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THE JEWISH REVIEW

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OREGON & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S JEWISH NEWSPAPER

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Make an 'Impact' by Oct. 9

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Lindsay Gottlieb knows how to make an impact.

Her first season as the head women's basketball coach at the University of California, Santa Barbara--her first head coaching job--she won a conference championship. In her second year at her next head job, at UC Berkeley, she made the NCAA Final Four. In her second season in her current job, as head coach at the University of Southern California, she and the Trojans earned their first NCAA tournament appearance in more than a decade -- they've made it to the Elite Eight in each of the last two seasons.

Now she's coming to Portland so she -- and you -- can make an impact on Jewish communal life at the Jew-

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Rabbi David Wolpe speaks at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Cornerstone event Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025. (Solomon Cohen for The Jewish Review)

'Strengthen the Jewish community'

Rabbi David Wolpe galvanizes Cornerstone crowd

By **JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN**
For The Jewish Review

A German, a Frenchman and a Jew walk into a bar.

Did you chuckle? Roll your eyes? A bit of both?

That is just the reaction Rabbi David Wolpe wanted to elicit from his audience at

the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's recent annual Cornerstone event Thursday, Sept. 11. It's the launch pad for a year of giving to, hearing from and providing for Portland's Jewish community, Israel and other communities in need around the globe.

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**The
Jewish
Review
Podcast**



Season 3 starts Oct. 29

Chevra Kavod HaMet requests dirt donations

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

If you're headed to Israel in the near future, Chevra Kavod HaMet in Portland would appreciate if you brought back a special souvenir for them.

Some dirt.

Chevra Kavod HaMet is the group that performs traditional burial preparation for non-Orthodox Jews in Portland. This process includes washing the body and dressing it in traditional burial clothes. Once this is completed, the group scatters a small amount of soil from Israel into the coffin before laying the body within.

Rachel Crawford, who is part of the Chevra and also works for the Jewish Association for Death Education, said this process ensures that "they have some of Israel, of the Holy Land, being buried with them."

It's not a huge amount; between an eighth and a half of a cup of dirt. But it's a key part of the process, and the supply the Chevra uses is running low. That supply has been maintained by volunteers in the past, not only because purchasing Israeli soil and shipping it to the United States is prohibitively expensive, but because it connects the community together.

"We prefer this," Crawford said, "rallying the community giving them an option to get connected to the Chevra and to contribute, even if they're not a member or a volunteer."

If you're going to be in

Israel, contributing is easy, Crawford explained. While you're there, take a sandwich bag – again, huge amounts are not used or needed – and fill it up with dirt from wherever you find yourself.

"We've had people bring us sand from the beach. We've had people bring us dirt from the backyard of somebody that they know in Israel," Crawford said.

On your way home, if you're asked about it at customs, explain that it's dirt for a religious ritual. Avoid the word 'soil' – Crawford has found that that terminology tends to evoke ideas of agricultural use and raises red flags with customs enforcement agents.

Once you and your dirt have returned, email chevrakavodhamet@gmail.com to arrange a pickup.

"We'll arrange for somebody to pick it up from them at wherever in the city is convenient," Crawford said, "At their home, at a coffee shop, at a synagogue, wherever."

Crawford added that this call is for those already heading to the Jewish state – there's no need to make a special trip for a baggie of dirt. For those already heading over, however, the extra gesture is quite meaningful for those whose work it enables.

"We appreciate it so much," Crawford said. "It really makes us feel connected to the larger community."

Learn more about Chevra Kavod HaMet online at chevrakavodhamet.org.

Root and Branch adult Jewish learning launches fall catalog

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's adult Jewish learning programs are growing – and now, collectively, have a name befitting that growth.

"Root & Branch," the new name for the Federation's Jewish adult learning programs, recently released its Fall-Winter 2025 Catalog featuring a variety of programs led by Federation Director of Jewish Life and Learning Dr. Yosef Rosen.

The name, Rosen explains, "reflects the goals of this program, which are to help people reconnect to their roots, to their traditions, to their ancestors, to Jewish history, to the roots that connect them to the Jewish people at large – and branches-- the contemporary, the future, the new formations of Jewish life."

Some of these programs are returning favorites, some are reimaginings of previous programs with new material and some are brand-new opportunities to engage with Jewish knowledge and connect with others in the same pursuit.

Following on from this spring's Passover Seder how-to webinar, Rosen is offering a series of holiday webinars for Yom Kippur, (held Sunday, Sept. 28, available to watch at youtu.be/SQuyngyrPSM), Sukkot (scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 5 at 4:30 pm) and Chanukah (Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 8 pm). All are free.

Later in October, Rosen's popular classes on Jewish magic return to Leikam Brewing in East Portland for four Tuesday evening sessions under the new name, "Jewish Magic School."

For those wanting to go bigger, Root & Branch is joining forces with Camp Solomon Schechter for Ruach: A Weekend of Spirit & Creativity at the camp Friday through Sunday, Dec. 5-7. This weekend retreat will feature Rabbi Adina Allen, co-founder of the Jewish Studio Project, a nonprofit dedicated to using creative expression to cultivate Jewish spiritual vitality and resilience.

"Ruach means 'spirit,' and so it's a weekend for people to come and immerse themselves in the intersection of Jewish spirituality and Jewish art in just a fun way," Rosen explained. "Art skills not needed. That's the whole point; It's not about making beautiful things. It's about engaging in the process of expressing beauty, whatever that looks like."

Those interested in a more specifically tailored learning experience might want to participate in a Living Room Learning Circle. These five-session groups of eight to 12 people enable friends, neighbors and peers of all sorts to gather in homes together and delve into a topic of their choice, drawing on Rosen's resources and insights. The possibilities are as vast as the Jewish experience.

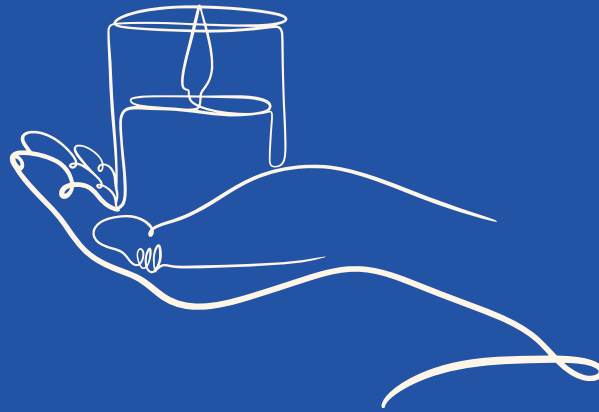
"They're creating the container, they're creating the community," Rosen said. "I'm the educator, but the topic is fully tailored to that group and what they're interested in."

Other offerings coming up include a continuation of the monthly Thursday-night Zohar and Zhoug sessions at Con-

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jewishportland.org/subscribe

Light in the Face of Darkness: Stories of Courage from October 7th



**Sunday, October 5, 7PM
Congregation Neveh Shalom**

REGISTER HERE



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland

IMPACT (continued from page 1)

ish Federation of Greater Portland's Impact event for women Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 5:30 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

Gottlieb has become famous not just for winning – though she's done plenty of that – but for being a recognizable Jewish woman in sports. In the 2025 NCAA Division I national tournaments for men and women, Jewish coaches led four of the eight No. 1 seeds – Gottlieb was the only women, and the only coach of a women's program, amongst that number.

"That's honestly how I learned about her," event chair and Federation board member Elana Hutter Davey explained. "There was just a sense of pride, to have that kind of representation at a moment when people have not been the kindest."

While Gottlieb has spoken to Jewish audiences throughout her career – she was inducted into the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame of Northern California in 2016 – this is one of her first appearances in front of a Fed-



Lindsay Gottlieb, head women's basketball coach at the University of Southern California, has 11 career NCAA tournament appearances as a head coach, including leading her Trojans to the Elite Eight in each of the last two seasons. (Courtesy Photo)

eration audience.

"For her right now to find meaning in coaching us, I think it's cool to be on that part of the journey with her," Davey said.

Wendy Kahn, the Federation's Chief Development Officer, explained that, as women's sports in Portland are thrust into the spotlight

with the pending return of the Portland Fire to WNBA play, having a marquee name in women's sports come to town to discuss her connection with her Judaism and its importance makes for a powerful moment. All the more so as Gottlieb, with her national prominence on the rise, is picking this moment to step even more strongly into that part of her identity.

"At this time, she's saying, 'I want to connect with this part of my being and my community in this way,'" Kahn said, "and being who I believe she is, she says, 'I'm going to go big,' because she starts from a place of confidence."

Confident enough to forgo the usual speech - this event will center on a Fireside Chat interview between Gottlieb and Davey.

"Women's events generate a load of excitement and energy and result in great philanthropic results for the community," Kahn said. "People bring their friends

who bring their daughters, their nieces, their granddaughters."

Tickets are \$75, but many of those daughters, nieces and granddaughters may qualify for discounted Next-Gen tickets at \$40 per person for ages 12-25. Tickets are available through Oct. 9.

Events like this one, Davey explained, are powerful examples of the importance of both Jewish women and Jewish philanthropy – particularly the intersection of the two.

"Women are the heartbeat of Jewish community," she said. "Where our philanthropy comes in is that we're investing in ourselves, and it's foolish to think that everything is just going to remain at our fingertips when it comes to Jewish life. So, it's really important to me to give meaningfully, to give deeply, to give with intention."

Find more information and purchase tickets online at jewishportland.org/impact-october.

 Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland

**The Jewish
Fall Holidays
Webinars:**

Themes, Moods, and Practices

**October 5 - Sukkot
4:30-5:30 pm**



With Dr. Yosef Rosen, Director of Jewish Life & Learning

Spertus Center to host Oct. 29 workshops

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

The Spertus Center for Jewish Learning and Leadership, the Chicago-based center for Jewish adult education, is bringing Dr. Dean Bell to Portland for a pair of presentations Wednesday, Oct. 29 at Congregation Neveh Shalom.

The first, a Lunch and Learn session for Jewish communal professionals scheduled for noon, will focus on community leadership through challenging times and is rooted in Bell's 2022 book "Inter-religious Resilience," co-authored with Dr. Michal Hogue of the Unitarian Universalist Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago.

"We sometimes think about resilience as snapping back or returning to a status quo," Bell explained. "What became clear in COVID's there was no status quo. Resilience, if you think about it in a complex way, is how you learn, grow and adapt through change, and how the system transforms as a result."

The workshop will dive into textual analysis and conversation about change, its obstacles and engaging across many perspectives.

"I'll end with providing a framework that I think is really useful as they navigate their leadership-professional life and deal with change," Bell said.

That evening at 7 pm, Bell will lead a program for volunteer leaders centered on addressing antisemitism.

"There'll be a little bit of orientation about some of the big historical themes about antisemitism that will dovetail fairly quickly to talk about what are the contemporary challenges and issues and implications," Bell said.

The subject is a major focus



Dr. Dean Bell of The Spertus Center for Jewish Learning and Leadership will lead a pair of workshops in Portland Wednesday, Oct. 29. (Courtesy Spertus)

of the institute's curriculum. Spertus offers leadership certificates in combatting antisemitism for both professionals and lay leaders – upcoming cohorts for both programs are at capacity. Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations Rachel Nelson will be participating in the upcoming professional cohort. The program for lay leaders is a new offering for Spertus.

"We've heard from a lot of lay leaders about these issues," Bell said. "They have their very significant personal concerns, but they're also deeply involved in a particular organization, and they work across the community, so they offer a lot of opportunities, because they are really building bridges in many different ways."

The Portland program for volunteer leaders is built to be an interactive experience, beginning with discussion of historical examples and a broad look at contemporary issues.

"There'll be some small case studies based on actual situations that we've seen in other communities, with the idea of getting people to learn a little bit and then roll up your sleeves; 'How would you think about responding? What are the sort of ways we think about this as a community?'" Bell said. "Especially in the evening, nobody wants to go and listen to somebody talk at them. They actually want to engage their brains, and they want to think about what the implications are."

In addition to the programs on combatting antisemitism, Spertus offers certificates in Jewish Leadership (of which Neveh Shalom

Assistant Executive Director Michelle Caplan is an alum) and Synagogue Executive Leadership, masters' programs in Jewish Professional Studies, Jewish Studies and doctoral programs in Hebrew Letters and Jewish Studies. The institute's Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Keren Fraimen, received the 2025 Ilia Salita Excellence in Applied Research Award from the Jewish Funders Network for her work on conflict education.

"It's launched a number of new initiatives we're doing in Israel education spaces and Israel leadership," Bell said of Fraimen's work.

Registration for the evening program online at [LINK](https://link.org). Professionals interested in the lunch event can reach out to Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org. Learn more about all of Spertus' programs at spertus.edu.

Families Like Ours retreat is Oct. 20-22

The Jewish Review staff

Parenting is hard. Parenting a child with developmental differences, neurodivergence or long-term medical challenges can be overwhelming.

Dr. Amanda Leeder knows this better than most. A developmental psychologist, Leeder has worked with these kinds of families for 20 years, as well as parenting three neurodivergent children of her own. She's founded Families Like Ours, a nonprofit that works to support and connect families in these situations, and announced the organization's first parent retreat, set for Monday through Wednesday, Oct. 20-22, at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center on the Historic Columbia River Highway in Corbett, just east of Portland.

"Moms are exchanging information at the playground or birthday parties, and we don't really have that because our children aren't the ones invited to the birthday parties," Leeder said. "It's just an entirely different world. We all love our children, and we all care for them, but at what cost?"

Leeder was inspired, in large part, by her experiences on a Momentum trip to Israel with other Jewish moms. Participants were issued red backpacks, which immediately identified them to each other and to those they encountered as part of a particular community of support. The parents that Families Like Ours is built to serve often struggle to connect with that community, to connect with resources that will help them, because getting through the day often takes all they have.

"There's no forum for us to complain and ask questions. We just deal, we just adapt," Leeder said. "This [retreat] is qualitatively different than sending someone on a vacation where they're not finding community, not prioritizing their rest, not connecting with their future self."

Families Like Ours' retreat, based on a model pioneered by Dr. Barry Prizant, prioritizes rest – the schedule gives significant space for sleep, and programming during the day is optional because, for some parents, the need to recover from the strains of caregiving has to take precedence.

"There are facilitated discussion groups that they can choose from. You might not be in the mood to talk about your child's IEP or their medication. Some people are coming post diagnosis; they're not ready for that," Leeder said. "There's self-care and there are crafts and wellness activities you can engage in."

Leeder is incorporating a twist of an evening activity – attendees are invited to submit stories of their family's experiences, three of which will be selected and acted out by a cadre of improv comedy actors that Leeder is friends with, with the audience voting on a winner.

"Ridiculous things happen to us," Leeder explained. "I've had many of those moments myself, and you can only laugh at it later."

Registration for the October retreat is \$250 per person, with financial support options available. For more information or to apply, visit famlikeours.org.

Five Oregon students selected for StandWithUs leadership programs

The Jewish Review staff

A handful of Jewish high school and college students in Oregon are beginning this school year doing more than just classwork – they're stepping up as leaders against antisemitism on their campuses.

Three Portland area high-schoolers – Mica Dorfman, Samuel Hartoch and Juliette Heitner – are part of this year's StandWithUs Kenneth Levanthal Internship cohort, while Isaac Babus and Charlie Schwartz – attending Lewis & Clark College and the University of Oregon, respectively, – are participating in the Emerson Fellowship program through StandWithUs, an international nonprofit focused on combatting antisemitism and anti-Israel bias.

Randy Kessler, Executive Director for StandWithUs Northwest, explained that the program began with a conference in Los Angeles for the participants to get them geared up for the year.

"We fill their heads with facts and figures about the core issues that we talk about," Kessler explained. "How do you speak about Israel responsibly? How do you have good conversations? How do you handle people that have different opinions than you do and have productive conversations?"

Students will now work throughout the year on programs at their schools that advance StandWithUs' goals and will attend another conference in Las Vegas in the spring to conclude the experience. While much of the work focuses on combatting antisemitism, Kessler explained, "it's also educating about the Jewish people. It doesn't always have to focus on the negative."

"Being a StandWithUs intern is very exciting for me because I am passionate about Israel and spreading positivity about it," Heitner, a junior at Lincoln High School in Portland, said. "I see a lot of hatred that stems from misinformation that could easily be redirected with the right tools that I now have access to."

"Through the program I've gotten closer to Jewish students in my community and learned strategies to combat antisemitism and misinformation," Hartoch, who attends Ida B. Wells High School, added.

The Emerson Fellowship program was launched in 2007, with the Levanthal Internships for high schoolers beginning in 2012. To date, approximately 230 students have completed these programs throughout the United States and, for the college-age Emerson Fellowship, in four other countries.

"This program is special to me because in a time where misinformation can run rampant, especially in progressive places where people trying to do good often get swept up, being knowledgeable about topics like Israel and its current events are so important for keeping the truth alive," Schwartz, who is a sophomore at UO in Eugene, said.

"[This program] gives me access to educational opportunities that I would not have otherwise. It's especially rewarding that I then get to bring those same opportunities to my campus for other Jewish and non-Jewish students," Babus, who graduates from Lewis & Clark in the spring.

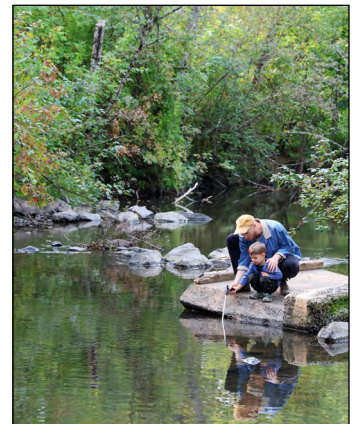
For more information about these programs and to learn how to apply for next year's cohorts, visit standwithus.org.

Shir Tikvah, JVC pick up 'sins' in Johnson Creek Park

Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Nearly two dozen volunteers joined Congregation Shir Tikvah and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Jewish Volunteer Corps for a "reverse tashlich" event at Johnson Creek Park in Portland Sunday, Sept. 28. The traditional ritual of *tashlich* involves tossing bread crumbs into a body of water as a symbolic casting away of sins in the lead-up to Yom Kippur. Shir Tikvah's annual event, joined for the first time by the Federation this year, turns the tradition on its head by picking up trash in a local park.



Pathways launches new cohort

The PDX Pathways young adult mentoring program launches its latest cohort with a reception and introductory program for participants and mentors Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust education. Introductions and a museum tour were followed by a mentor meet-and-greet on the museum's roof. (Jakob Rich-Levin/The Jewish Review)



Moving Traditions to host Portland workshops

The Jewish Review Staff

Moving Traditions, in collaboration with Jewish Family & Child Service and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, will host a series of workshops on mental health for parents and educators of Jewish teens led by Moving Traditions Vice President of Education Rabbi Daniel Brenner in October.

Rabbi Brenner weaves together ancient wisdom, developmental psychology, social pedagogy, embodied practice, and pop culture to help a diverse network of rabbis, educators, and volunteer leaders who mentor teens. Prior to joining Moving Traditions in 2011, he led educational programs for CLAL-The National Jewish Center for Learn-

ing and Leadership, Auburn Theological Seminary and the Birthright Israel Foundation. Rabbi Brenner is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; he furthered his studies with Rabbi Yitz Greenberg and Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, z"l. He and Moving Traditions Chief Growth Officer Pamela Barkley discussed Jewish teen wellbeing in the Feb. 12, 2025 episode of The Jewish Review Podcast, "Mental Health In Modern Times."

For parents of middle school students, Rabbi Brenner will host "Becoming a Teen: The and Emotional Journey of B-Mitzvah" Sunday, Oct. 19 at 10:30 am at Congregation Neveh Shalom. He'll host "Knowing Your Limits: Talking to Teens about Boundaries and Consent" at Congregation Beth Israel Monday, Oct. 20 at 7 pm.

Rabbi Brenner will also

speak at "Understanding Gender: Language, Identity and Teen Wellbeing" for Jewish educators Sunday, Oct. 19 at 1 pm at Neveh Shalom, along with "Leading a Life of Balance: Jewish Pathways to Wellbeing" for area clergy Monday, Oct. 20 at 9 am at Congregation Shaarie Torah in Portland.

Rabbi Brenner will lead a pair of sessions titled "Health Relationships for Healthy Minds," first for day school educators Monday, Oct. 20 at 4 pm at Portland Jewish Academy, and for Jewish community professionals Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 9 am at Beth Israel.

Registration for any or all of these programs is available online at movingtraditions.formstack.com/forms/motrportlandeducators. For more information, email Rosie Cohen with Moving Traditions at cohenrosie@movingtraditions.org.

Build & Decorate the Eastside Community Sukkah

Sunday, October 5, 3pm - 5pm
Leikam Brewing

- Gather together with your eastside neighbors
- Learn about and experience ancient ancestral practices
- Help build our community sukkah (temporary dwelling)
- Kid friendly crafts, decorate the Sukkah with us!

~Kid friendly snacks and drinks provided~

Sukkot 2025: 10/6-10/13

Explore the sukkah anytime Leikam is open during the week of Sukkot

Enjoy the mitzvot (acts that bind us together) of eating a meal inside the Sukkah and waving the lulav and etrog (four different plant species)

REGISTER NOW

Leikam Brewing
5812 E Burnside Street
Portland, OR 97215

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Impact

OCTOBER 22
5:30 PM

MITTLEMAN
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COMMUNITY
CENTER

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\$40 (AGES 12-25)



[jewishportland.org/
impactoctober](http://jewishportland.org/impactoctober)

FEATURING

Lindsay Gottlieb

USC Women's Basketball Head Coach

CHAMPION | MOM | TRAILBLAZER



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland



SHOW UP. FEEL THE JOY. BUILD COMMUNITY.

WOMEN'S ONLY EVENT | RSVP BY OCTOBER 9TH!
REGISTER HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE!



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RFJE grants info session is Oct. 9

Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders

The Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders is proud to announce the next round of grantmaking through its Chik-Chok and Kadimah programs, designed to enhance the quality of life for older adults in the Portland Jewish community.

RFJE is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults in the Portland Jewish community. Through strategic grantmaking and community partnerships, RFJE aims to support innovative programs and services that foster connection, dignity, and well-being for elders. RFJE will be holding an applicant information session on Oct. 9 at 10 am. Registration for this session is available at tinyurl.com/RFJEInfoSession.

"We believe real change happens when we act together and learn together," said Sonia Marie Leikam, Executive Director. "This round of funding is an opportunity to dream with our community partners about what's possible for older adults and their caregivers."

As part of its evolving vision, RFJE will host a series of community conversations in 2026 to better understand the needs of elders and caregivers. Insights from these conversations will inform future funding priorities and ensure that the Foundation's grantmaking is responsive and impactful.

For the current round of grantmaking, RFJE is especially interested in supporting proposals that focus on: Accessible, reliable programs that nurture social, spiritual, physical, and mental well-being, cross-organizational collaboration and shared staffing models, innovative approaches to programs, services, or delivery methods and direct financial assistance for under-resourced elders.

RFJE invites organizations and partners who share a vision of dignity, connection, and innovation for elders to apply. Foundation funds are made possible through generous individual donations and proceeds from the sale of the Cedar Sinai Park campus in October 2024.

For more information, visit rfje.org.

LEARNING (continued from page 2)

gregation Ahavath Achim, the Sacred Waters/Sacred Songs introduction to mikvah on Sunday, Nov. 2 and a series of lunch and learn events at the Eastside Jewish Commons titled "Shaping the Soul: An Introduction to Musar."

"Musar is a really fascinating genre of Jewish wisdom that many Jews are not familiar with, which is the genre of self-improvement; how do you work on character traits?" Rosen explained. "It's having a bit of a renaissance in the past decade or so."

The full calendar is available online at tinyurl.com/Root-AndBranch25. For more information, or to get a Living Room Learning Circle going in your living room, email Rosen at yosef@jewishportland.org.

2026 Maccabi Media apps now open

Maccabi USA

Maccabi USA and Maccabi Media are proud to present a career-development program offering a unique international experience for aspiring sports media professionals who are Jewish. Following a comprehensive application process, a team of students will be selected to cover the Maccabiah in Israel and attend a pre-departure training camp in Philadelphia from June 25-July 20, 2026. Applications are now being accepted through November 30, 2025.

Eligibility is open to college undergraduates/recent graduates who are Jewish and at least 18 years old by June 25, 2026. Applicants must be enrolled in, intend to enroll in, or have already graduated from a university-level communications-related program such as sports media, communications, TV/radio/film production, journalism, digital media, etc. Participants will perform several of the following sports media roles while covering the Maccabiah, including play-by-play, color analysis and/or sideline reporting, live event production/streaming, videography and editing video for daily features/packages, sports reporting, social media content creation and sports photography and graphic design. Applicants should show previous experience during the application process in as many of these areas as possible.

All applicants must write a short essay plus submit a resume, demo reel or portfolio, examples of written/social media

work, and media/school references. Specific submission requirements will be provided after you apply. Those selected will be no-

tified in late 2025 and must commit to attend all monthly virtual trainings, the in-person training camp in Philadelphia and the full three-week Maccabiah experience in Israel. Monthly Zoom training sessions will begin in early 2026 and include assigned written and video projects. Selected team members have a financial responsibility of \$5,400 plus a \$60 application fee. Thanks to several generous donations and grants, this cost already includes a \$3,000 scholarship from MMP and a \$3,000 grant from the Mandel Foundation. Students can also apply for additional need-based financial assistance. The program fee covers registration, international airfare, accommodations, transportation, meals, media equipment, medical insurance and Maccabi USA and Maccabi Media apparel. Students are responsible for arranging and paying for their own travel to training camp in Philadelphia and back to their final destination after arriving from Israel at Newark Liberty Airport in New Jersey. Students will receive all equipment necessary for our media coverage but must bring their own phone and laptop computer with editing software. All provided equipment must be returned to Maccabi USA following the games. Maccabi Media team members must have a valid passport good through Jan. 20, 2027. Maccabi USA will provide any documentation needed if students are able to receive college credit for this program.

For more information about Maccabi Media, or to apply to the program, contact Neal Slotkin at nslotkin@maccabi-usa.com.

CORNERSTONE (continued from page 1)

The event featured the introduction of Federation's first Israeli *shlichah* (emissary) since 1990, and Wendy Kahn, Federation's chief development officer, defining community as a verb.

"Community isn't something we just talk about," said Kahn, the event's main organizer. "It's something we do."

Cornerstone serves as the opener for JFGP's Annual Campaign for Community Needs – this year's campaign theme is "Together, We Turn Oys to Joys." In his remarks, Rabbi Wolpe noted both Oys and Joys – and the Joys came out on top.

"Look at us," he said to the crowd of more than 100 of Federation's most generous donors assembled in the garden of Diane and Herb Rankin. "Our ancestors in their wildest dreams couldn't imagine the community we have today."

Rabbi Emeritus of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, former visiting scholar at Harvard Divinity School and a cancer survivor, Rabbi Wolpe is considered one of America's most influential rabbis. He is the author of eight books amid a litany of accomplishments and notoriety, including his December 2023 resignation from a university advisory group on antisemitism assembled by then-Harvard President Claudine Gay.

Sticking to the Joys over the Oys, the rabbi related another joke. The one about our ancestors who, if alive today, would gawp at our accomplishments and ask incredulously, "There are Jews at Harvard?! There's an Israel!?"

Rabbi Wolpe invoked the importance of Israel, the horror of Oct. 7 and the ongoing rise of antisemitism, but he focused more on the importance and influence of the Jewish diaspora and community.

"Here on the streets of Portland, you'll never meet a Canaanite or a Hittite ... But there are Jews. We're a miracle," he said.

"Strengthen the Jewish community," he urged his audience. "That's better than posting your thoughts about it [antisemitism] on X."

How? Embrace friends rather than identify enemies. Learn to ask for help. Don't cut off people for political reasons.

"Don't demonize those who aren't



Attendees take in Rabbi David Wolpe's remarks at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Cornerstone event Thursday, Sept. 11. (Solomon Cohen for The Jewish Review)

like you," he continued. "We've been demonized over history, so don't do it to each other."

Federation – which supports 53 local and overseas organizations – is a key place to begin and continue the work of community-building, the rabbi emphasized.

Doing so includes providing for its main needs, Federation Board Chair Leslie Beard said in advance of the kick-off event.

"Our community's needs are greater than ever, and the more we raise, the more programs we can support," Beard said.

Marc Blattner, Federation President and CEO, specified that initiatives like mental-health support, combating antisemitism and Israel-hate and emergency interest-free loans are in need of additional funding. Every dollar raised goes toward these and many other programs, agencies, organizations and security.

Already Jewish Portland has demonstrated that one of its main Joys is supporting community: "...[W]e have raised \$643,000 toward the campaign with a donor-for-donor increase of 13 percent," Blattner reported just days after the event. That number has ballooned to over \$1.1 million as of press time.

Dr. Yosef Rosen, Federation's Director of Jewish Life and Learning, concluded the evening with a Q-and-A with Rabbi Wolpe. They explored some nuance between Oys and Joys, for example via Hillel's famous musings from *Pirkei Avot*, often translated as "Ethics of the Fathers," that includes the question, "But if I am only for myself, what am I?"

Rabbi Wolpe said that Judaism – and Jewish community specifically – believes so strongly in caring for and lifting up those in need that we lack an identity if we don't do this work.

"If I only care about myself," the rabbi said, "what am I?"

Event attendee Dr. Mark Zeitzer said the rabbi's messages were "spot-on."

"I appreciated them and their positive uplift, especially with what's going on in the world."

Said Kahn: "At the heart of Jewish values is joy."

And that's no joke.

A self-described dinosaur who still keeps a hand-written daily calendar, Jenn Director Knudsen has published work in The Boston Globe, The Oregonian, the San Francisco Chronicle, The Forward and HuffPost, among other outlets. Her most recent personal essay is available at [The Mother Chapter](#). Find her on [Substack](#).

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

OCT 22 OCT 16

Security Corner

What's your emergency plan?

By JESSICA ANDERSON

I ran a similar version of this article back in 2023, and it seems like a good time to revisit the topic. Organizations and individuals are deep in the High Holidays, and it's not the time to stop mid-stream and re-vamp your safety plans. But it is time to assess if you are finding any gaps in your plans. After High Holidays is a great time to implement changes based on observations you're making now. As an organization, this could be a medical response plan or a child reunification plan. If you're in an organization that doesn't have any emergency plan on paper (and I know this is some of you), please make this a priority in 2026. If you're a community member, do you have a communication plan if there's an earthquake? Do you know how you will get in touch with your children? Do the organizations you send your kids to every day have a reunification plan if something happens?

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is taking a proactive stance on this, particularly concerning earthquakes and/or fires. JFGP staff, a representative of the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, and members of large and service community organizations met recently to begin discussing how we can respond as a community to address significant community needs. While we expect individuals to look to their "home" organizations for help, there will be wider community needs that the Federation and large organi-



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.

zations will have to provide. This could be food, shelter, water, counseling, spiritual needs, financial resources, etc. What we know is that we need to plan and organize now so we can be ready. We saw this in action at the Los Angeles Federation following the fires and in other communities.

Emergency situations of any kind are rare, but when they happen, they reveal a lot about the organization and how much thought management has given to the topic. We know we can't plan for everything; however, there are some basic issues one can expect.

An emergency plan can be as simple as a few pages of information, all the way to a bound document hundreds of pages long. Ideally, an emergency plan is clear, concise, and easy to share with relevant people. Whether you're an organization or an individual, I'm here to help with every step.

How to start:

1. Risk Assessment: Figure out what your risks are and where your vulnerabilities lie. There are a million different things that can go wrong, but realistically, it's easy to narrow down a list

to the 10 most likely emergencies you'll have to deal with. Once you figure those out, you can start to develop plans and procedures. Medical issues, lockdowns, earthquakes, suspicious visitors, acts of violence, child/parent reunification plans, persons in crisis, mass communication needs – What are the areas where your organization has gaps? What are the emergencies where you're not sure what action your organization would take?

2. Draft a Plan: Every situation has a relatively linear response that can be developed for each emergency. Establish an evacuation plan. Designate multiple evacuation routes and exits for your employees and decide where to meet up outside. If you need to lock down, what are the safest rooms? How will you notify people that a lockdown is needed? Identify the steps and ensure your staff or volunteers know your plan. Engage with your staff and volunteers (and Community Security Director) for ideas, as they probably have already thought about some of these issues. Make sure you consider functional needs in your plan – issues involving

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When the sacred is shattered

Community, healing, and LGBTQ+ resilience

By ADRIEN WOLMARK

In recent months, many LGBTQ+ individuals—especially trans and nonbinary folks—have been navigating waves of grief and fear in response to escalating threats to safety. These moments of collective trauma often unfold in spaces that were once considered sanctuaries: schools, places of worship, community centers. When violence or exclusion pierces these environments, it doesn't just disrupt physical safety, it fractures emotional and spiritual ground. For those who have long felt vulnerable in institutional settings, the impact reverberates with particular intensity.

Grief in these contexts is rarely straightforward. It is layered, nonlinear, and deeply personal. For LGBTQ+ communities, especially those with histories of marginalization within faith traditions or public systems, recent events may resurface old wounds—memories of being silenced, targeted, or erased. And yet, amid this pain, the need for connection becomes urgent. Community is not a luxury—it is a lifeline. In the face of trauma, gathering together to mourn, witness, and rebuild is an act of resistance and restoration.

Healing doesn't mean forgetting. It means

honoring what was lost while tending to what still lives. It means creating spaces where grief is welcome, where safety is actively cultivated, and where LGBTQ+ identities are not just tolerated but cherished. For trans individuals in particular, whose existence is too often politicized or erased, healing must include visibility, affirmation, and the right to feel safe in one's body and community.

Counselors, educators, faith leaders, and advocates all have a role to play in this work. Trauma-informed care, culturally responsive support, and inclusive practices are not optional; they are essential. Whether through peer support groups, affirming spiritual spaces, or simply showing up with presence and compassion, we help rebuild the sacred by refusing to let violence or fear define our communities.

In times like these, resilience is not just surviving—it's choosing to love, connect, and create in the face of rupture. It's remembering that even when the sacred is shattered, healing is possible. And it begins with us.

Adrien Wolmark, PhD, LCSW is a Mental Health Clinician with Jewish Family & Child Service in Portland.

SECURITY (continued from page 12)

people with mobility, hearing, or visual impairments might require special consideration. I have sample plans for you to use – you don't have to reinvent the wheel!

3. Resources and Preparation: Who in your organization will perform key functions in an emergency? Do they know what they need to do? Do you have emergency supplies (food, water, batteries, etc.)? Who will be the point of contact for communicating instructions and information internally and externally? Who has special skills that could be called upon? Inventory your emergency equipment and supplies and ensure people know where AEDs are located AND remember how to use them as well as other life-saving supplies. Keep updated lists of facility emergency contact numbers and keep extra copies off-site.

4. Communication: Planning is just part

of a complete package. Communicating the plan to staff, volunteers, and users of your space is just as important. This information should be reviewed regularly or at least once per year, and ensure staff and volunteers have the relevant training to execute your emergency plan. Consider revisiting preparation opportunities twice a year to keep safety training knowledge fresh. Communicate to the users of your space that you've got a plan and your facility is prepared.

As your Director of Community Security, I can help guide you through every part of this process. SCN has several emergency preparedness templates we can work with, and we can consider these issues as we develop protocols that will work for your facility. Contact me at janderson@secrecommunitynetwork.org or call 873-273-9214 to get started.

Queer Youth support group begins Oct. 14

Jewish Family & Child Service

QJ Roots: A Queer Jewish Youth Support Group for ages 15–21, will be held the second Tuesday of every month at 6 pm at the East-side Jewish Commons, beginning Oct. 14.

Being queer and Jewish can be powerful—and complex. This JFCS support group, facilitated by Adrien Wolmark, PhD, LCSW (they/them) offers a safe, affirming space for young people to explore the intersections of identity, community, and lived experience. Whether you're navigating life transitions, relationships, gender identity, sexuality, or the stress of current events, you're not alone. Together, we'll share stories, build resilience, and reduce isolation through connection, reflection, and resource-sharing.

Dr. Wolmark is a seasoned clinical social worker with more than thirty years of experience supporting clients through trauma, identity development, and systemic challenges to emotional well-being. Deeply committed to affirming care for LGBTQIA+ communities, Dr. Wolmark believes in the innate human drive to grow and heal, even in the face of adversity.

The group is drop-in, no cost, and no registration necessary.

Questions? Contact Adrien at drwolmark@jfcs-portland.org.

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LYNN MARKS

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Lynn Lowenson Marks, z"l, who passed away on Friday, Sept. 5 at age 89.

Lynn was born in Portland on September 22, 1935. Her father, Leland Lowenson, was the proprietor of Lowenson's men's clothing store in Portland, and her mother, Celene (Lauterstein), managed the home. Lynn graduated from Lincoln High School in 1953. She graduated from Stanford University in 1957 with a major in Education. After graduating from Stanford, Lynn taught at Multnomah Elementary School in Portland.

Lynn married Milton "Mickey" Marks on Feb. 15, 1959 in Portland. The couple settled in Westport, Conn. where they resided for twenty-six years. They moved to Lake Oswego, in 1985. Lynn had various interests. She and Mickey were avid world travelers. Lynn loved the beach, having spent childhood summers at the family beach house in Seaview, WA. One of Lynn's greatest passions was walking, and she could be seen taking her vigorous daily walks along the Willamette River. Together with Mickey, Lynn established the M and L Marks Family Fund through the Oregon Community Foundation.

Lynn is survived by her sons Leland Marks and Michael Marks, and her brother Lee Lowenson. Lynn is preceded in death by her husband Milton "Micky" Marks, z"l, and her daughter Lianne Marks Klein, z"l.

A funeral will be held on Friday, Oct. 3 at 10 am at Beth Israel Cemetery. Donations in Lynn's memory can be made to Smile Oregon and the Oregon Food Bank.

DONA ROSENBLATT

Congregation Neveh Shalom is saddened to share the passing of Dona Rosenblatt, z"l, beloved sister of Sander (Esther Rosha) Stadler and aunt of Joshua (Lily) Stadler. She is also survived by her sister, Miriam (Robert) Rosenbaum; her former husband, Howard Rosenblatt; and her children, Amir Rosenblatt and Tali (Todd) Wimbler.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington, Vt., followed by burial at the North Avenue Jewish Cemetery in Burlington.

BERDEEN COVEN

Congregation Neveh Shalom is saddened to share the passing of Berdeen Coven, z"l, beloved wife of Lee Coven, mother of Andrew (Alison) Coven and Cynthia Coven, and cherished grandmother of Abigail and Jonah Coven. She is also lovingly remembered by her sister, Taya Meyer, and her niece, Rochelle (Jay) Leisner.

A memorial service was held Thursday, Sept. 11, at Congregation Shir Hadash in Los Gatos, Calif.

MARGARET HASSON

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Margaret Hasson, z"l, who passed away on Sept. 1, 2025 at age 92.

Margaret is survived by her grandchildren, Benjamin Hasson, Daniel Hasson, Maria Johnson, Alexandra Heiberg, and Evan Hasson, and by her stepson, David Hasson, and his wife,

Sharon Toncray. Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Hasson, z"l, parents Helen and Jerome (Jerry) Katzky, z"l, and brother, Jerome (Jerry) Katzky Jr., z"l.

A Memorial Service was held Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025 at Congregation Beth Israel.

GARY ETLINGER

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Gary Etlinger, z"l, who passed away on Sept. 14, 2025 at the age of 86.

Gary is survived by his wife Sandra Etlinger, his daughters and their spouses Kimberly and Dave Puccinelli, Tracy and Robert Arron, Lisa and Ryan Poll, and his grandchildren Josh Puccinelli, Emily Arron, Alex Arron, Sasha Poll, and Elina Poll. Gary was preceded in death by his mother and father, Doris and Lou Etlinger, z"l.

A Funeral Service was held Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025 at Beth Israel Cemetery. Donations in Gary's name may be made to Parkinson's Resources of Oregon and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

SUE SADIS

Congregations Neveh Shalom and Ahavath Achim are saddened to share the passing of Sue Sadis, z"l, on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025. Sue was predeceased by husband Sam Sadis. She is mourned as a beloved aunt to Randy (Michelle Imori) Goldenberg, mother to Steve (Staci) Sadis, Leslie (Russell) Lewis and Barry Sadis, and grandmother to Audrey and Nathan Lewis and great aunt to Youki Imori.

A funeral service was held Monday, Sept. 22, at Willamette National Cemetery.

ELAINE NEWMAN

Congregation Neveh Shalom is saddened to inform you of the passing of Elaine Norr Newman, z"l, on September 23, 2025, at the age of 78. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, she is survived by her beloved husband Edward Newman of 56 years, her children, Julie Newman, Joel (Alice) Newman, and Joanna Newman, sister Susan Norr Sunkle, and brother Paul Norr, z"l (Helaine Gross). Loving grandmother to five grandchildren, Emmett, Noah and Hudson Greenberg; Doris and Beatrix Newman.

Her professional life was a testament to her commitment to serving others. She began her career as an elementary school teacher before transitioning to fundraising and coordination roles. Her detail orientation and diligence led to positions with the Franklin County Alcohol and Mental Health Board, the American Cancer Society and, eventually, Director of Grant Writing at the Jewish Federation. She also worked with Temple Israel, Hadassah and co-owned Kidsplace, a daycare on Columbus's westside. After her formal career, she continued her philanthropic work as a dedicated volunteer, including with Social Venture Partners PDX, which works diligently to bring free preschool to all.

The funeral was held Friday, Sept. 26, at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery. The family requests that charitable contributions be made to the organizations that were close to Elaine's heart: Planned Parenthood, Social Venture Partners PDX and Rabbi Posen's Discretionary Fund at Neveh Shalom.