusive city. One of the things that I see is that when antisemitism is on the rise, anti-Muslim rhetoric and hate crimes are also often on the rise. Those things rise and fall together. Our safety and our connectedness in this community rises and falls together, usually.





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# Dignity Grows kicks off in Vancouver Aug. 17

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Dignity Grows, the project of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Women's Philanthropy devoted to providing menstrual and basic hygiene supplies to those who need them most, is gearing up for a new year of new opportunities for volunteers.

Kicking off with a volunteer social in late July, the group is hosting its first packing party of its fall-to-spring calendar on Aug. 17 in a new location – Vancouver, Wash.

"It's an opportunity to expand programming into Vancouver both for Dignity Grows and for the Federation as a whole," Federation Volunteer Coordinator Merit Pinker explained. "We know that there is a really vibrant Jewish community there and we want to make sure that they feel included in the services that we offer."

The Vancouver packing party also marks the first event for Dignity Grows' newest distribution partner, Washington's Educational Service District 112. Washington's ESDs are regional entities that provide resources to educators and districts as well as direct support programs for the most vulnerable students and their families. ESD 112 covers more than 99,000 students across 30 school districts – as well as private and state-operated schools – in southwest Washington. An administrator with the ESD came to a Dignity Grows packing party last year, and a connection has blossomed from there.

"Merit, Wendy [Kahn, the Federation's Chief Development Officer] and I had a chance to tour ESD 112, learn about their services, and see the facilities. They are doing such creative, innovative, needed work and results that they're seeing are wild," Dignity Grows chair Arielle Goranson said. "It's amazing to be able to be connected in some small way to an organization doing that."

"ESD 112 is a first-of-its-kind model for other ESDs around the nation because it works with students experiencing mental health issues and behavioral problems that are affecting their ability to perform in the classroom and brings them to an environment specifically designed to deal with those problems and



Volunteers load Dignity Grows' signature hygiene totes at the groups Sunday, May 18 packing party at Cedar Sinai Park's Rose Schnitzer Manor in Portland. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

then get them back into a traditional school environment as soon as they're ready," Pinker added. "They are going to start distributing our packs in their school, both for their students who have started to menstruate and find that they are unable to access products, and also for the family members of those students because we know that they are experiencing period poverty as well and the school is one of the places where they can find resources."

Previous Dignity Grows participants will also notice a new feel to this year's events. While the basic task of placing supplies into tote bags remains the same, the activities surrounding that work are getting a refresh to appeal to veteran packers and newcomers alike.

"We are trying to switch up the way that our packs run so that we are always presenting new information in a fun way," Pinker said. "There's a chance for everybody who attends, whether new or returning, to learn something new and engage with the content in a different way."

"People seem to really enjoy engaging with the distribution partners and understanding where these totes are having impact. We love that," Goranson said. "We love new volunteers. We love volunteers who were here years

ago and maybe they've stepped away and now we're able to invite them back. One of the ways we think that that we can facilitate this is by mixing up how the packs kind of feel every time."

It's just one of the reasons that Portland's Dignity Grows chapter has become a recognized leader nationally – including being selected to moderate a discussion session at the National Summit on Period Poverty this October in Atlanta. Goranson will be traveling to the conference representing Portland's chapter.

"An opportunity came up for us to not only to attend and have representation at the national summit, but also to lead some of the conversations," she said. "I'm really excited to do that and excited to learn."

"It's a big deal for her. She's going to be in front of not just leaders of other Dignity Grows chapters, but nonprofits who are addressing this issue nationwide," Pinker said of Goranson. "Researchers, politicians, you name it."

Registration for the Vancouver packing party, scheduled for 10:30 am on Sunday, Aug. 17, is now open. For more information and to sign up, visit [jewishportland.org/dignitygrowspacking-august](https://jewishportland.org/dignitygrowspacking-august).

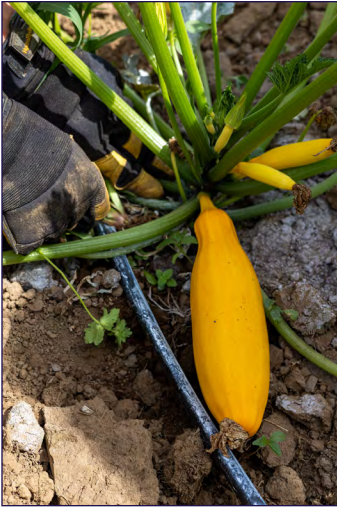


# Mitzvah Project pulls weeds at Northwest Portland nonprofit farm

Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Young adult volunteers joined Lift Urban Portland at Verdier Farms northwest of the city for a Mitzvah Project volunteer service day Sunday, July 27. The group, along with the Mitzvah Makers young families project earlier in the day, helped pull weeds from a field of zucchinis which are grown exclusively for distribution to local non-profits.







The Jewish Summer Festival returns to Northwest Portland Wednesday, Aug. 20. (Courtesy Chabad Young Professionals)

## CYP's Summer Festival is Aug. 20 in NW PDX

By ROCKNE ROLL  
*The Jewish Review*

Back after a year's absence, Portland's Jewish Summer Festival returns with a new location and a new format but with the same long-held goal.

"The whole idea is that we're celebrating life. We're celebrating Jewish life, Jewish culture," Sheina Posner with Chabad Young Professionals, who is organizing the festival, said. "We're celebrating joy. It's not about fighting something. It's celebrating what we have."

The festival, in its fourth year, is set for 5-7 pm on Wednesday, Aug. 20. The format will change from the "movie night" of year's past to feature a performance by The Green Brothers Band.

"I want to expose Portland to Jewish music, more than we have here," Posner said. "They have the vibe we're looking for."

The festival will also move from its longtime home at The Fields Park in Portland's Pearl District to Jameson Square Park five blocks south. The Fields Park is currently closed for construction of Pacific Power's Willamette River Crossing Project.

The first goal is to celebrate Jewish identity publicly. While security personnel will be present through the event for the safety of all involved, Posner said that some of the questions her husband, Rabbi Meir Posner, gets about wearing his *kippah* and other outward symbols of Jewish identity in public are at the root of what motivates the festival.

"He hasn't experienced anything negative by him walking around as a Jew, but there's a lot of fear from people," Sheina Posner said. "This is an opportunity to say, 'Let's be together outside as Jews, to be who we are in a joyous way.'"

Another important goal is to welcome non-Jews to interact with Jewish culture and Jewish people. Posner said that previous iterations of the festival have welcomed 400 or so attendees each, with roughly half being non-Jews.

"When I asked people, 'Do you have any colleagues that

See **FESTIVAL**, page 12

## 'Possibilities' for all at Ahava Northwest's Aug. 10 event

By ROCKNE ROLL  
*The Jewish Review*

When you're single and looking – or even when you're not – meeting new people unlocks worlds of possibilities.

That's the point behind Ahava Northwest's "Pints and Possibilities" Tu B'Shvat event, scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 10 from 4-8 pm. It's a mix-and-mingle event for all who are looking to meet their fellow members of the tribe and – for those with more romantic intentions – an inclusive speed dating event.

It's the first public-facing event for Ahava Northwest, the Portland endeavor of co-founders, Beni Henig and Whitney Jacobson. The pair launched their endeavor in February with the premise that dating is hard – but it can be easier.

"There's definitely a lot of need in the area for Jewish dating, Jewish matchmaking. A good buddy of ours ended up moving to Washington, D.C. to follow a lady friend of his," Henig explained. "Our goal is to make sure that's not necessary."

Jacobson explained that they started out helping clients improve their online dating profiles, but found that even with that kind of support, dating apps aren't for everyone.

"We were finding that a lot of people are just tired of doing the apps, they're tired of the constant churn of rejection and the gamification of things," she said, and it would be so nice if you could know ahead of time kind of what some of their intentions are, if they're potentially a good match before even 'swiping.'"

Matchmaking in Jewish circles, of course, has a long and storied tradition dating back to the Talmud. While the work of traditional matchmakers (*shidduchim* in Hebrew) has become better known through popular media like the Netflix series "Jewish Matchmaking" starring Alecz Ben Shalom, this type of matchmaking is typically geared toward Orthodox communities and emphasize heterosexuality and the deliberate goal of marriage. Ahava Northwest works to apply a matchmaker's approach to a wider range of potential relationships.

"There's been a lot of support, a lot of people saying, 'This is really great. We're so glad this exists,'" Jacobson added. "Our end goal is, if you're in the broader Pacific Northwest region, if you're single and you're Jewish and you're looking for someone else who's Jewish, like, here's where to go to connect."

Tu B'Shvat marked the beginning of the grape harvest in ancient Israel and was marked by unmarried women in Jerusalem going out to dance in the vineyards dressed in white. Scholars have assigned numerous other symbolism to the date in the intervening centuries, and the holiday has become a celebration of love and a popular date for weddings, earning the nickname "Jewish Valentine's Day." While finding love will be one of the many possibilities of Ahava Northwest's event, making a platonic connection is also on the table.

See **AHAVA**, page 12



# Rabbi Goldstein joins Shir Tikvah from Gonzaga

By ROCKNE ROLL  
*The Jewish Review*

Rabbi Elizabeth Goldstein has been searching for the right pulpit for quite a while.

“I’ve had a lifelong dream to find the right congregation and to really serve like a multi-generational community,” she said, “and to take the skills from my teaching and to be more engaged in Torah and Torah study and Torah teaching.”

Dreams do come true – Rabbi Goldstein is the new Rabbi at Portland’s Congregation Shir Tikvah, succeeding retiring Rabbi Ariel Stone, the congregation’s first rabbi..

Rabbi Goldstein comes to Portland from Spokane, Wash., where she has been teaching at Gonzaga University for the past 15 years since receiving her doctorate in Ancient Jewish History from the University of California, San Diego. She will continue teaching at Gonzaga for the next two academic years, splitting her time between Spokane and Portland during that stretch.

While she has not previously held a full-time congregational post, Rabbi Goldstein has supported and led services on a periodic basis for congregations in Richland and Pullman, Wash. and in Moscow, Idaho. She’s also been instrumental in supporting Jewish student life at Gonzaga – helping many of her students who are experiencing some of the same transitions she experienced moving to Spokane, which is home to a very small Jewish community, and to Gonzaga, a Jesuit-run institution. Rabbi Goldstein led fundraising efforts to acquire a *sefer Torah* and worked to secure a Jewish sacred space for student use in College Hall, adjacent to the main campus



Congregation Shir Tikvah's Rabbi Elizabeth Goldstein, pictured at the synagogue Thursday, July 24. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

chapel. She recalls talking to students who, even having attended Jesuit-run private high schools, were not prepared for the Catholic culture they found at Gonzaga.

“I basically built like a JSU,” Rabbi Goldstein explained. “We built High Holidays and Jewish programming and a Jewish Culture Club. I really spent a lot of my time not publishing and building a Jewish student life community on the Gonzaga campus.”

Rabbi Goldstein’s journey in the rabbinate began following her undergraduate work at Dartmouth College – after a fellowship at the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies, she enrolled at the Jewish Theological Seminary. After completing a chaplaincy program at hospitals in San Francisco, she

and her partner, later wife, left JTS for Hebrew Union College in New York.

“Those were the years where you couldn’t be openly gay at the Jewish Theological Seminary,” Rabbi Goldstein said. “I thought that if I stayed the Jewish Theological Seminary, I would be a very angry 27-year-old.”

By the time she was ordained, Rabbi Goldstein had already been taking graduate courses in Jewish texts and ancient Israel from New York University, just across the street from HUC’s campus, and decided to continue in academia. She and her wife relocated to San Diego, where she began pursuing her doctorate – punctuated by having two sets of twins. Following graduation, she began as an Assistant Professor at Gonzaga, being promoted to

Associate Professor in 2017. She’s also taught for ALEPH Ordination Program, which trains Jewish Renewal rabbis. She’s been on the lookout for the right congregation – growing up in a non-affiliated but Conservative-leaning synagogue and attending an Orthodox day school but feeling attached to the social justice emphasis of the Reform movement, she was looking for a community that prioritized Torah study and traditional ritual forms but had a progressive outlook.

Cometh the hour, cometh the synagogue.

“When I opened up the *sid-dur* online for Shir Tikvah, that was like ‘Oh, this is like a traditional *davening*. (prayer)’ I can get behind this,” Rabbi Goldstein recalled. “Between the robust Torah study and the robust liturgy, and they’re open to adding more Friday evening services, I thought, ‘OK, this is my place;’ and it’s progressive and it’s LGBTQ-friendly.”

Rabbi Goldstein also expressed appreciation for the sharing of space and programming that Shir Tikvah has achieved with the Eastside Jewish Commons – providing community connections outside of services that didn’t exist in Spokane.

“I think that if I was just a person moving to Portland, I’d probably join Shir Tikvah because I love the liturgy, love the Torah study,” she said. “My goals for Shir Tikvah are really to increase the robustness of Torah study and to collaborate with other rabbis and organizations in the area to have more learning opportunities.”

Learn more about Rabbi Goldstein at [elizabethwgoldstein.com](http://elizabethwgoldstein.com).

# Neer's tennis talents connect Jewish Portland

By JATHAN JANOVE  
*For The Jewish Review*

For many years, the Rose Schnitzer Manor has provided a comfortable, supportive environment for many of Portland's senior citizens, including some prominent people.

One of them is local tennis legend, Jack Neer. He turns 92 on Aug 27. A state high school champion, Neer attended the University of Portland where he posted an eye-popping singles and doubles record: 108 and zero.

In the 1955 NCAA Championships, he made it to the quarterfinals. Along the way, he beat players from tennis powerhouses such as UCLA. He laughs, "They couldn't believe they'd been beaten by someone from the university of what!?"

After college, Neer tried his luck on the "amateur" tennis circuit. The top players got compensated off the record. The other players got tennis equipment and clothing; and they got fed so long as they remained in the tournament. Today's top pros have their own jets. In Neer's case, he didn't even have a car, so he had to hitch rides to each tournament.

"The top players would stay in houses," he says. "But for guys like me, it was bedding down on the court."

To stick around in tournaments – and stay fed – Neer played in every category he could – singles, doubles and mixed doubles. He remembers a time when he lost his last tournament match,

"I quickly shook my opponent's hand and ran like hell to the snack bar. I or-



Jack Neer, right, shares memories with Jordan Schnitzer. As a teaching professional at the Irvington Club, Neer was a key figure in Schnitzer's journey into tennis. (Jathan Janove for The Jewish Review)

dered a bunch of food before they took my name off the list!"

Neer had the opportunity to play singles and doubles with some of the top players in the world, including Tony Trabert, Ken Rosewall, Lew Hoad, Vic Seixas and Roy Emerson. Neer's professional playing career ended around the time that tennis let go of the amateur notion and tournaments began offering prize money. Compared to Novak Djokovic's current career earnings over \$200 million, Neer's is a bit more modest: \$38.16.

Neer continued to play a lot close to home, winning the Oregon Men's Open singles championship eight

times, and the Portland City Open 11 times. He also won four State of Washington championships. From 1967 to 1969, he was the top ranked player in the Pacific Northwest.

Neer also competed in senior events, including winning the Oregon Senior Championship 15 times, a Canadian National Senior Championship and the Nike World Championship in the age 65-plus group.

Neer had opportunities to play exhibition matches with legends of the sport, including Pancho Gonzales, Margaret Smith Court, Maureen Connolly and Jimmy Connors. He's a member of the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame and

the University of Portland Hall of Fame, where he was named one of its 10 top athletes of the 20th century. Neer's greatest contributions to Portland's tennis community came later, though.

In 1977, the Portland Athletic Club (PAC) opened. Its owner, Marion Blackburn, was African American. Despite having become a serious tennis player, Blackburn was denied membership to the Irvington Club. Thanks to Neer's intervention, who was then a teaching pro at Irvington, Blackburn and his family were admitted and became the club's first Black members.

After Marion opened PAC, he asked Neer to be a teaching pro. Neer remained there until PAC's unfortunate closing this past March.

Nestled in the heart of Southwest Portland, PAC became a fixture for many Jewish Community members, including this author. Over the years, Neer developed many great relationships with others, including many members of the Jewish Community. Most significantly, he met his longtime companion, Alison Stenger, when she went to PAC for a tennis lesson but her instructor didn't show.

"Hi," said Neer. "I can fill in."

Following PAC's closure, Neer has remained active in his nineties, periodically conducting tennis clinics at a local private court. Caustic as ever, he makes improvement suggestions. Such suggestions directed at this reporter have included, "Move your damn feet!" "What are you look-

*continued on next page*



*continued from previous page*

ing at – obviously not the ball!” And, “Have you considered switching to golf?”

Portland philanthropist, Jordan Schnitzer, knows Neer well. In the manor named for Jordan’s grandmother, Rose, her portrait is above a photograph of Jordan, Neer, and Jordan’s sons, Samuel Director Schnitzer and Simon Director Schnitzer.

“I became serious about tennis as a freshman in high school,” Jordan Schnitzer says. “I joined the Irvington Tennis Club. For us young tennis players, Jack had godlike status. He was a legend. We tried to emulate his game as best we could – his serve, volleys and net game. He made us feel proud that he was an Oregonian.”

For several years, Nike founder, Phil Knight, and his family were PAC members. Neer can’t describe Knight’s game since he never saw him play. However, Neer does recall seeing his wife Penny and kids playing matches and get-

ting lessons at the club.

Long before creation of the Nike megalopolis, Knight was an ambitious, energetic shoe salesman. He brought a bunch of shoes to the U.S. Open, which at the time was held in Forest Hills, New York. Phil saw Neer and called out to him.

“Jack, can you get me into where the players are?”

“Sure,” Neer said, who was playing in the tournament.

Phil grabbed a big bag filled with shoes and accompanied Neer through the gate. Phil headed straight to the men’s locker-room where he schmoozed with and gave shoes to the top players including Rod Laver.

Neer notes, “I got free shoes too,” and he played a match in them, although he doesn’t remember if he won or lost. It’s his small role in an important part in the growth and development of the Nike empire.

If you’d like to participate in a Jack Neer clinic, reach out by email to [jjatpdx@gmail.com](mailto:jjatpdx@gmail.com). There’s no fee,



Jack Neer observes players during one of his clinics. At age 91, Neer continues to teach tennis. (Jathan Janove for The Jewish Review)

although Jack and Alison are partial to Mandelbrot.

Jathan Janove is an organization development consultant and executive

leadership coach. His latest book, [\*The HR Renaissance: Transforming from Legal Guard to Growth Partner\*](#), is available on Amazon.



“A lender is greater than one who gives to charity.”  
Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 63a



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# Jewish joy on display at



Photographs by **ROCKNE ROLL**

*The Jewish Review*

Members of Portland's Jewish community turned out in celebration for Portland's annual Pride Parade Sunday, July 20. A group organized by Jewish Pride Greater PDX included Congregations Beth Israel, Kol Ami and Neveh Shalom, as well as Cedar Sinai Park, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland banded, while members of Havurah Shalom and Congregation Shir Tikvah marched separately.





# Pride Parade





# JFCS Senior Social Hour hits the beach

Photographs by ROBYN TAYLOR

*Jewish Family & Child Service*

On July 17, Jewish Family & Child Service led an adventurous group of seniors on a day of sunshine, connection, and coastal fun at beautiful Cannon Beach! Traveling together by bus, they shared laughs, explored tide pools, browsed local galleries and shops, strolled the sandy shoreline, and enjoyed a delicious lunch—all while escaping the Portland heat. It was a joyful day of friendship and discovery. One participant summed it up best: “It was a wonderful day. I enjoyed meeting new people. Very nicely planned!”



**VOLUNTEER AT OUR PACKING PARTY,  
TO ASSEMBLE ESSENTIAL HYGIENE  
TOTES DISTRIBUTED  
TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!**

**Sunday, August 17, 2025**

**10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Vancouver, WA**

*Location provided at registration.*



**dignitygrows**  
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland



**JEWISHPORTLAND.ORG/DIGNITYGROWS**

## AHAVA (continued from page 6)

“We’ll have a name tag system to let people know” what they’re looking for, Jacobson said. “If you want to bring your married friend just for support, they’re not actually there to meet anyone, they can indicate that.”

The mix-and-mingle portion of the festivities is free, while the cost for the speed-dating portion is \$18; a half-off discount is available with code “JREVIEW50” at checkout. Sign up for speed dating or RSVP for the mix-and-mingle online at [bit.ly/ahavapnp](https://bit.ly/ahavapnp) and learn more about Ahava Northwest’s services at [ahavanorthwest.com](https://ahavanorthwest.com).

## FESTIVAL (continued from page 6)

are Jewish, any friends,’ a lot of people say ‘Oh, no, I don’t know anybody Jewish.’ Which is probably not true; they just don’t know that they’re Jewish,” Posner said. “This brings awareness and,

especially with the climate, it’s very important to have Jewish positive experiences for Jews and non-Jews.”

The festival is free – to learn more and RSVP, visit [portlandjewishfestival.com](https://portlandjewishfestival.com).



Click the logo for the latest episode of The Jewish Review Podcast





# **Pollinators Volunteer Program With the Climate Action Committee**

**August 14, 2025 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**LOCATION PROVIDED UPON REGISTRATION COMPLETION**



*Volunteer with the Portland Fruit Tree Project for a harvest workshop in a local community orchard. During this hands on service program you will learn about the important role humans play in stewarding local fruit bearing trees both for the health of the tree, the success of local pollinators, and to produce vital food to feed our community.*

*Dinner will be provided following the program.*





## Cedar Sinai residents take to the streets

Residents of Cedar Sinai Park lined the sidewalk along Southwest Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway as part of the "Good Trouble" national day of protest in memory of Rep. John Lewis Thursday, July 17. The majority of the residents who showed up are over 90 years old; they stalwartly braved the 85 degree weather, with support from volunteers from P'nai Or of Portland. The demonstration also honored Merrill Singer, z"l, and Harriet Dietz, z"l, organizers of Cedar Sinai's "Hands Off" protest against Medicare and Medicaid cuts, who have since passed away. (Cathy Zheutlin)

## Robison Foundation awards \$20k in first grant cycle

### *Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders*

The Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders has completed its first-ever grant cycle by approving \$20,000 in *ChikChok* (fast-track) small grants. Grants were awarded to seven local nonprofits that provide programming for residents of the Cedar Sinai Park campus in Southwest Portland. Most *ChikChok* grant recipients have offered programs on the CSP campus for many years but without any funding support.

"CSP is a special place because so many Jewish organizations bring their staff and volunteers to the campus throughout the year," said Michael Millender, the President of the Foundation board. "These grants will ensure the continuity of programs that enrich the lives of CSP residents, deepen partnerships between CSP and the Jewish community, and promote interaction across the generations."

The mission of the Foundation is to enhance the lives of elders in the Portland Jewish community by supporting their social, spiritual and physical well-being. Grants are awarded for programs that address diverse needs, including transportation, socialization and community building, and financial assistance for under-resourced elders. Foundation funds are generated from individual donations and from the proceeds of the sale of the CSP campus in June 2024. For more information about

the Foundation, visit [RFJE.org](https://RFJE.org)

The Foundation expects to make grants totaling \$400,000 in 2025. In addition to recently-approved *ChikChok* grants, the Foundation will award larger *Kadima* (moving forward) and "Kulanu" (all of us) grants, to fund new projects and expand existing programs for elders across Portland's Jewish community. Local agencies are encouraged to collaborate on programs that address systemic issues facing Jewish elders. The timing of these grant cycles will be announced later this year.

Foundation grants are awarded through a competitive application process. For the *ChikChok* grants, a committee of CSP residents and Foundation board members solicited and reviewed applications and made funding recommendations to the Foundation board.

"During our deliberations, we talked about the interests and needs of residents," explained Myra Fox, a CSP resident who served on the review committee and chairs the CSP Residents Council. "I'm excited about the variety of program opportunities and the impact these grants will have on our daily lives."

All seven organizations that applied for *ChikChok* grants received partial or full funding for their programs. The slate of awards includes the following:

**Jewish Family and Child Service (\$3,000)** – Provide group-based counseling, socialization, and support ser-

vices for CSP residents.

**Dignity Grows Chapter of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland (\$1,000)** – Host a packing event for hygiene totes in December 2025 that will bring together CSP residents and other community volunteers.

**Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (\$1,870)** – Develop and install thematic displays of materials from the Museum's collection for the Goodman Living Room of the Harold Schnitzer Center for Living and create a catalog for each display.

**ORA Northwest Jewish Artists (\$2,654)** – Design and print new prayer books for CSP residents' use. ORA artists will hold art workshops with CSP residents, and the residents' work will be featured in the prayer books.

**Portland Jewish Academy (\$3,000)** – *B'Yachad* (Together) program pairing PJA middle school students and CSP residents, who meet monthly for discussions, meals, holiday celebrations, and other activities.

**BB360 (\$3,000)** – A monthly Shabbat service on the CSP campus, followed by an interactive, intergenerational Torah study.

**Jewish National Fund (\$3,000)** – A four-part "Taste of Israel" series for CSP residents offering an engaging and accessible journey through modern Israel—its society, history, politics, and diverse populations.



# Events

More upcoming community events online at [jewishportland.org/community-calendar](https://jewishportland.org/community-calendar)

## July 31: Menashe

Film screening at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7 pm. For more information or to RSVP, visit [ejcpdx.org/events](https://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Aug. 2: Chabad Tisha B'Av Service

Evening service at Chabad of Southwest Portland at 9:45 pm. For more information, visit [jportland.com](https://jportland.com).

## Aug. 3: Chabad Tisha B'Av Service

Morning service at Chabad of Southwest Portland at 9 am. For more information, visit [jportland.com](https://jportland.com).

## Aug. 3: Understanding Viddui

Webinar on deathbed rituals sponsored by the Jewish

Association for Death Education at 5 pm. Register at [lu.ma/ugopzsg3](https://lu.ma/ugopzsg3).

## Aug. 3: Chabad Tisha B'Av Service

Afternoon service at Chabad of Southwest Portland at 7:45 pm. For more information, visit [jportland.com](https://jportland.com).

## Aug. 6: Connecting with Your Teen Grandchild in the Age of Social Media

Webinar at 4 pm hosted by Jewish Grandparents Network. For more information, email [terry@jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org](mailto:terry@jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org).

## Aug. 7: Rosalyn Kliot Art Opening and Exhibit

Exhibit opening at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 6:30. Free; RSVP required at [ejcpdx.org/events](https://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Aug. 10: Evolve Haddassah Nature Hike

Nature hike in Beaverton at 9:30 am. For more information and to register, visit [hwzoa.networkforgood.com/events/89635-west-pnw-evolve-in-portland-nature-hike-2025](https://hwzoa.networkforgood.com/events/89635-west-pnw-evolve-in-portland-nature-hike-2025).

## Aug. 10: Pints & Possibilities

See story, page 6.

## Aug. 10: Young Professionals Cooking Class - Eggplant Beef Yaprakes

Sehardic cooking class at 4 pm at Congregation Ahavath

Achim. \$22. Register online at [ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-cooking](https://ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-cooking).

## Aug. 13: Songs from Home: An Israeli Concert

Concert at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm. \$10. Tickets at [members.nevehshalom.org/event/SFH25](https://members.nevehshalom.org/event/SFH25)

## Aug. 13: The Sounds of Bossa Nova

Musical workshop presented by the Eastside Jewish Commons and The Portland Folk Music Society Present at 7 pm at the EJC. \$10. Register at [events.humanitix.com/the-sounds-of-bossa-nova-singing-and-pronunciation-workshop](https://events.humanitix.com/the-sounds-of-bossa-nova-singing-and-pronunciation-workshop).

**Community Calendar**

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Community Calendar contains information on local events, speakers, webinars, the arts information for young families and much more!

[jewishportland.org/community-calendar](https://jewishportland.org/community-calendar)

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**Issue date Deadline**

**AUG 13 AUG 7**

## Security Corner

# NSGP grants are finally GO!

By JESSICA ANDERSON

I had the pleasure recently to walk in Portland's PRIDE parade with members of the community who represented several different organizations. It was a perfect day, slightly overcast and in the high 60s. I walked it last year as well, and every time parade planning comes around, since October 2023, there is a degree of uncertainty and apprehension about what will be encountered on the parade route. People aren't sure if they should bring their kids and think about worst-case scenarios. There are also no security guards allowed on the parade route, and people can feel vulnerable in such a public display. Also, our focus is clear - that it's a walk in total support of LGBTQ+ family, friends, and colleagues, and so no political flags are permitted. And so, on the day, I and others were incredibly impressed to see how supported the community was, all along the parade route, from start to finish. I witnessed people spontaneously reacting positively and cheering as they read our banners and recognized our group. I attributed this to awareness of recent attacks in Washington, DC, and Boulder, CO, and a recognition that it was a big thing to have Jews come out in such a public way. I hope everyone who walked that day felt that affirmative support. It's an



*Jessica Anderson is the Portland-area Director of Community Security. She was previously an FBI agent for 24 years. This position is funded by SCN (the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America) and a local three-way partnership of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Endowment Fund and multiple Jewish organizations in the region.*

important reminder that the vast, vast majority of our neighbors and communities are open, welcoming, and supportive of the Jewish faith community. I hope you all get a chance to witness and experience that.

Those of us who have been anxious and curious to hear about the 2025 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) are happy to see that the grant is officially underway. There were weeks when it seemed possible the grant program would not happen, despite being allocated and authorized by Congress. On July 28<sup>th</sup>, the funding was officially announced, and FEMA will provide approximately \$274.5 million to at-risk communities. The biggest challenge this year is that applications have to be submitted to FEMA in Washington by August 11<sup>th</sup>. It's not clear to me how Oregon FEMA is going to collect, review, and rank applications within that extra short timeframe,

but if they can do it, it could be a year where the short time frame will work to the advantage of those who are prepared. Another change is the increase in the amounts of the awards - this year, organizations may ask for up to \$200,000 per address. There will likely be fewer applications and potentially less competition for whatever dollars are allocated to Oregon. As always, I'm available to work with organizations who are interested in the grant process - from preparing an assessment, coordinating a review of the application, and how to implement your award. Even if you don't apply this year, it's a great time to start thinking about next year! We have many organizational leaders in our community who are happy to share their experience in the program, and I'm happy to connect you up with them. As always, I can be reached at [janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org](mailto:janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org) or 873-273-9214.

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# A pitiful protest at the Pride Parade

By ROCKNE ROLL

As I have each year since I joined *The Jewish Review*, I photographed the Jewish community's participation in the annual Portland Pride Parade Sunday, July 20. It presents a unique opportunity to see a broad cross-section of Portland Jews together to celebrate, support and stand with not only their fellow Jews, but with all LGBTQ+ people.

My first Pride Parade was in 2023 – it was just as described above. Last year was mostly the same, though a handful of folks seemed interested in making Pride about something else, namely the war in Gaza. This year went similarly. Joined by Poly Poptart, Portland's pre-eminent Jewish Drag Queen, our cadre wound its way through Old Town and Chinatown to Northwest Naito Parkway, surrounded in rainbow-clad (or not clad; this is Portland) spectators eager to wave, cheer and celebrate a common purpose. The energy was boisterous and joyous, and it was returned in

kind.

Once again, a few folks wanted to make Pride about something else. One of them stuck with me, though. In a sea of bright hues stood a person in almost all black, wearing a plate carrier for ballistic body armor and a black balaclava covering all but a slit for their eyes. Around their shoulders was a dark olive-green scarf with the fringing and pattern of a keffiyeh. Their hand steadied a 15-ish-foot-tall flexible flagpole, weighed down at the top by a Palestinian flag. It's an ensemble that's instantly recognizable to anyone who's watched any of the videos of Israeli hostages from Oct. 7 – all that was missing was a green headband. Clearly, this person made a conscious decision to cosplay a terrorist.

Why would someone want to align themselves with an organization whose charter states that opposition to a Jewish state is worth the mass murder of civilians? Why would they want to say, "I am Hamas," as a Portland State Uni-

versity professor recently did on video? Why would someone want to dress up like a Hamas member and go to a Pride parade? Maybe if they were opposed to the ideas behind Pride, like Hamas is, it would make more sense.

There are a lot of valid ways to feel about seeing someone in your hometown playing dress-up as a member of an organization that wants you and the people you care about dead. I won't presume to tell you which to choose. I settled on pity.

True evil exists in the world - the leaders of Hamas are a good example - but my experience has told me that it's rare. What's less rare are failures of critical thinking, mis- and dis-information, self-aggrandizement, moral ambiguity or ambivalence, and the total absence of self-reflection. Put the right handful of these together, season aggressively with social media trash and let simmer, and it's a recipe that can easily make

See EDITOR, page 18

## OJCF Column

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### Jewish philanthropy for all ages - OJCYP apps open

*Oregon Jewish Community Foundation*

At the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, we believe that philanthropy is not just for the few—it's for everyone. Through the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, we proudly invest in the future by empowering Jewish high school students to become change-makers, compassionate leaders, and thoughtful givers.

OJCYP is more than a leadership program—it's a transformative journey rooted in Jewish values and community connection. Each year, a cohort of dedicated teens comes together to explore the principles of tzedakah

(charitable giving) and tikun olam (improving the world). Participants learn about pressing needs in both the Jewish and broader communities, collaboratively select a focus area, evaluate grant proposals, and ultimately allocate tens of thousands of dollars to impactful nonprofit organizations — Jewish and secular alike.

At OJCF, we are committed to cultivating the next generation of Jewish philanthropists through education, engagement, and meaningful action. OJCYP participants meet with local leaders and Jewish communal professionals, gaining firsthand insight into the challenges and opportu-

nities facing our region. They don't just learn about giving—they experience it, along with the power of collective responsibility and develop a lasting sense of ownership in shaping a more just and compassionate world.

Through this immersive experience, teens strengthen their Jewish identity and build enduring connections with their peers. They leave the program equipped with skills in grantmaking, fundraising, and leadership, and with a deeper understanding of what it means to be an empathetic, engaged member of the Jewish community.

In a world facing increasingly complex challenges,

OJCYP offers a powerful way to take action, through education and service. It reflects OJCF's commitment to building a vibrant, values-driven Jewish future.

When we invest in our youth, we invest in the enduring strength of our community.

Registration for the 2025–2026 OJCYP cohort is now open. Visit [ojcf.org/ojcyp](http://ojcf.org/ojcyp) to learn more and apply. Space is limited, so interested teens are encouraged to apply early.

*Oregon Jewish Community Foundation does not provide investment, legal, or tax advice. Please consult with your professional advisors before any tax planning or investment decisions.*



## EVELYN LESHGOLD

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Evelyn Leshgold, z"l, who passed away on Sunday, July 13 at the age of 103.

Evelyn is survived by her loving daughters, Barrie Rosenberg, Lynn Rosencrantz, and Carol Rosenthal. Evelyn is preceded in death by her loving husband, Gerald Leshgold, z"l, her sister, Irene Gilbert, z"l, and her parents, Lena and Max Swerdlik, z"l.

A memorial service was held Friday, July 18 at Beth Israel Cemetery.

Donations in Evelyn's memory can be made to Congregation Beth Israel, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, and the Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders.

## HERBERT SEMLER

Dr. Herbert Joseph Semler, z"l, a pioneering cardiologist, inventor and entrepreneur, passed away peacefully at home on July 12, one month and a half shy of his 97th birthday. Born in Portland August 30, 1928, Dr. Semler attended Grant High School and Reed College before graduating from the University of Washington in 1949 and earning his

medical degree from Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine in 1953. He completed his internship at Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis prior to his service in the U.S. Air Force from 1954-56.

On a blind date orchestrated by his mother, Herbert fell head over heels for Shirley Lesman. They married in 1955 and, while stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base, the first of their five children was born. In 1956, Dr. Semler joined the Mayo Clinic as a fellow in internal medicine and cardiology. He returned to his Portland roots in 1960 to begin his distinguished 60-year career as Oregon's first cardiologist in private practice, affiliated with St. Vincent Hospital, while serving as Professor of Cardiology at OHSU.

Dr. Semler is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Shirley Lesman Semler, of Portland; his two daughters: Shelli J. Semler (Kyle Bach), of San Francisco, CA and Jill S. (Rick) Rubinstein, of Parkdale, OR; his three sons: Gregg T. Semler, of Belvedere, CA, H Eric (Tracy) Semler, of New York, NY and Matthew D. Semler (Ashley

Campion), of Portland, OR; along with his cherished 15 grandchildren and one great-grandson. His life was marked by compassion, ingenuity, and an indomitable spirit to improve the lives of others, a legacy which will endure in the hearts of his loving family forever.

Donations may be made in Dr. Semler's memory to the Shirley and Herbert Semler Scholarship Fund at the Mayo Clinic or Save A Child's Heart. ([saveachildsheart.org](http://saveachildsheart.org))

## SHELLY TATE

It is with deep sadness that Congregation Shaarie Torah announces the passing of Shelly Tate, z"l, beloved mother of Akiva Hunt.

Shelly passed away Tuesday, July 15, 2025 in Arizona at the age of 59.

She is survived by her husband, Brian Tate, her parents, Larry and Carole Ellsworth, and her eight adult children: Akiva, Klarissa, Courtney, Casey, Morgan, Megan, Rachel, and Daniel. Shelly also leaves behind four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Emma, z"l.

A private memorial service is being planned.

## EDITOR (continued from page 17)

something this obnoxious seem like a good idea.

This is not to let this spectator off the hook. It's also not to be dismissive of them. It's to say that Hanlon's Razor, the idea that one should never assume malice when incompetence will suffice, cuts true today, and it's likely left a vicious, pitiable wound in this person.

I also pity this individual because they were surely one of the only people out of thousands lining and

filling the streets of Northwest Portland that Sunday that wasn't having fun. Those who were included every Jew I photographed marching, every person who waved and cheered for Poly Poptart's dance moves and everyone else that was there to celebrate that we live in a time and place where people can live and love as who they truly are - *B'tzelem Elohim*. Our knock-off Hamas acolyte chose instead to stew in the recipe of their own ill-

made decisions, persuading no one of anything other than their own unhappiness; a stoic, dark monument to getting it wrong.

The unofficial poet laureate of my generation, Taylor Swift, wrote a verse about someone similar: "Sunshine on the street at the parade // But you would rather be in the dark ages // Making that sign, must've taken all night." She was writing about an anti-LGBTQ rights protestor; again, that's on-

brand for Hamas.

With any luck, someday our masked marauder will look back on this moment and feel utterly embarrassed at their choices. Perhaps they'll never have the clarity to get there. That would be truly pitiable.

*Rockne Roll is Editor of The Jewish Review.*

*Opinions printed in The Jewish Review do not necessarily reflect those of the Review, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, or their staffs.*

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