THE JEWISH REVIEW

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OREGON & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S JEWISH NEWSPAPER

August 13, 2025 / 19 Av, 5785 Volume 60, Issue 16

Local leaders see French Jewry up close

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Summer is the time for many activities – gardening, baseball, and the Jewish Federations of North America's campaign leadership mission.

Wendy Kahn, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Chief Development Officer, and Jack Birnbach, the co-chair of the annual campaign, were prepared to hit the road together once more – first to Paris, then to Israel, visiting programs and people that are the beneficiaries of the funds JFNA distributes to support Jewish communities around the world.

Circumstance altered their travel plans.

"A couple of weeks before [we left], there was the war with Iran," Birnbach explained.

Over 12 days, Israel struck targets throughout the Islamic Republic of Iran in an attempt to neutralize its nuclear weapons program. Iran



(Wendy Kahn/The Jewish Review)

responded with missile and drone strikes against Israel. Israeli air space was closed and Ben Gurion International Airport was shut down. "We couldn't go even if we wanted to go, because there was no way to get there," Birnbach added.

Instead, volunteer cam-

paign leaders and professional development staff from throughout North America spent Monday through Thursday, July 7-10, in and around Paris, connecting deeply with the French capital's Jewish community and the enormous challenges they face.

"France has such high level of antisemitism, and they have, within the community, ways to respond to that antisemitism," Kahn said. "We're experiencing such high levels of antisemitism in the United States, so we wanted to take that knowledge back into our individual communities and start localizing those learnings and tools and add to the responsiveness that we have."

At a dinner during their first evening in Paris with the Israeli ambassador to France, Joshua Zarka, Kahn spoke with a family that was responding to that an-

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The dating difficulties of Jewish Portland

Beni Henig and Whitney Jacobson are the founders of Ahava Northwest, a Jewish matchmaking and online dating coaching service based in Portland. They joined Jewish Review editor Rockne Roll for a conversation on dating as a Jew, matchmaking, and the origins of Tu B'Av, the celebration of Jewish love that has become known as "Jewish Valentine's Day." A portion of their conversation is transcribed below. For the full conversation, check out "Dating Dilemmas with Beni Henig and Whitney Jacobson" on The Jewish Review Podcast, available on all major platforms. This transcript has been edited for brevity and clarity.

The Jewish Review: It sounds like one of the big challenges in terms of Jewish folks meeting other Jewish folks for dating, at least in this part of the country, is there's not as many Jews here as there are on the East Coast or in Israel. What are some of the other factors that seem to complicate dating for Jews, outside of the technological aspects that have seemed to have become such a big part of the dating process?

Beni Henig: A lot of it can also depend on what congregation you're in, if you're even part of a congregation. What I noticed coming out here from Michigan, [Portland is] a very broad Jewish community, but everything is very pod-based. The tremendous amount of different organizations within the area kind of stick together in an insular fashion, so it's very, challenging unless you're actually putting the active work into it to go between different synagogues and find different people, different communities and different programs. For example, before Covid, Congregation Beth Israel had a program called Jews Next Dor, which was about the young professionals further out than just CBI. That organization pretty much disappeared, and so it's very difficult to find different groups right now that are able to connect outside of the congregation-by-congregation basis,

JR: Made all the more difficult by the fact that we have a huge portion of people, especially younger folks in this community, who aren't a member of any congregation.

Whitney Jacobson: There're a lot of people that I've met here in Portland, just having a conversation, and they'll say something like, 'Oh, Are you Jewish? Oh, you are too?' You would have never known, because maybe they're just cultural, secular. They grew up Jewish. They live here in the area. They're not necessarily active in a congregation. I'd say that the majority of the Jewish community that I've met out here is very much unaffiliated with a congregation, and they're not necessarily going to any of those meetup groups that are geared towards Jewish folks; they're a lot more apt to be using [dating] apps on their phones that are not Jewish-based. When I was going through the dating process, I actually met far more Jewish people, went on far more dates with other Jewish people, using non-Jewish dating apps. I know it's been even more difficult for people since Oct. 7 in terms of being on some of those dating apps and the kinds of matches

at they're meeting and messages that people are getting.

JR: Have you been hearing stories of dating app experiences gone awry?

WJ: I'm sure there's even more out there I haven't heard, but one of the main things I've been hearing repeatedly, is people going on there, doing their swiping, and it's just a sea of watermelon emojis, and 'no Zionists allowed', and just a certain ethos, very black and white 'Here's who was allowed to swipe on my profile, and here's who's not,' in a way that is very off putting to folks who are happen to be dating and Jewish. It's unfortunate.

JR: My next question was going to be, 'Is dating as a Jew more complicated than as a non Jew?' It sounds like the answer to that is a resounding yes,

BH: It's much more, much more difficult because there's also different political leanings, observance leanings. Sometimes people might not be observant enough for potential partners, some people might be too observant for potential partners. And so that's a big issue. Also, the whole concept of Zionism and what that represents and what that stands for. Some people are very pro-current [Israeli] government, and some people are very against it. That makes it even more difficult and more stratified than not having those as potential issues.

JR: Whitney, when we were talking about different observance levels in couples, you were nodding your head quite vigorously. I sense you have a story to tell here.

WJ: You know, I generally go to a conservative synagogue, and that was definitely something I experienced a lot, either being not observant enough for people who are a bit more Orthodox leaning, or being too observant for people who are a little bit more Reform or culturally Jewish. So that was a big issue; I almost didn't get a second date here with Beni out of that. I had to broach the subject on date number two, because he thought I was going to be a little a little too intense for him.

JR: It seems to have worked out okay for you, Beni.

BH: It worked out pretty fine. I mostly lean towards Reform.

WJ: So he got his own fridge where he can put his non-ko-sher food.

JR: Well, they say good relationships are built on compromise

WJ: Exactly. But some people aren't looking for that kind of compromise, too. That's been something we have to ask people who are now approaching us for potential matchmaking - not only 'Where are you politically? Where are you in your Zionism? Where are you in your observance levels?' Even if you know someone says that they're Modern Orthodox or they're Conservative, or they're Reform, what does that mean? Each person might have different boundaries around kosher laws, around anything to do with *halacha*, they might have various degrees of latitude that are not the same.

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OJMCHE grafitti remains under investigation

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Portland police are still investigating the vandalism of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education last month.

OJMCHE Executive Director Rebekah Sobel said that the graffiti, a series of swastikas drawn on the front door and surrounding areas of the Museum's building in Northwest Portland on Tuesday, July 29, is being investigated as a bias crime. It does not appear that the vandalism is part of a larger pattern of behavior at this time, according to Sobel.

The graffiti was discovered by staff on Tuesday. The initial reaction, Sobel said, was "surprise, anger, frustration, sadness; all that mixed together."

"We're trying to move forward in our lives and invite people to come to the museum," she continued. "I got a lot of questions about, 'How can I help you? How can I support you? What do you need from us?' Come to the museum. Come visit, see the exhibitions, the programs. Bring a friend."

Those very questions – and the outpouring of public support that spawned them – are not lost on Sobel.

"I appreciate the support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and all of our Jewish and non-Jewish community allies," Sobel said. "It's so nice to hear from people just to know that they noticed and that they stand in solidarity with us against hate."

Leket Israel visit highlights Israeli food insecurity - and solutions

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

In the wake of the Oct. 7 terror attacks, there was an outpouring of charitable aid to organizations in Israel, including to Leket Israel. Last week, Joshua Cohen, Leket's Regional Director of Development, visited the northwest to say thank you to those donors, more than a few of whom didn't know quite what their donation was doing.

"People wrote checks and donated a tremendous amount of money and that was very helpful and meaningful," Cohen explained, "but they never really looked to see, 'what does Leket do?""

Leket – Hebrew for "glean" – is Israel's national food bank. Founded in 2003, the organization today serves more than 400,000 food-insecure Israelis by diverting food that was otherwise destined for land-fills to those who need it. This includes both fresh produce – nearly 44 million pounds of it – as well as 1.8 million meals worth of prepared hot food that went unserved from hotels, catering operations and Israel Defense Forces bases.

"We're able to feed people all the way from the north, in Metula, to the South, in Eilat, and everywhere in between," Cohen said. "We're able to feed not just Jews; We're feeding Druze and we're feeding Arabs and we're feeding Christians in addition to all the different Jews from all different backgrounds who are getting fed at the same time."

The stresses of war have put additional pressure on the economy which have ramped up food insecurity – in response, Leket purchased an additional 25 million pounds of produce and 250,000 hot meals last year to support those most in need.

"It takes a lot of infrastructure, it takes a lot of education, for example, educating the institutions with whom we work," Cohen explained. "We also put out, on YouTube, videos that are available with English subtitles that are done in Hebrew, helping Israelis better understand how we can reduce the amount of waste in our own homes."

Food insecurity is not always a front-of-

mind problem in Israel, but at-risk youth, the elderly – including Holocaust survivors – and single-parent families often live on the economic margins in the Jewish state just as they do in other places. Nearly three years of war hasn't changed that; indeed, the number of people receiving food aid from Leket has nearly doubled since October of 2023.

"I think sometimes we look at Israel and we'll say, 'Israel is different. Israel is high tech,' but people still suffer in a variety of ways," Cohen said. "With an economy that's shaped differently today than it was two and a half years ago and inflation, things have changed. We're hoping that as the war comes to a conclusion soon, that will also lower the number of people who are food insecure, but right now we're trying to help as many as we can."

It's an awkward moment for an Israeli organization to talk about food insecurity, but the comparison across the border doesn't eliminate hunger in Israel.

"We're very sympathetic to what's going on around the world and even just across our borders," Cohen said. "But our mission is within our borders and also, by law, what we're able to do. That's been our major focus."

Those who wish to contribute to Leket's work can donate, of course, but there are also hands on opportunities in Israel to volunteer, helping support the complex logistics that enables Leket to turn potential food waste into sustenance for those in need.

"[People] can come, they can volunteer; with their own hands, they can pick fruits and vegetables that they know are going to somebody within the next 24 hours, and it's somebody who's in need," Cohen said. "One of the greatest *mitzvot* is to be able to give anonymously just because it's something that we feel good about. To be able to come and do that if you and to know that it's going to somebody who really needs it, but they don't know where it came from, they don't know that you are the person who gave it to them, there's there's a certain power in that."



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

Mother's goes grand with Bubbie's Deli menu

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Jewish foodies rejoice – Portland once again has Jewish deli fare.

Bubbie's Deli, a pop-up within Mother's Bistro downtown, has rolled out a menu of deli favorites to fill the void that owner Lisa Schroeder saw and felt compelled to address.

I, too, have felt the lack," Schroeder said of the absence of Jewish deli food in the wake of closures at long-time staples such as Kenny and Zuke's and Kornblatt's. "Ideally, I didn't want to be a deli. I didn't want to create another restaurant and for a while, I've been anguishing over, 'How can I fill this need?""

Some of what was needed was already on hand – corned beef and matzo ball soup are stalwarts of Mother's menu. Others are new additions, like the house-smoked pastrami.

"Our sous chef Rick [Widmayer] was the chef at Screen Door when it first opened, and he used to work at Podnahs Barbecue, so he loves smoking meat," Schroeder explained. "This is his passion and we happen to have had a smoker here at Mother's."



Bubbie's Deli at Mother's features house-smoked pastrami, available on sandwiches or, with advance notice, sliced to order. (Courtesy Mother's Bistro)

Rubbed with coriander and peppercorns, smoked and then steamed, the pastrami is available by weight (call ahead) or served up on another house-made labor of love in the form of Schroeder's rye bread.

"I could not get the kind of rye bread I know from the East Coast, which is not hard and crunchy that takes off the roof of your mouth, and it's not super sour. So we just formulated our own recipe," she explained. "It is soft and chewy. It has caraway flavor because we infuse the water we use with caraway seeds, but then I throw away the seeds because I don't want to get hard seeds all over the place."

There's also whitefish salad, pierogies and rugelach for dessert. Schroeder will add more to the menu in accordance with demand – which, so far, has been robust.

"It has been phenomenal. It has been beyond my wildest dreams. Apparently not just Jews like pastrami! Schroeder said. "I was worried that there weren't enough people in Portland who may want this and I was wrong."

The name (Yiddish for "grandmother") is a natural extension of the restaurant Schroeder's deli pop-up is housed within.

"If you're going to have Mother's, the grandmother would be *bubbie*," she said. "I used to have a little deli called *Balabusta*, (a Yiddish term a skilled homemaker) but a lot of people don't know what a *balabusta* is, so we just went with something that most people understand."

People also understand delicious.

Bubbie's Deli Board is available at Mother's Wednesday through Friday, 9 am-2 pm. For more information, visit mothersbistro.





From rugelach (left) to reubens (right) and more, Bubbie's Deli board at Mother's Bistro is loaded with classic deli fare. (Courtesy Mother's Bistro)

Art/Lab steps forth as independent program

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Art/Lab is leaving the nest.

The Jewish arts cohort program that's been one of the flagship creations of Co/Lab will now operate as a separate organization under the direction of Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem, with Co/Lab founder Rabbi Josh Rose serving as Rabbinic Advisor.

"We found over time that Art/Lab was just having so much more success, measured by people in the space and interest and feedback," Gugenheim Kedem said. "We decided to really focus our resources around Art/Lab to help it keep growing."

Art/Lab, in its new iteration, is also now accepting applications for its 2025-26 Fellowship cohort through Aug. 30. Each cohort centers on a theme – this year's is "Memory."

"I'm really interested in the role of collective memory right now, so I wanted to explore that as cohort," Gugenheim Kedem explained.

Participating artists receive artistic and Jewish mentorship within a Jewish arts community, retreat opportunities, exhibition opportunities, and a small stipend. The program is open to all artists who identify as Jewish.

"These are artists who would be showing work in contemporary art galleries and spaces," Gugenheim Kedem explained. "You might not see Jewish themes in any of their work, but it is informed by our time together, the texts that we study and the dialogues that we have."

As a separate organization, officially titled "Art/Lab: Innovating Jewish Arts and Culture," the cohort is just the beginning. Art/Lab will host monthly art workshops, led by alumni of previous cohorts, and will provide curatorial direction for the rebranded Art/Lab Gallery at the Eastside Jewish Commons.

"We wanted to create a community of contemporary Jewish artists in the Portland area who had an opportunity to grow and develop as Jews and as artists, but also then had opportunities to really interact with the public," Gugenheim Kedem explained, "through teaching and exhibitions, as a way for the public to be in dialogue with Jewish art and artists."

There may yet be a broader stage for that engagement, as a proposed exhibit by 16 Art/Lab alumni is under consideration for the Jerusalem Biennial, one of the world's most prominent recurring exhibitions of contemporary Jewish art. A decision is expected by October.

Art/Lab will also support The Genesis: Conversations About Jewish Arts and Culture, Rabbi Rose's podcast originally created under the auspices of Co/Lab. Having recently launched its third season, The Genesis has featured

local artists, fellow rabbis and community leaders of all stripes.

"This is a really important moment, not only in Portland, but nationally for the growth of Jewish culture; to help foster a community among culture bearers and to continue to ask questions about what it means to be Jewish in the 21st century," Rabbi Rose said. "The podcast is the site of conversations about those urgent questions."

Many of Co/Lab's current programs will be winding down as a new direction for the program in an evolving landscape of Jewish cultural and learning opportunities is assessed.

"Co/Lab is going through a period of reformulation and trying to offer to the community what we alone can offer," Rabbi Rose said. "Most likely, that will take shape in new forms."

New possibilities are also on the horizon for Art/Lab as it grows into its new existence as a separate organization.

"I'm always looking for community partners and interesting projects to collaborate on how we can serve the community and participate in deeper ways in the community," Gugenheim Kedem noted.

Learn more about Art/Lab's new endeavors, apply for the upcoming artist cohort and find current and back episodes of The Genesis podcast online at artlabpdx.org.





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MISSION (continued from page 1)

tisemitism in the same way approximately 20 percent of French Jews are – by leaving; in their case, to make *Aliyah*. The family were presented with Israeli passports at a ceremony during the dinner. Kahn talked with the father, using Google Translate on her phone, about their decision to move to the Jewish state.

"We cried in our hearts and we knew that it would be hard, but one has to be patient, and our kids will find it easier," the man said to Kahn.

Though their children, passionate young footballers, had experienced a level of antisemitism that was relayed as "a nightmare," the decision to move was a difficult one because while these families are proudly Jewish, they are also proudly French.

"What we heard a lot throughout the mission was the sense of French nationalism. It takes a lot for these people to leave," Kahn explained. "I think the French are very proud people."

French Jews have much to be proud about – this was on full display in Sarcelles, the suburban community north of Paris that became a hub for North African Jews in the 1950s and 50s.

"They call it Little Jerusalem," Kahn said. "It was just filled with synagogues, Hebrew writing, kosher restaurants."

The restaurants were a notable part of the experience – both in terms of quality and quantities.

"If you went away from that table hungry, it was your own fault," Birnbach said of their lunch. "They gave us enough for three or four days."

"It started with a smattering of dishes, and then you



A pair of French Jews celebrate receiving Israeli passports at a dinner for members of the Jewish Federations of North America's FRD Leadership Mission. Wendy Kahn/The Jewish Review)

thought that was it. The next course came, and you thought that was it," Kahn added. "Then chicken would come, and the lamb chops would come, and it just kept coming."

Through the delicious haze of lunch, both Kahn and Birnbach observed the cohesion of the community there, particularly as they learned about how it went about fundraising.

"There's one fund," Birnbach explained. "There's one fundraising institution."

Synagogues and community organizations all contribute to a common fund and work collaboratively to disburse the resources that are donated.

"They've got this, 'we're all in it together attitude," Kahn explained. "We don't have that."

There were also a pair of memorials – to the 2015 shooting at a kosher supermarket in Porte de Vinvennes and to the 2012 attack on the Ozar Hatorah school in Toulouse. The memories of those attacks are not far from mind in France, as evidenced by the security that accompanied group any time they were outside as a group.

"There were four French soldiers with long guns with us and at least three Paris police, armed," Birnbach recalled, in addition to the security detail that JFNA always provides its foreign

missions. "I thought, 'That's nerve wracking that they needed to be there to protect us and the community."

For all the difficulty French Jews face, there's also great joy to be found – as evidenced through a day camp program in a Paris park the group visited on Wednesday.

"They were teaching the kids Hebrew, but in a game in a gamified way. One person called it the campification of Hebrew school," Birnbach explained. "They had Hebrew words, I think they were cities in this particular case, but they were in Hebrew, and the kids had to find other people who were in this group, including the adults who had these Hebrew city names, and get together."

"The Tel Aviv boys were very excited," Kahn recalled of her time holding a sign bearing the name of Israel's second largest city. "They were dancing, 'Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv, yeah!"

"It was a warm day, but it felt good because we were all shaded. They were just playing," Birnbach said. "It was a great, great time for them."

It was a stark contrast to the memorials and the security cordon and the stories of fleeing that the previous two days had brought – par for the course in a Jewish life.

"That's just who we are as a people, that you have to hold two truths. You have to hold the joy and the sadness and so and the kids, often, are the holders of all that, because they don't always know," Kahn explained. "These kids, they were silly and they were fun and they were loving and they were trust-

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continued from previous page ing. They were everything."

The group was slated to visit a Holocaust museum in Paris the next day. Once again, circumstance had other ideas. With the visit coming just before Bastille Day, France's national holiday, and a week before the Tour De France bicvcle race completed its final stage along the Champs-Ellysse in the center of Paris, traffic was off the charts. What could have been a 20-minute walk was instead a two-hour bus ride.

"We missed that program, and what they ended up doing was like modifying it and lighting candles and having a moment outside," Kahn recalled.

They didn't miss an impromptu meeting with French Jewish social media personalities at Paris' city hall. In an impassioned address, laced with profanity, a quartet of content creators charged the gathered American leadership with helping to carry the message of what they were going through.

"You need to help us. You have the money, you have the leadership, you have the connections. You must help us, because the hate, the hate and the venom that is being spread is being spread through social media, and we, the Jews, are the worst in terms of our own PR. Help us change that," Kahn recalled them saying. "They said, basically, don't be bystanders, help us improve



A monument in Sarcelles to the victims of the 2012 Ozar HaTorah School shooting in Toulouse. (Wendy Kahn/The Jewish Review)

our public relations on behalf of the world, Jewry and help address global loneliness, because Jews are feeling lonely."

It's a message that stuck with Kahn.

"All three of those things are doable," she said, "even though the elevated language and the methodology might have been like off putting. They weren't polite, but they are feeling under siege, and they're feeling alone."

After an evening cruise on the Senne with the Chief of Staff to the American Ambassador to France, Kahn recalled a conversation she had with a campaign leader from Milwaukee, Wisc., who had come to the United States from Ukraine decades ago as a single mother with \$200 to her name. The conversation galvanized the message that the group had heard already.

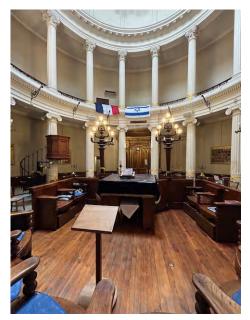
"She uses her power and her leadership and her money as her resistance. And I've said that before, but I think that is why we can't be bystanders," Kahn said. "We can let people know, 'Don't stand by the sidelines.' We all have different things that we can do. Use your voice, use your skills, use your talents, use your money, use whatever you've got, but nobody should feel alone and be crying at us like that. We should all be in it together."

Being in it together – as Am Yisrael – has been one of the keys to Judaism's continuity over the millennia. It's trips like these that further that connection.

"One of the big takeaways is you're supposed to get stories, and you're supposed to use those stories to help other people understand what we do locally, nationally and internationally." Birnbach said. "I'm trying to help people say 'My money's going someplace.' It's going to help us here in Portland. It's going to help Jews throughout the United States. It's helping Jews worldwide through JAFI (The Jewish Agency for Israel) and the [American-Jewish] Distribution Committee. So if you're sitting here in Portland, Oregon, saying, 'What can I do,' you can contribute to the campaign, because we're going to use that money wisely; locally, nationally and globally."

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From left: The interiors of historic synagogues in Avignon, Carpentras and Cavallion in the Provence region of Southeastern France. (Barry Horowitz/Special to The Jewish Review)

The synagogues of Southeastern France

By BARRY HOROWITZ

Special to The Jewish Review

Recently, my travels with my wife, Fanny, have been inspired by our reading. In 2022, "The Ornament of the World," by Maria Rosa Menocal, was the background for a six-week road-trip through Spain and Portugal. The book's subtitle: "How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain", focused our attention on the history of the Jews in Spain during the time leading up to their expulsion during the Inquisition.

Last year, a piece in *Hadassah Magazine*, "A Sojourn in Jewish Provence" (June 2024), formed the basis of another trip, this time as an extension of a river cruise in France from Lyon to Avignon. The article described some of the history of Jews in the area of Provence in southern France, with Avignon, the final stop of our river cruise, being the center.

Modern France has Europe's largest Jewish population with 450,000 Jews, about 60 percent of whom live in the Paris area. Marseilles is the second-largest Jewish community at about 70,000 and Lyon third with about 25,000 people. In antiquity, however, there were significant centers of Jewish life throughout Provence.

Records of Jewish presence in Avignon can be found going back to the Second Century, CE, but little is known about this history. A Jewish ghetto was established there in 1221 and a synagogue was opened around this time. The early synagogue was rebuilt around 1767 and following its destruction, by fire, in 1845, was replaced by the present building in 1846 after a design by an architect named Jeoffroy.

We visited the Avignon Synagogue, located on Place Jerusalem, and were shown around, guided only in French, by a kind local woman who spoke almost no English. Enough of our early education in Montreal enabled us to carry on the conversation. Although quite plain outside, the interior of the building is decorated with beautiful, well maintained wood railings and fixtures. In the synagogue basement, we

were shown the stone, wood-fired matzoh oven.

After a couple of days visiting Avignon, we rented a car for our exploration of Jewish Provence. Our first stop was the town of Cavaillon, about 16 miles from Avignon. The Cavaillon Synagogue, formally known as the Synagogue Jewish Comtadin ('Comtadin' is a dialect of Provencal spoken in southern France). It was listed as an Historical Monument in 1924 by the Museum of France. The synagogue was built in the late 15th century on the foundation of an older house in Rue Hebraic.

This street, called a *carrieres*, was part of a 'papal enclave' and was the only place Jews were allowed to stay. From around 1348, the area around Avignon was a 'papal state' which required Jews to observe certain restrictions: They could only live in certain *carreres*. Men had to wear a yellow hat, women a yellow ribbon. They were only allowed certain types of work.

Beginning in 1624 through the end of the 18th Century, Jews could live only in four towns – Avignon, Cavaillon, Carpentras and I'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue. These four towns came to be known as the Arba Kehilot, or four holy communities.

The street housing the Cavaillon Synagogue was a 'deadend' on one side and gated on the other. Jews were locked in at night and only permitted to move about the town during the day. All of these features are visible today at the current location. The configuration of the actual synagogue is also intact with an upstairs prayer room for men and a downstairs one for women. There is an oven for baking bread and *matzoh*, as well as a *mikvah*.

Restoration of various types has gone on since the 1920s and continue today. Part of the building is now a museum with an interesting assortment of furniture, prayer books, and liturgical objects.

The final Provencal synagogue on our visit was at Car-

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pentras another short drive through the countryside, less than 20 miles from Cavaillon. Carpentras is the oldest French Synagogue still in active use Construction of the Carpentras synagogue began in 1367; I have a kippah from the synagogue which is inscribed "650eme Anniversaire 2017 Synagogue de Carpentras" commemorating the 650th anniversary of the Synagogue. The synagogue was enlarged in two stages: from 1741-46 and then from 1774-1776. The building was classified as an historic monument in 1924.

There are several *Sifrei Torah* in the holy arc of the synagogue. The synagogue has a fully functioning *mikvah* as well as two bakeries. One is used for baking bread for Shabbat and the second which is reserved for making *matzoh*, called *coudoles*



The author's kippah celebrating the 650th Anniversary of the Carpentras Synagogue. (Barry Horowitz/Special to The Jewish Review)

in the dialect of Provence.

As can be imagined, the Jewish population of Carpentras has fluctuated: during the second half of the 14th century the community is estimated to have about 90 families; this number decrease to 69 families after a census in 1473; in 1571 there were only 6 families; by 1669 numbers had increased to 83 families. Numbers continued

to increase, reaching some 800 people in 1758. The community reached its maximum size of 1,200 people in 1760 and finally 2,000 people in 1782. An exodus then reduced the number to 690 people in 1789.

During the French Revolution the synagogue was closed for religious services in 1794, reopening in May 1800. By 1811 the Jewish population

had declined to only 360 people. By the 1920's further declines in numbers limited services to only Yom Kippur. In 1935 the Jewish population was down to 35. The synagogue was partly restored in 1930 and again in 1953. With the arrival of Jews from North Africa (mostly Algeria and Morocco) the community was reestablished and by 2017 the population was up to 125.

More information on these synagogues and their communities is available, respectively, at www.aci-avi-gnon.com, www.aci-avi-gnon.com, www.aci-avi-gnon.com/infos-generales.html and www.synagoguedecar-pentras.fr.

After five decades in international shipping and foreign trade development consultancy, which included columns for The Journal of Commerce and other outlets, Barry Horowitz now serves as "Uber Papa" to his seven grandchildren.

TWO CAN'T-MISS EVENTS FROM



Impact

October 22, 2025 | Featuring Lindsay Gottlieb

USC Women's Basketball Head Coach - Champion. Mom. Trailblazer.



Celebrate the power of women.

An evening designed just for women to connect, be inspired, and make an impact from across our community.

Illuminate

November 15, 2025 | Community Celebration

A Night of Fun and Connection.



Enjoy music, dancing, a live DJ, and delicious food!

Celebrate community, spark new connections, and support a meaningful cause. Everyone's invited to be part of something special.

Save the dates—details coming soon!

Single Parent Family Camp comes to CSS

Camp Solomon Schechter

We're so excited to invite you to something brand new at Schechter: our first-ever <u>Single Parent Family Camp</u>, happening this Sukkot!

From Friday, Oct. 10 through Sunday, Oct. 12, come spend a relaxing, meaningful weekend celebrating Sukkot with other single-parent families at your favorite Jewish camp.

Facilitated by Rabbi C.B. Southern, Single Parent Family Camp is a joyful retreat where single-parent families can step away from daily demands, connect deeply with each other, and build lifelong friendships within our warm, supportive camp community.

Parenting is hard. Single parenting

can be double-hard — and yet it brings so many unique blessings. We know it can sometimes feel isolating to navigate Jewish spaces that don't always naturally include single parents. At Schechter, we believe Jewish community should be a sukkah for all sheltering canopy of peace, welcome, and belonging. Sukkot reminds us of the power of gathering together under one roof (or the forest of trees at camp) sharing meals, stories, and dreams for the future. Together, we'll explore how our families live out Jewish values in our own ways, and how we can support one another on this journey.

Weekend highlights include Shabbat and Shira (singing), Havdalah on the

Hill, lake activities, hiking and building and celebrating in our Sukkah. All meals are provided from Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast. The early-bird cost is \$175 per person, and kids 2 and under join free.

This special weekend is made possible by the <u>Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle</u>, with support from our partners at <u>Congregation Beth Israel</u>, <u>Congregation Beth Shalom</u>, <u>Temple Beth Shalom</u>, <u>Beth Tikvah Congregation</u>, <u>Herzl Ner-Tamid Conservative Congregation</u>, and <u>Congregation Neveh Shalom</u>.

Register online at <u>campschechter.org/</u> <u>single-parent-family-camp/register.</u>

Keshet Shabbaton is Nov. 14-16

Keshet

Keshet, supporting LGBTQ+ equality in Jewish Life, is hosting its Pacific Northwest Shabbaton for teens Friday through Sunday, Nov. 14-16.

our Join one-of-a-kind Shabbat retreats LGBTQ+ and ally Jewish teens, ages 13-18, to learn, grow, and celebrate who you are in a warm and vibrant community. Created by and for LGBTQ+ Jewish teens, Keshet Shabbatonim bring together young LGBTQ+ and ally Jews from across the country to build community and celebrate Shabbat and their Jewish and LGBTQ+ identities.

Learn more and register at <u>keshetonline.org/shabbaton-retreats</u>.

Free subscription:

jewishportland.org/ subscribe

Apply to join the JTA Teen Journalism Fellowship

Jewish Telegraph Agency

Do you know a Jewish teen (ages 15-18) with a passion for storytelling and a keen eye for news?

The JTA Teen Journalism Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for high school students to get real-world journalism experience. Our remote fellowship is designed to help young writers develop their reporting skills and get their work published in a national news outlet.

We believe that the best stories about the Jewish teen experience should be told by teens themselves. Through this program, fellows will have the chance to receive one-on-one mentorship from an experienced professional editor, report and write

a 750-1000 word article on a topic that matters to them, see their work published on the JTA website and get compensated for their published article.

We encourage U.S.-based teens of all backgrounds, identities, genders, cultures and connections to Judaism to apply. This fellowship requires no prior journalism experience. You can read the articles our previous teen journalists have written at jta.org/series/teen-fellowship.

Applications received by Aug. 25 will get feedback on their story idea before the final deadline. Final Deadline. All applications must be submitted by Sept. 10.

Apply online at <u>jta.org/jta-teen-journal-ism-fellowship</u>

ADL Glass Leadership Institute Applications now open

If you're passionate about combating antisemitism and hate and promoting civil rights, we invite you to apply to join a nationwide network of dynamic leaders (ages 25-45) who share a passion for #Fighting-HateForGood through ADL's Glass Leadership Institute. This year's cohort is open to leaders in Portland and will begin this fall, building on a 20-year tradition in the Pacific Northwest.

Glass Leadership Institute is a nationally recognized leadership development program designed to give a select group of professionals an up-close and personal view into the nation's premier civil rights and human rights organization. This program serves as a comprehensive introduc-

tion to ADL and a chance to connect with an impressive circle of emerging leaders in the region.

During the program's monthly, hybrid sessions, participants will spend two hours exploring the tools and strategies used to fight antisemitism and hate while engaging with ADL professionals, including experts on antisemitism and hate, analysts from ADL's Center on Extremism on domestic extremism and hate groups, legal and policy experts on ADL's civil rights and legislative advocacy work and anti-bias and antisemitism education specialists on K-12 school programming

Questions? Please contact Ariel Novick at anovick@adl.org.



NEXTGEN IS GOING TO PANAMA! DECEMBER 10-14, 2025

This is an exclusive travel opportunity for our NextGen community (organized for young professionals ages 25-50)



VISIT JEWISHPORTLAND.ORG/PANAMA2025 FOR INFORMATION, COSTS, AND TO REGISTER!



Announcing Our Women's Mission to Mexico City | February 2026

Join us for a meaningful and inspiring Women's Mission to Mexico City for a journey of connection, culture, and community.

Early Bird Registration is **NOW OPEN** - ends August 31st (at midnight)!

ODAY!



BE AMONG THE FIRST TO SECURE YOUR PLACE AND REGISTER TODAY!

OREGON & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S JEWISH NEWSPAPER

Published biweekly by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland 9900 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 220 Tigard, OR 97223 503-245-6219

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To receive the Jewish Review in your email inbox, fill out the form at jewishportland.org/ subscribe

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline
AUG 27 AUG 21

Security Corner

HHD trainings start Aug. 21

By JESSICA ANDERSON

It's hard to believe High Holidays are right around the corner. While we all enjoy our last months of summer, our organizational leaders are busy preparing for services, gatherings, and events.

That is a lot of responsibility, and I've long held the belief that the best way you as an individual can help support your community is to be trained and prepared to respond to an emergency. Every individual who arrives prepared and knowledgeable at a community gathering is one less person that staff and volunteers have to help in an emergency. It's a gift you can provide to your community.

To that end, Secure Community Network (SCN) is hosting a series of webinars to help organizations and individuals prepare. The series started last week with an overview of security considerations as plans are created. The webinars will consist of educational/informational webinars (these are always recorded and available on SCN's website, www.securecommunitynetwork.org) and specific safety and security training. The average community member may not have reason to watch the information webinars, but the training series is a great way to be individually trained in these valuable skills. Training webinars are never recorded, but each session is offered 2x per day to make them as accessible as possi-

SCN does not regularly offer security training throughout the year, so this



Jessica Anderson is the Portlandarea 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.

is a great opportunity to hear directly from SCN's training team. If you have never been to an SCN security training class, they will provide the basics of what to know and do in certain situations. Many people avoid training because they 1. think they'll never need it, and 2. think it will remind them of the bad things that can happen. To the first point, I would say we can never know when issues or incidents might happen. Do you think a small synagogue in Colleyville, TX, ever thought they would end up in a day-long hostage situation? These things happen – we can't know when or where, but we can control whether we're prepared. To the second point, I say that training breeds confidence. It's hard to confront the possibility of bad things happening. I can 100% guarantee to you that you will feel better and more confident following training - you'll know that you have the capacity and ability to respond. That's not a small thing.

So please consider taking one of these security classes, some of which have been newly updated. If you miss them, I will be offering them again starting later in 2025, via Zoom. More information about my training is found at the bottom of this article and here is the national security training schedule:

Thursday August 14th – BeAware: Introduction to Situational Awareness (newly updated course!) at 11am and 5:30pm

This training will teach you how to recognize suspicious or potentially dangerous behavior and threats and what to do. Designed for all community members, BeAware covers basic situational awareness and how to help protect yourself, your family, and your community.

Thursday, Aug. 21 – Guardian: Identify, Protect, Respond at 11am and 5:30pm

Guardians take personal responsibility for the safety and security of themselves, their families, and their communities. Learn the skillsets that help you identify, protect, and respond to all hazards and become an Active Bystander in your community.

Thursday, Aug. 28 – The Power of Hello at 11am and 5:30pm

The Power of Hello training equips you with the knowl-

See **SECURITY**, page 15

Aug. 13: Songs from Home

Israeli music concert at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm. \$10. Tickets at members.nevehshalom.org/event/SFH25

Aug. 13: The Sounds of Bossa Nova

Music workshop at 7 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons. \$10. More information at ejcpdx.org/events

Aug. 14: Wondering Jews: Lan Su Chinese Garden Tour & Tea

Garden tour at Lan Su Chinese Garden in Northwest Portland at 10 am. \$15 for Congregation Neveh Shalom members, \$18 for non-members. More information and tickets at members.neve-hshalom.org/event/won-dering-jews-lan-su-chinese-garden-tour--tea.html.

Aug. 14: Volunteer for Local Pollinators

Climate Action Committee volunteer service event at 5

pm. For more information and to register, visit <u>jewish-portland.org/pollinators</u>.

Aug. 14: Shiurim (Learning) - Zohar & Zhug

Monthly learning gathering at 8:15 pm at Congregation Ahavath Achim. Free. Registration at ahavathachimp-dx.weebly.com/zohar-and-zhug.

Aug. 15: Friday Noon Concert - Tim Connell Duo

Brazilian music concert at the Eastside Jewish Commons at noon. More information at ejcpdx.org/events.

Aug. 15: Family Shabbat Dinner at the J!

Monthly Shabbat dinner at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 6 pm. \$5 per person, \$15 per family. Preregistration required at oregonicc.org.

Aug. 17: Dignity Grows Packing Party

Menstrual hygiene supply tote packing event at Congregation Kol Ami at 10:30 am. Preregistration required at jewishportland.org/dignitygrowspackaugust.

Aug. 17: Israeli Folk Dancing at SWCC

Weekly Israeli folk dance class and open dancing at the Southwest Community Center. Class at 2:30 pm, open dancing at 3:30. For more information, visit sites.google.com/site/pifdnews.

Aug. 20: Portland Jewish Festival

Free family-friendly Jewish celebration at Jamison Park in Northwest Portland at 5 pm. For more information and to register, visit portlandjewishfestival.com.

Aug. 21: Portland Lesbian Choir Community Concert

Concert at 7 pm at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. \$15 for OJMCHE members, \$20 general admission. Tickets at ojmche.org/events/portland-lesbian-choir-community-concert.

Aug. 22-24: Last Day of Camp

Young Adult weekend at BB Camp. For more information and to register, visit bb-360.org/last-day-of-camp.

Aug. 24: Meet Author Maggie Anton

Author reading and book signing at Congregation Neveh Shalom at noon. \$5. Registration at members. nevehshalom.org/event/MASis.

Aug. 24: P'nai Or Sing-Along

Third annual sing-along in Lake Oswego at 2 pm. \$18. Tickets at givebutter.com/summersing.

Aug. 24: Summer BBQ Party in the Park

Barbecue party at Raleigh Park and Swim Center, sponsored by Keruv Levavot. For more information and to register, visit <u>events.humanitix.com/summer-bbq-party-in-the-park</u>.

SECURITY (continued from page 14)

edge and skills to observe and evaluate suspicious behaviors. It empowers you to mitigate potential risk by knowing when to seek additional help. When used effectively, the right words can be a powerful tool.

Thursday, Sept. 11th Navigating Conflict: The Power of De-escalation at 11am and 5:30pm

This class equips people with the knowledge, skills,

and techniques to reduce tension, hostility, or conflict in a situation. Learn common escalation triggers, the de-escalation process, and communication skills to navigate aggression.

Tuesday, Sept. 16 – Countering Active Threat Training (CATT) – (newly updated course!) at 11am and 5:30pm

Countering an Active Threat Training (CATT) teaches the valuable principles of how to respond during an active threat event. Developed for faith-based institutions and houses of worship, CATT is a foundational course for everyone in the community.

Each class/session must be registered for separately and the link to the full webinar schedule and registration can be found at <a href="https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/articles/scn-announc-org/articles/scn-announc

es-full-2025-high-holi-day-webinar-training-series/

I also offer zoom (and in-person) training throughout the year! My training schedule can be found on the JFGP security web page and will soon be updated with training classes for September and beyond. Please check back regularly as classes are added! https://jewishportland.org/events/security-training.

SUBSCRIBE: jewishportland.org/subscribe

Obituaries

HOWARD ABRAMS

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Howard Abrams, z"l, who passed away on Saturday, July 26 at age 73.

Howard is survived by his siblings, Stuart Abrams and (wife) Michelle, Bruce Abrams, Julie Abrams and David Abrams; his nephews and nieces, Maxwell, Arie, Matthew and Samantha Abrams, Michael Ramirez, and Madeline Ramirez; Sol and (wife) Bri Ramirez; and his great grandniece Astrid Ramirez. He was preceded in death by his mother, Marian Abrams, z"l, and father, Stanton Abrams, z"l.

A memorial service was held Sunday, Aug. 3 at Beth Israel Cemetery.

Donations in Howard's memory can be made to the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

DIANE LUND

Diane Lund, z"l, passed away July 26, 2025 at the age of 86. From humble and arduous beginnings, Diane's tenacious spunky spirit, boundless energy, inquisitive mind, and unwavering resolve to make a difference propelled her into becoming a fearless investigative journalist, a founder of non-profit organizations Oregon Health Forum and The Lund Report, a founder of a non-profit newsletter on healthcare, and an indomitable watchdog journalist to the health care industry across Oregon. All with a single overriding conviction to "challenge the power of the health care industry" to create a more transparent accountable system benefiting all, not just the rich and powerful.

Diane also founded Shalom Oregon magazine to bring together Christians and Jews, was a survivor of breast cancer and a co-founder of Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition. Diane was a single parent to her daughter in the 1970's, traveled the world to over 70 countries on five continents, inspired her husband Michael for 31 years to say 'yes' to new experiences, and touched countless people's lives with her gift of bringing people together and compassionate heart.

Diane earned a bachelor's in journalism from the University of Minnesota and a master's in speech communication from Portland State University. After college she traveled through Europe and Israel and returned to the U.S. with her infant daughter in tow, settling in Oregon which became her home base. Diane made every moment count, spending her free time hosting social gatherings, taking her grandchildren on trips, and visiting New York to soak up the arts and culture in a place that paralleled her own intensity and vitality. Diane also loved a challenge! She climbed to the base camp of Mt. Everest without a tour group, and at 85 years young, walked in the Portland to Coast team race. It was her goal to walk The Camino de Santiago in Spain next year.

Diane was the child of Mildred Kaplan and Bernard Siegel and younger sister to Alan Siegel. She died peacefully in her sleep in the Portland home she shared with her beloved husband and her English Springer Spaniel Petra. She is survived by her husband Michael Muzikant and his three grandchildren and two great grandchildren and her daughter, Elissa Fronczak, her husband and their three children. Before she died Diane was one month shy of 87 years old, still planning her next adventure! In lieu of flowers Diane would appreciate do-

nations sent to the University of Minnesota Hubbard School of Journalism Diane Siegel-Lund Investigative Journalism Scholarship which she established to pass the baton forward.

HOWARD FREEDMAN

Congregation Neveh Shalom is deeply saddened to announce the passing of our beloved long-time congregant, Howard Freedman, z"l, on Aug. 3 at the age of 90. He was predeceased by his wife, Evelyn Freedman, z"l, and is lovingly remembered by his children, Jimmy (Renee) Freedman, Jeff (Deborah) Freedman, and Jana Freedman, as well as his five cherished grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held Tuesday, Aug. 5, at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery

ADAM BECKER

Adam Becker, z''l, passed away July 31, 2025 at the age of 32. Adam was a graduate of the University of Denver and a true citizen of the world. After college, he spent a year traveling through India, igniting a lifelong passion for exploration. That passion led him to guide gap-year students on immersive journeys across Costa Rica, Greece, Italy, Peru, Chile, and India, to name a few.

Fluent in four languages - English, Spanish, Hebrew, and Italian - and proficient in Hindi, Adam had a gift for connecting with people across cultures. He continued to thrive in the adventure travel industry and most recently served as Sales and Marketing Operations Lead at Mountain Travel Sobek. There, he brought both intellect and curiosity to his work, mastering new professional skills nearly every day.

Adam could sip chai with grandmothers in India, tango in Argentina, salsa dance in Mexico, befriend the building handyman in Chicago, or share a beer with the family who owned the local shoe repair shop-just as easily as he could lead a meeting with his company's CEO about the technological future of the business.

Known as "Mr. Popular" in every social setting, from Beber summer camp to high school to his post-college job at a neighborhood restaurant, Adam's charisma and quick wit made him magnetic. The students he led on trips admired him deeply-not only as a guide, but as a mentor and role model. Adam, "Tio," was also adored by his nephew, "Dylancito," who thought he was the funniest person in the world.

Adam will be remembered for his ability to make friends wherever he went. His warmth, spirit, and dry (very dry) sense of humor touched everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his mother, Mindy Becker-Jones (Greg Jones); sister, Julie Becker (Daniel Gordon); beloved nephews, Dylan and Ryan; and maternal grandfather, David Greenberg. He was preceded in death by his father, Bruce Becker, z"l; paternal grandfather Benjamin Becker, z"l; paternal grandmother Marilyn Blaushild, z"l; and maternal grandmother, Cynthia Greenberg, z"l.

A private funeral was held. In honor of Adam's memory, donations may be made to Beber Camp. Contributions will go toward scholarships, providing an opportunity for all to experience the community he cherished. To donate, please visit bebercamp.com/donate and dedicate your gift in Adam's name.