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## Nelson begins Spertus program on combatting antisemitism

By **ROCKNE ROLL**  
*The Jewish Review*

Standing up against antisemitism has long been part of Rachel Nelson's work – work she'll soon be even better equipped to do.

Nelson, the Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, is participating in the third cohort of the Leadership Certificate in Combating Antisemitism for Professionals program at the Spertus Institute in Chicago.

"We had seen the rise in antisemitism much before Oct.7," Nelson said. "It felt like it was really the right time to invest in this type of experience to understand new ways of responding and to create a national cohort of

See **SPERTUS**, page 2

## Jewish 'Divorce Camp' is Oct. 17-20



BB360 Chief Community and Jewish Life Officer Kim Schneiderman leads a song for participants in a Divorce and Discovery retreat at Camp Tawonga in California. Schneiderman, along with retreat founder Rabbi Deborah Newbrun, will be offering the experience at BB Camp later this year. (Courtesy BB360)

By **ROCKNE ROLL**  
*The Jewish Review*

Jewish tradition provides guidance and rituals for so much for the lifecycle, but very little when it comes to divorce. There's been work afoot to change that, however, and it's coming to Oregon.

Divorce and Discovery, a weekend retreat for those going through, or already divorced, is coming to BB Camp in Lincoln City from Oct. 17-20. It's the brainchild of Rabbi Deborah Newbrun, the Director Emeritus of Camp Tawonga in California, who went through a painful divorce in the mid-90s and sought advice and support from rabbis she knew.

"I reached out and said, 'My heart is broken. What does Judaism have for me?'" Rabbi Newbrun recalled. "And they said, 'Nothing, really.'"

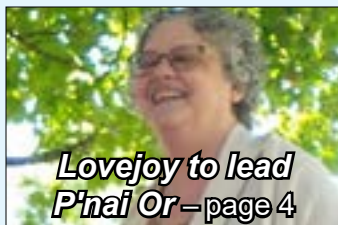
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New episodes resume  
**Sept. 4**



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# Letters from Camp

## Building a bond on the Washington Coast

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Theodore Hertzl said, “If you will it, it is no dream.” Out on the Long Beach Peninsula of Southwestern Washington, Camp Keshet has made their dream a reality.

Meira Spivak, Camp Keshet’s director, has worked in Jewish sleepaway camps for more than 15 years and had long wanted to establish a camp in the Pacific Northwest, “a place that’s Jewish, that’s focused on being Jewish and making it fun and wanting to stay Jewish,” she said.

In 2018, she took the plunge and took 20 campers up to Mount Hood for a week. Camp Keshet hosted more than 30 campers the next season. COVID canceled the 2020 session, but the growth resumed from there – more than 80 kids attended this summer.

“I was the cook and the programming director and the everything,” Spivak recalls of those first summers.

Camp Keshet now has a full-time chef in the camp’s kosher kitchen. The camp is Orthodox in the sense of kosher food and Shabbat observance, but is open to all and focuses, as Spivak intended, on making Judaism fun.

“The vibe of the camp is low-pressure Judaism, and I want to make everything that’s Jewish fun,” she said. “On Friday, the whole camp cooks. I believe it’s a pivotal program in the camp. I want kids to get excited for Shabbat before it happens. It’s really important to me.”

The dining room turns into a makeshift kitchen as kids work challah dough together, prep soup or any of the numerous other tasks required to put a massive Shabbat dinner together. It’s chaos, but Spivak says it’s a “fun chaos.” It also seems to leave a lasting impression.

“I have parents call me; ‘I just want you to know, my kids are still cooking five months later, they still help for about every week,’” she said.

The arts and crafts program also pitches in, turning out lots

of Judaica – Havdalah sets, Shabbat candlesticks, pictures of the Kotel, and etched wood challah boards. These aren’t just fun and useful objects – they’re meant to be a lasting, tangible connection to a heritage thousands of years in the making.

“Everything is done with the hope that the connection is not just this time in camp, but it’s also when they come home,” Spivak said.

In addition to the immersive, easygoing Jewish environment, Camp Keshet also offers the scenic splendor of the Pacific Ocean. Each camp session takes on an overnight trip out into forest that surround the camp, with white-water rafting to boot. There’s zip-lining and rock climbing as well, and, of course, the beach.

“It’s just amazing to give the campers that experience,” Spivak said.

The number of campers coming in, many from out of the area, for that very experience continues to grow. The goal is 400 – a goal Spivak has had since the early days up on Mount Hood.

“The assistant director our first year said to me, ‘You’re spending so much time on the calendar and there’s twenty kids in the camp. Every single thing doesn’t have to be calculated to the hour. We’ll wing it,’” she recalled. “I said to them, ‘We’re not creating a camp for a first year. We’re creating camp for 400 kids.’”

More information about Camp Keshet is available online at [campkeshet.ncsy.org](http://campkeshet.ncsy.org).

“*Letters From Camp*” features stories from each of the five Jewish overnight camps in the Pacific Northwest over the course of the summer. Next issue: *Camp Kalisman*. For more on Jewish summer camps, listen to “*Campfire Kehillah with Avi Orlow*” on *The Jewish Review Podcast*, available on all major platforms and visit the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland’s camp resources page at [jewishportland.org/inclusion-camping](http://jewishportland.org/inclusion-camping).

## SPERTUS

(continued from page 1)

people who are also doing this work.”

The cohort includes 20 individuals from 13 states and provinces who are completing 11 weeks of virtual trainings with a culminating seminar in Chicago.

“We all come from different places where we are all frontline responders in

some way shape or form,” Nelson explained, “and this program is going to equip us to respond to antisemitism with knowledge, strength and skill.”

Beyond the value of the training program itself, Nelson said the program is a valuable opportunity to connect with others who work with the same sorts of issues, building a community to lean on and exchange ideas with as new faces emerge on

the world’s oldest hatred.

“What we know about antisemitism is it’s ever-evolving. It used to be related to how we practice Judaism; the current iteration is demonization around Israel. It’s an ever-evolving hatred that will constantly need new and innovative ways to respond,” Nelson said. “I feel very honored to be part of this experience and I hope to bring valuable tools for responding to our community.”

The Spertus Institute was founded in 1924 to provide adult Jewish education to Chicago’s Jewish community. The Institute, named after philanthropist brothers Maurice and Herman Spertus, operates a variety of graduate degree and certificate programs. Learn more about the Certificate in Combating Antisemitism Program online at [spertus.edu/leadership-certificate-in-combatting-antisemitism](http://spertus.edu/leadership-certificate-in-combatting-antisemitism).

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# Lovejoy named P'nai Or student rabbi

By ROCKNE ROLL  
*The Jewish Review*

It's not every day that a congregation finds its spiritual leader from within its own ranks, but P'nai Or of Portland has done exactly that. The Jewish Renewal synagogue has hired member, former synagogue administrator and rabbinical student Zmira Lovejoy as their spiritual leader, succeeding Rabbi Hannah Laner who departed in 2023.

Lovejoy has not only been the congregation's administrator but has served as a lay leader of services dating back to her first connections to P'nai Or in the mid-1990s. Her connections to Jewish Renewal date back to her college days. She was interested in Kabbalah and Jewish mysticism as far back as age 11, when a young rabbi at her day school told her that the study of kabbalah was only for men over 40, but reconnected with Jewish mysticism at a college lecture from Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, z"l, one of the leading figures of Jewish Renewal.

"He was talking about Judaism like he was reading my heart," Lovejoy recalled. "It moved me so much, just the depth of his connection to ancient Judaism and current Judaism and finding a way to do it in an egalitarian and spiritually connected way; not by rote, but actually participate and find meaning in all of this stuff, even the old stuff that is hard."

Lovejoy moved to Portland



Lovejoy (Courtesy photo)

and became part of P'nai Or in the 90s, but by 2010 was feeling pulled toward playing a larger role in Jewish life.

"I started realizing that I wanted to be doing work that was some sort of Jewish leadership, and I wanted it to have music as part of it," she said, "but I didn't know what that was going to show up like, and I wasn't in a rush."

Lovejoy took opportunities as they presented themselves, looking for what she called "the next right thing." Starting in 2012, she became the congregation's administrator, a role she has officially transitioned out of as she takes on her new one. In 2016, it was a training program for leaders of Jewish chanting, followed by the Davvenen' Leadership Training Institute run by

ALEPH, the Jewish Renewal seminary, through which she considered, for a time, all of the leadership ordination programs offered before deciding to join the rabbinate. In 2020 she was accepted to ALEPH's rabbinical program and started taking classes part-time. She had no expectation of becoming P'nai Or's rabbi, but she also couldn't see herself leaving P'nai Or.

"Maybe I'll be a teacher of some kind, or I'll serve a congregation once a month that doesn't have a full-time rabbi or something like that," she said of considering what to do with her ordination when she received it. "But [rabbinical school] seemed like the next thing I needed to do for my soul curriculum, if you will."

She's not P'nai Or's first

student rabbi – President Lynn Taylor explained that one of P'nai Or's founders and its first rabbi, Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfeld, z"l, was still a rabbinical student when the congregation began meeting on Friday nights in 1991.

"We don't have to train the new rabbi about what it's like to live in Portland, Oregon, or what it's like to be in our culture," Taylor said. "We all know Zmira. Zmira has been a lay leader for a long time. She's been an amazing administrator. She's done a lot of work that's really been helpful to promote the community."

After being one of the primary leaders of services since Rabbi Laner's departure for most of a year, Lovejoy proposed a student rabbi role for herself to the congregation's board, which happily accepted.

"If we had said we need to hire a full-time Rabbi out of New York with all of these credentials and 30 years of training, we wouldn't be able to afford them, and the congregation would just disperse," Taylor said.

Lovejoy will continue her rabbinical studies while working at P'nai Or and expects to be officially ordained within four years.

"I knew it was going to be a long journey, but I was in it for the journey. I wasn't really thinking a lot about the end point because of that right next thing, the right next thing is to be on this path," she said.

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# Goranson to lead DG; packing party set for Sept. 22

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Dignity Grows, Portland's Jewish community effort to combat period poverty, is back this fall with new leadership.

Arielle Goranson has succeeded Bonnie Newman as Chair of Dignity Grows, a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Women's Philanthropy. The group's next packing party is set for Sunday, Sept. 22, at 1 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center in Portland. This pack focused on a back-to-school theme and is partnering with the newly relaunched B'nai Tzedek program of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation. Goranson is working to bring in other youth organizations in the community.

"It felt like it was the right time and right opportunity to step in," Goranson said of leading Dignity Grows. "So much of the foundation has been set, so many of the pieces are moving so seamlessly."

Dignity Grows provides menstrual products and other hygiene supplies to health agency partners around the community in discrete, individual totes – supplies are donated and packed into totes by volunteers at packing parties like the one on Sept. 22, then picked up by partners and given to those in the community who need them most. Dignity Grows packed more than 2,000



Volunteers load Dignity Grows' signature tote bags with hygiene supplies during a packing party at Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland Sunday, Sept. 27, 2023. Dignity Grows will host a packing party at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center Sunday, Sept. 22. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

totes in the last 12 months.

Goranson has a master's degree in public health and her work has focused on maternal child health, so she brings a unique understanding of the issues that Dignity Grows is working to address.

"Think about stories of teen girls not being able to go to high school because of their period and their families can't give them the supplies they need. So they just have to stay home, then they can't go to college because they can't graduate from high school," she said. "It becomes this inequity, where groups who either don't face this issue

because they have enough resources or because they don't menstruate, they keep going whole a whole group of people are left behind."

The Oregon Menstrual Dignity Act made period products available and free in all Oregon public schools beginning in 2021, but these basic supplies may not be available at home. Goranson explained that a health education unit her sons took at school got her thinking about young people's experiences with this issue and the opportunity an organization like Dignity Grows presents to help take a hands-on

role in addressing a problem they're in the midst of learning about.

"This could be like a really cool opportunity for young people who are just learning about this to do community service and get a sense of what life is like for people either differently gendered or differently resourced than them," she explained. "What do you do about such a huge issue? This is something tangible that they can do."

Pre-registration is required for the Sept. 22 packing party and is available online at [jewishportland.org/packingevent](https://jewishportland.org/packingevent).



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

# Nadelson's 'Trust Me' to debut with Powell's event

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Scott Nadelson's newest book is a poignant connection to both his Jewish identity and the part of the world he calls home.

"Trust Me," set to be published in September by Forest Avenue Press in Portland, is Nadelson's second novel. It depicts a divorced father from New Jersey living in a cabin in the Cascade mountains of Oregon he bought to try and save his marriage. The book is written as a series of interlocking vignettes of the weekends he has custody of his daughter.

Powell's Books said, "By turns comic and heartbreaking, 'Trust Me' is a study of the uneasy bond between a hapless father and his precocious daughter, of their love for a complex and changing landscape, of the necessity and precariousness of the relationships and places we cherish most."

Nadelson said that the father is inspired, in some ways, by facets of his own life.

"He definitely shares a lot of autobiographical facts with me in terms of where he's from and his age and personality-wise," Nadelson said. "He's a lot more impulsive than I am and a bit more of a mess."

In addition to his own time in the Cascades with his family, Nadelson explained "the other big influence was a novel that I read and loved, called 'The Summer Book' by Toby Johnson, a Finnish writer. I just loved the structure of it and the sort of magic of this way in which he explores it."

The format suits Nadelson, who said that writing short stories plays to his literary strengths. A Professor of English and the Hallie Ford Chair in Writing at Willa-



mette University in Salem, Nadelson has published six collections of short stories in addition to his two novels, a memoir and a trove of individual stories and essays in publications all over the country. That's not to say the process was easy – particularly as he began the work without knowing quite how it would end.

"It took me about eight years to write the thing, and I didn't know how it was all going to come together. I just tried to focus for a while on just writing these small moments and letting them accumulate," he said. "It didn't actually come together until after the fires of 2020; then, suddenly, I knew where the book was going to end."

Nadelson's Judaism has

always been infused into his fiction, beginning with his first book, a story collection titled "Saving Stanley" that leaned heavily on his experience growing up in a not-particularly-Jewish part of New Jersey.

"I write a lot about the secular American Jewish experience. It's a metaphorical state of being; having sort of one foot in the dominant culture and one foot out of the dominant culture and the sort of consciousness of also being separate," he said. "That's something that it has infused all of my work."

This particularly comes home in a scene in "Trust Me," where father and daughter are selecting a Christmas Tree for the mountain cabin – the child

hasn't been raised Jewish and her mother always practiced Christmas traditions, including the tree. Nadelson recalled that during Christmastime in his New Jersey hometown, his was the only house around without lights.

"That was what her family always did, but he's never really been that comfortable with it and sort of thinks about his own childhood, which was my childhood," Nadelson said of his character's tree-buying adventure. "He's navigating trying to give his daughter the experiences she wants and carrying a lot of discomfort around what he has chosen to run away from and feeling like he's done something wrong."

Nadelson explained while he's worked previously as a journalist – including as calendar editor for *The Jewish Review* – fiction is where he's truly hit his stride.

"I actually came to writing through music first. I discovered language that really meant something to me through song," he said. "I first thought maybe I wanted to be a rock star, but I had no musical talent whatsoever. I stumbled across poetry late in my high school years and thought I wanted to write poetry."

Life had other ideas – when Nadelson attempted to sign up for a poetry class at the University of North Carolina, it was full, and he ended up in a fiction-writing class instead.

"It just really took off from there," he said. "I found the thing that I love to do."

Powell's Books is holding a release-day event for "Trust Me" Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 7 pm at their Downtown location on West Burnside Street in Portland. Signed copies of "Trust Me" are available for preorder through Powell's at [powells.com/book/trust-me-9781942436638/1-1](https://powells.com/book/trust-me-9781942436638/1-1).

# From Brooklyn to Brooklyn - Lita Rae's cafe opens

By ROCKNE ROLL

*The Jewish Review*

Rae Mindel-Katz's culinary journey was inspired by their grandmother, Lita Katz, z"l, even after her passing last May.

"I was walking to the farmers market and saw all the streets were covered in cherry blossoms, so pink. And then there was a little, shining golden thing and I got closer, and it was a piece of an onion skin," Mindel-Katz explained. "It was about a month after she passed and it felt like a message from her saying, 'honor me and cook for community.'"

After about year of planning, pop-ups, and a bicycle popsicle cart, that challenge is coming to fruition in the opening of Lita Rae's Marvelous Café – the logo is, of course, a piece of onion skin surrounded by cherry blossoms. The café celebrated its soft opening on Lita Katz's birthday, Aug. 5, at its temporary quarters at Know Thy Food Cooperative in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Southeast Portland – a fitting locale for a tribute to Katz, a native of the better-known Brooklyn in New York.

"She always brought people together over food. She was always cooking and making sure people had enough to eat," Mindel-Katz said of their grandmother. "I feel like that has been instilled in me or just passed down as part of the family way."

The café is currently a one-person operation, open late mornings to early evenings, serving mostly baked goods with a focus on accommodating dietary restrictions.

"I want there to be a place where people can come have an afternoon cup of coffee and pastry and just hang



Rae Mindel-Katz, pictured at Know Thy Food Cooperative, the home of Lita Rae's Marvelous Cafe, along with a portrait of their grandmother, Lita Katz, z"l, Monday, Aug. 5. The cafe staged an opening celebration on what would have been her 93rd birthday. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

out," Mindel-Katz said.

While many Jewish deli staples are challenging to execute with such a small crew, Mindel-Katz said they are excited to break out some of the classics like matzo ball soup and their grandmother's brisket recipe – they're also working on perfecting their bagels.

"It's not a Jewish deli in the traditional sense, but everything that I'm doing is inspired by my Jewish grandmother," they said. "It's funny because we didn't grow up practicing really, but we always did Passover. We would gather for seders. The cultural significance of being Jewish feels like alive in the way that I try to feed people. Even though I'm an almost 30 -year-old trans and non-binary person, I feel like I do kind of embody

some Jewish grandmother qualities."

It's an instinct that started with the creativity of youth – Mindel-Katz recalled coming home from school in the afternoon and forgoing the typical after-school snack for their own Eggs Benedict, including scratch-made hollandaise.

"My dad would come home and be like, 'what are you doing?'" they recalled. "I was hungry, and it seemed like I could try it. I made something delicious for myself and I started just becoming more creative and self-sufficient."

That journey has continued and, with the arrangement of space at Know They Food, is blossoming like the cherry blossoms of the logo.

"I came in here a month ago and chatted with one of the

staff here, Alex, and we just kind of immediately bonded. They had been looking for someone to take over the space," Mindel-Katz said. "It was the right place at the right time."

The time in that space may be short – Know They Food, which is rebranding to Brooklyn Grocery Cooperative, will be moving out of space it has occupied for the last decade at the expiration of its lease on Sept. 30 to a yet-unknown destination – as will Lita Rae's.

"It's kind of an experiment for these next two months," Mindel-Katz said. "I really want to try to get as many people in here as I can."

The experiment is open at 3434 SE Milwaukie Ave. in Portland. Find Lita Rae's on Facebook at [facebook.com/lita.rae.cafe](https://facebook.com/lita.rae.cafe).



Above left: Participants in a Divorce and Discovery retreat celebrate Shabbat services at Camp Tawonga in California. Above right: Small group discussion and community building, in groups of six to eight participants based on age range, is a foundational aspect of Divorce and Discovery. (Photos Courtesy BB360)

## DIVORCE (continued from page 1)

to dissolve a marriage, most notably through the issuance of a *get*, a written divorce document. There are many emotional facets of divorce, however, that are left wholly unaddressed.

“It’s not transformational and it’s not spiritual,” Rabbi Newbrun said of a *get*. “It’s legal.”

She eventually undertook rabbinical training of her own at the Pluralistic Rabbinical Seminary, receiving her ordination in 2021. One of the graduation requirements was the creation of “something new in the Jewish space; something that didn’t exist before.” The pieces started to come together for Rabbi Newbrun.

“Maybe we could do divorce better in the 21st century,” she recalls thinking. “Basically, my goal was to create a sea change for how the Jewish community responds to divorce.”

The first retreat was in 2022 at Camp Tawonga and has attracted a growing number of participants – as well as support from the Covenant Foundation. With this support, the program is broadening its geographic reach beyond Northern California.

The weekend-long program begins with the staff – rabbis, cantors, Jewish educators, and other professionals – all telling the story of their divorces or break-ups in long-term partner relationships. All the professionals leading the event have gone through divorce or long-term relationship breakup to help show participants that divorce can – and does- happen to people regardless of status.

One of those leaders is Kim Schnei-

derman, BB360’s Chief Community and Jewish Life Officer. Now 12 years removed from her own divorce, Schneiderman immediately connected with what Rabbi Newbrun was building and served as a song leader for the second session at Tawonga. When she joined BB360’s staff with the goal of building community, bringing Divorce and Discovery to Oregon seemed natural.

“It was so moving to hear what she was putting together for people who are in waves of grief,” Schneiderman said, referencing the ups and downs of divorce and its aftermath. “I feel like it’s a huge gift to offer it here to our community.”

The program is centered on small groups of six to eight participants, based on age cohorts, with one of the leadership staff facilitating conversation and the sharing of experiences. There is also an array of elective programs that help address the spectrum of feelings that come with divorce through a Jewish lens or provide experiences that help process what’s happened to them.

“We have a morning of electives that have to do with Judaism and grief, or Judaism and divorce or Judaism and something pertinent to what they’re going through,” Rabbi Newbrun said. Afternoon activities include hiking, arts and crafts – including repurposing one’s *ketubah* (marriage contract) into something else of meaning - or sitting *shiva* for one’s marriage, an adaptation of the morning ritual following the death of a loved one. Another adapted ritual is a divorce-centered *tashlich*;

the symbolic High Holy Days act of casting sins into a body of water is used to cast off the remnants of a former relationship which no longer serve. The small groups have Shabbat dinner together on Friday night, followed by a social hour, with Shabbat services on Saturday morning and *Havdalah* Saturday night – the ritual of separation from Shabbat taking on a unique significance for those who have separated from marriage.

“[*Havdalah*] separates one thing that’s holy from another thing that’s holy,” Rabbi Newbrun said. “The Shabbat, which is holy, is perhaps the marriage; the ordinary days is perhaps you as single.”

BB360’s edition will have its own ritual adaptations, as it’s occurring over the first days of Sukkot – a schedule that was not by accident, Schneiderman explained.

“We’re going to bring that meaning into this whole weekend,” she said. “It’s purposeful that we are doing this during this festival.”

After a Saturday night talent show and silent dance party – participants don headphones which let them choose their own music while still getting a group dance experience – Sunday morning concludes with opportunities to discuss unresolved questions or concerns with the broader group, tapping on the collective experience and expertise of participants.

There’s also some downtime, and in addition to the facilities that BB Camp has built in, other professionals will

*continued on next page*

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be available to aid the experience during those downtimes.

“We’ll bring in a yoga specialist, we bring in massage therapists so people can sign up during some of that downtime if they just need to get some body work done,” Schneiderman said. “People can sign up for times to sit with a therapist and talk about things that they need to talk about.”

The retreat is \$640, which includes all the programming plus lodging and meals at BB Camp. Financial aid is available through BB360, as well as through some synagogues for members. Making sure the experience is affordable for those who need it has been an emphasis for Schneiderman.

“Coming from someone who experienced a huge financial change once I got divorced,” she said, “I know how stressful and overwhelming it might feel for people to say, ‘I don’t even know if I can do this right now because I can’t afford it.’”



Shabbat candles burn on the beach at a Divorce and Discovery retreat at Camp Tawonga in California. Jewish ritual observances, many of them adapted to address the spiritual needs of those who have experienced divorce or partner separation, are a key element of the retreat. (Courtesy BB360)

Rabbi Newbrun described Divorce and Discovery’s presence in Oregon as a gift to the community, as it gives spiritual leaders here an answer to questions like the

ones she found no answers to back in the 90s.

“Now they don’t have to say, ‘I’ve got nothing for you,’” Rabbi Newbrun said. “They can say, ‘Actually

there’s a divorce camp, Divorce and Discovery. It’s the Jewish healing camp and I think you can go. We even have some scholarship money for you.”

A photograph of six women of various ages and ethnicities smiling together. They are wearing lanyards with name tags. The background is an indoor event space with warm lighting.

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### Editor

Rockne Roll

[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

### Associate Editor

Caron Blau Rothstein

### Circulation

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## NEXT ISSUE

**Issue date Deadline**

**AUG 28**

**AUG 22**

With our rapid news cycle and the sometimes-slow pace of the judicial process, it's easy to lose track of progress in cases and incidents we become aware of. I'm pleased to share with you an update provided by Portland Police in one such case.

As background, in May 2023, a Portland man, Jason Gates, was arrested after allegedly assaulting a security guard and staff working at the Acropolis Steakhouse. Prosecutors said the man had shouted "white power" and racial and antisemitic slurs and was asked to leave the building. The security guard who asked him to leave was wearing a Star of David necklace and Gates proceeded to punch him and continue to yell slurs. The injuries required surgery and Gates also punched a manager and broke a window. The investigation concluded that Gates attacked the bouncer based on Gate's antisemitic views, supported by the victim wearing a Star of David necklace at the time of the assault. Additionally, when Gates' phone was placed into police property, astute patrol officers noticed that his home-screen was a photo of Adolf Hitler.

The case was assigned for follow-up by Major Crimes Unit and the subsequent work found that the victim had sustained injury consistent with a felony Assault II charge in addition to the felony Bias Crime I charge. Additionally, warrants served on Gates' digital device revealed significant evidence in support of the felony Bias Crime charge.



*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.*

The update is that Gates recently agreed to plead guilty to several charges including Assault II and Bias Crime I and on August 1st he was sentenced to 48 months in prison. Portland Police continue to aggressively investigate these crimes and encourage reporting of all incidents, and on behalf of the Jewish community I expressed thanks and appreciation for their work.

I'll also repeat the example from Portland's Asian community which I used in a February Jewish Review article to stress the importance of reporting. In this instance, an identified man yelled anti-Asian slurs at two women but did nothing else. The incident was reported, and it was determined to not be a crime. A few weeks later, the same man walked up to an Asian man and punched him in the face without saying a word. The man was arrested and because the first incident was reported and his anti-Asian animus was already established, the District Attorney's office was able to classify the incident as a hate crime. Without that previous reporting, they could not have charged

that. We never know what is going to be relevant down the road, but with increased reporting, we may have a chance to link incidents and identify trends.

Please report incidents to me at 872-273-9214, [janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org](mailto:janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org), or through the Incident Reporting Form on the JFGP's security website page, <https://jewishportland.org/security>.

The first SCN High Holiday informational webinar, "Securing the Synagogue," will take place Tomorrow, Aug. 15 from 11am-12:30pm. Registration is available at [securecommunitynetwork-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/4117186341205/WN\\_jc76yCuURg-WR4MDbVAIPgQ#/registration](https://securecommunitynetwork-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/4117186341205/WN_jc76yCuURg-WR4MDbVAIPgQ#/registration).

The next webinar, "Firearms and the Faithful" will occur Thursday, Aug. 22, 11am-12:30pm. This webinar will consider the issues and concerns related to armed security in houses of worship and other centers of Jewish life. You can find the entire SCN High Holiday webinar schedule at <https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/high-holidays>.

# OJCF's Impact Together wraps big first year

*Oregon Jewish Community Foundation*

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation is proud to announce the success of its Impact Together program, which was introduced this year to tackle pressing social issues in Oregon and Southwest Washington. This initiative unites a cohort of nonprofits to raise funds for a shared cause. For its inaugural 2024 campaign, OJCF focused on addressing homelessness, partnering with five organizations from January to June 2024: Community Partners for Affordable Housing, Rockwood CDC, HomeShare Oregon, Stone Soup PDX, and Outside the Frame.

The program brought together nonprofit leaders, government representatives, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness to collaborate on comprehensive solutions. Each participating nonprofit offers unique services, addressing various facets of homelessness such as housing, support services, and job training.

OJCF's goal is not only to support these vital efforts but also to educate the community and encourage active involvement in tackling homelessness and other critical issues.

"Addressing the complex nature of the housing and homelessness crisis requires collaboration and partnership," said Rachael Duke, Executive Director of Community Partners for Affordable Housing. "These are foundational to the Impact Together program. None of the organizations can do it all. This program has strengthened our bonds and connections with other nonprofits, giving us more ways to work together and improving our effectiveness."

Impact Together stands as a testament to OJCF's dedication to engaging and supporting the broader community while driving positive change on behalf of the Jewish community. David Forman, President & CEO of OJCF, emphasized the importance of community collaboration.

"The success of our collaborative program highlights the power of community in addressing social issues," he said. "By bringing together organizations working on various aspects of a social issue and channeling resources towards a common goal, Impact Together demonstrates how collaboration can lead to lasting positive change in our community. We deeply appreciate the support from everyone involved."

Thanks to the generous contributions from supporters, the program raised \$65,000 in 2024. These funds will be equally distributed among the participating organizations. Beyond financial support, Impact Together continues to foster ongoing collaboration, amplifying the collective impact on complex issues. OJCF looks forward to continuing this impactful work, addressing social challenges, and creating lasting positive change in the community. To learn more about Impact Together, visit [ojcf.org/impact/](http://ojcf.org/impact/).

## OJCYF, B'nai Tzedek programs to kick off in September

*Oregon Jewish Community Foundation*

The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation is an award-winning program for Jewish and Jewish-adjacent teens. This 12-session program offers participants the chance to serve on a youth-led board of directors, engage in *tikkun olam*, and make a difference in the community. Youth board members learn how to fundraise, plan a benefit dinner, put out a request for grant proposals, and participate in

site visits and grant-making discussions to support causes they care most about.

The program kicks off on Sunday, Sept. 15 at Portland Escape Rooms-Beaverton. Register now to secure a seat on the 2024-2025 youth board. Limited spots are available.

OJCF's B'nai Tzedek Program offers 12-18-year-olds the opportunity to participate in philanthropic activities and learn about our Jewish community through quarterly gatherings focused

on community service. The Family Kickoff Event is Sunday, Sept. 22 from 1-4 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. This program is designed for those who hold a charitable fund at OJCF and are eager to make a difference.

With a minimum contribution of \$250, OJCF will match it with an additional \$250 to establish a personal B'nai Tzedek Youth Fund in your child or grandchild's name. Annually, participants select a Jewish charity to

support, contributing from their fund to support a cause they care deeply about.

Funds to start the tzedakah fund can come from B'nai Mitzvah gifts, babysitting earnings, birthdays and Chanukah presents. This program demonstrates that significant change can be achieved with modest contributions.

For more information about OJCYF, the B'nai Tzedek Youth Funds and the B'nai Tzedek Program visit [ojcf.org](http://ojcf.org) or contact Susan at [susanb@ojcf.org](mailto:susanb@ojcf.org) or 503-248-9328.

## Jobs Board

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See the latest Jewish jobs at [jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs](http://jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs)

# Events

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

## Aug. 16: NGG Community Connection

Community support group for Holocaust survivors and descendants at 10 am on Zoom. To register and to receive Zoom link, please email [MissyFry@jfcs-portland.org](mailto:MissyFry@jfcs-portland.org).

## Aug. 16: EJC Free Noontime Concert

Performance by Skip Von Kuske of Portland Cello Project at noon at the Eastside Jewish Commons. Learn more at [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Aug. 16: Shabbat on the Plaza

Outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat service at Congregation Beth Israel at 6 pm. Email [tracy@bethisrael-pdx.org](mailto:tracy@bethisrael-pdx.org) for more information.

## Aug. 17: Mini Men-sches Travelling Tot Shabbat

Congregation Beth Israel children's outdoor Shabbat

program at 9 am at Washington Park Playground in Southwest Portland. For more information, email [chelsea@bethisrael-pdx.org](mailto:chelsea@bethisrael-pdx.org).

## Aug. 18: Tefillin for Israel

Men's prayer session for Israel Sundays at 10:30 am at Tigard Chabad. For more information, email [rabbi@jewishtigard.com](mailto:rabbi@jewishtigard.com).

## Aug. 18: Living While Dying Movie Screening

Film screening and Q&A with filmmaker Cathy Zheutlin at 11 am at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, presented by Jewish Association for Death Education. For more information, email [rachel@jadeinfo.org](mailto:rachel@jadeinfo.org).

## Aug. 18: Israeli Folk Dance at SWCC

Weekly class and open dancing at Southwest Community Center Sundays; lessons at 2:30 pm, open dancing at 3:30 pm. \$6. For more information, email [\[comcast.net\]\(http://comcast.net\).](mailto:Rhonaf@</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

## Aug. 18: Seaside Klezmer Concert

Performance by Trio Doloria at the Bob Chisholm Community Center in Seaside at 3:30 pm, presented by Seaside Chevra Congregation. For more information, call Suzanna Kruger at 503-739-3726.

## Aug. 21: Intergenerational Quarterly GNC

Gather, Network and Collaboration event for professional women at Breakside Brewery in Beaverton at 5:30 pm sponsored by Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Women's Philanthropy. For more information, contact Wendy Kahn at [wendy@jewishportland.org](mailto:wendy@jewishportland.org).

## Aug. 23-25: Last Day of Camp

Young adult weekend at BB Camp in Lincoln City. For more information, visit [bb-360.org/last-day-of-camp](http://bb-360.org/last-day-of-camp).

## Aug. 25: Israeli Dancing for Everyone with Allison Victor

Folk dancing at Eastside Jewish Commons at noon. \$6-12 sliding scale. More information at [ejcpdx.org/events](http://ejcpdx.org/events).

## Aug. 30: North Coast Shabbat Group feat. Cantor Bitton

Services with Cantor Eyal Bitton of Congregation Neveh Shalom at the Bob Chisholm Community Center in Seaside at 7:30 pm. For more information, email Avrel Nudleman at [efrainlevi526@gmail.com](mailto:efrainlevi526@gmail.com).

## Sept. 10: Walking Beside You Partner Loss Edition

First of eight-weekly sessions focused on grieving the loss of a partner Tuesdays at 10:30 am at Congregation Beth Israel. For more information or to register, email [MissyFry@jfcs-portland.org](mailto:MissyFry@jfcs-portland.org).

# Obituaries

Submit obituaries online at [form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary](http://form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary)

## MICHAEL LEVI

It is with sorrow that Congregation Kol Ami announces the death of Michael Levi, z"l, the brother of our member Julian Levi. Michael died Saturday, July 28. His funeral and shiva are being held in Johannesburg, South Africa. We send our condolences to Julian & Lorna Levi and their extended family.

## JERRY NEWMAN

It is with deep sadness that Congregation Shaarie Torah announces the passing of Jerry Newman, z"l, beloved husband of Dora Newman. Jerry died Thursday evening, Aug. 1, 2024, just a few weeks shy of his 90th birthday.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dora Newman, children Francine Arron, Joel (Dawn) Newman, Sheri (John) Jones, and grandchildren Alexa and Zachary Arron and Keegan Jones. He was preceded in death by parents Alex and Jennie Newman, z"l, and son-

in-law Ben Arron, z"l.

The funeral was held Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at Shaarie Torah Cemetery.

Donations in Jerry's memory may be made to the Shaarie Torah Cemetery Fund at [shaarietorah.org/donatenow](http://shaarietorah.org/donatenow) or to the American Heart Association at [heart.org/en/get-involved/ways-to-give](http://heart.org/en/get-involved/ways-to-give).

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the entire family at this time.

## RICHARD DOBROW

We mourn the loss of Richard "Dick" Bein Dobrow, z"l, who passed away on July 26, 2024 at the age of 87.

Dick was admired by friends and family for his deep intellect, the thoughtful care he provided in the fields of hematology and oncology, classical piano performances, appearances on "Jeopardy" and "On the Spot" and volunteer contributions to Harvard and various musical and Jewish organizations.

Dick is survived by his children, Ra-

chel Dobrow Stone (Scott Stone) and Shoshana "Shasa" Dobrow; grandchildren, Hannah, Karenn, and Fiona Stone, Ariel Dobrow-Riza and Carina Dobrow; brother-in-law, Steve Sholkoff; and special friend, Gail Maron.

Dick was preceded in death by his wife, Karensue Sholkoff Dobrow, z"l, and sister, Sherry Dobrow Lipinsky, z"l.

The funeral will be held at Landau Chapel at Beth Israel Cemetery Friday, August 16 at 10:30 am, immediately proceeding to a graveside service. The funeral will be followed by a Meal of Remembrance at Goodman Hall at noon. All are welcome to attend.

Donations in Dick's memory can be directed to All Classical Portland, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Jewish Family & Child Service of Portland and the Portland Youth Philharmonic Karensue Dobrow Scholarship Fund.