

THE JEWISH REVIEW

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JCRC spotlights local elections in forum

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Twelve people arranged themselves in a row at the front of a room at Beaverton's Elsie Stuhr Center last Wednesday evening to ask for the same thing – votes.

The 12 were candidates in six different municipal races on the May 19 ballot: the Board of Commissioners Chair for Washington County, seats on the Washington County board from Districts Two and Four, and three Beaverton City Council seats (Districts One, Two and Five.) They had come at the invitation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Jewish Community Relations Council to discuss matters of import to Portland's Jewish Community in a forum moderated by the Federation's Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations Rachel Nelson.

All three candidates seeking the Washington County Commission Chair position were on hand – current Commissioners Nafisa Fai and Pam Treece along with Jenny Kamprath. When the candidates were asked about how they would address



Candidates for Washington County Board of Commissioners and Beaverton City Council races appear at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's candidate forum Wednesday, Apr. 29 at the Elsie Stuhr Center in Beaverton. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

concerns about antisemitism, Fai spoke first.

"I lead by bringing people together, and I don't confuse collaboration with inaction," she said. "So, what you have is a commitment to make sure that our sheriff is involved, our law enforcement, our [district attorney], that anything that is a safety concern is taken seriously."

"In the political world that we live in right now, the

bounds for unacceptable behavior have just gone way too far. We know it, we see it, we feel it. Antisemitism, as you talked about, is on the rise," Treece said. "It's a very real thing, and we need to implement systems to combat that."

"I'm a relationship builder, so I would want to reach out, find out what the problems are, how we can help, how we can facilitate that, not

just for your community, but any community who feels unsafe," Kamprath said. "I, personally, am on the right side of the aisle, and I know a lot of people in that same position that don't feel safe, because if they speak out about anything, they get attacked. So, it comes in all forms, and I think it needs to end."

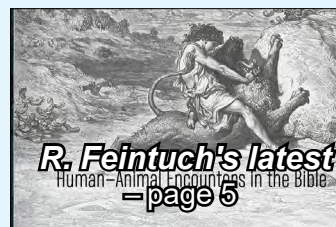
See **FORUM**, page 2

INSIDE

Events – page 14
Obituaries – page 14
Candidate Survey
– page 15



Montroses honored at Spark – page 4



R. Feintuch's latest
Human-Animal Encounters in the Bible
– page 6

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FORUM (continued from page 1)

Both candidates for Beaverton's City Council Position Five – the incumbent, John Dugger, and his challenger, Antonio Pirog - were on hand for Wednesday's forum.

"I'm the first openly LGBTQ person ever elected in this role in Beaverton, so I know what it's like to receive threats. I've received them at my house on multiple occasions. I know their impact, and I strongly condemn bias and hate," Dugger said on addressing antisemitism. "We've started and funded an equity office in Beaverton for the first time. That has to continue. We've stood up to the Trump Administration, the executive orders on [diversity, equity and inclusion]. We've won our lawsuits. Now that will continue."

"Safe streets and secure communities require physical infrastructure, and that costs money. If our city's checkbook fails, our safety net fails. We have to secure our financial foundation before we can guarantee public safety," Pirog said.

Four of the six candidates for Washington County's commissioner District Four, representing Hillsboro, Forest Grove and points west, were present. They also addressed the question of how to tackle growing antisemitism.

"One of my favorite sayings is you can pretend to care, but you can't pretend to show up," Steve Callaway, the former mayor of Beaverton, said. "So, when we had our Jewish community open their Shabbat, I showed up. When they received their Torah, I was there. When we have our annual Menorah lighting, I'm there, and by being present, you hear what's happening, you know what's happening, you create relationships."

"I'm a constitutionalist, and I find that the founding of this country is on Judeo-Christian principles, and when people don't understand that anymore, we have chaos and we have no peace and we have no prosperity," Ayla Hoffer said. "I feel that one of the origins of all this antisemitic rhetoric is coming from our universities and our schools, and I think since the schools are a part of our county, they need to know that there's a zero tolerance for this."

"I think it's really important that we address all forms of bias crimes, antisemitism, racism, bigotry, Islamophobia, transphobia. It's very important, because these are all on the rise, and we need to stand up. I think the first thing we need to do is educate our community about the resources they have to be able to report," Anthony Martin, the former Hillsboro City Council President, said. "I also think it's really critical that the county reinvest in diversity, equity and inclusion, because that is an absolutely critical component of making sure that everyone feels welcome."

"Our nation was founded on rule of law, our county, our country, have laws. Many of them are to keep people safe, families safe, and to that end, I think the primary role that I perceive as a board is to make sure the sheriff's office is fully funded," Paul Schafer said. "One of the things I would pride myself on is being able to listen to my constituents. I may not agree with them, they may not agree with me, but you need to have that communication and hear both sides, hear all sides."

Kimberly Culbertson and Kipperlyn Sinclair, the other two candidates for District Four, did not attend.

"I have shown that I have a deep, deep commitment to racial equity as someone who grew up in a multiracial family," Felicita Montebalanco, who is running to represent county



The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Rachel Nelson, left, moderates the Washington County Candidates Forum Wednesday, Apr. 29, at Beaverton's Elsie Stuhr Center. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

commissioner District Two, which that includes North Beaverton, Rock Creek and Bethany, said on the subject. "The thing that comes up for me in this question is that the budget is our moral document and our reflection of our values as an entity, and so we need to make sure we have the resources to ensure we can fight back."

Neither of her opponents for the seat, Stevan Kirkpatrick and Blayne Soleymani-Pearson, were present at the forum.

"This is a personal question for me because I have Jewish family members. I think the first thing is to listen to the community, Rachel Philip, seeking Beaverton City Council Position One, said of addressing antisemitism. "It's listening to our community, doing work with groups like Jewish Federation, and then we go back to the city, to make sure that law enforcement knows what's going on."

Her opponents, Evelyn Cocher and Marvin Rydberg, did not attend.

Kevin Teater, a candidate for Beaverton City Council Position Two, said that "my goal as one of your local leaders is to be that grounding source of stability in our own communities, so that no matter what's going on in the in the world or across the nation, that you will feel at home here, that you feel like you have leadership who cares, who is willing to listen, who is willing to take action to make sure you feel safe, that you feel like your families can thrive."

His opponent, David Kearns, did not attend.

The candidates also addressed questions on the role of local elected officials in addressing global affairs as well as audience questions on schools, DEI and data centers.

"Hosting a candidate forum in Washington County felt important for this election. 20 percent of the Jewish community lives in the western suburbs, and elections are critical cornerstones of our democracy," Nelson told The Jewish Review. "Hearing directly from candidates and knowing the ones who were invited and chose not to respond, is so important as we respond to anti-Jewish hate and bias in our community in addition to all the other concerns of being a Beaverton and Washington County constituent."



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Montroses honored at sparkling Schechter Spark

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

Despite the unseasonably warm temperatures outside Downtown Portland's Ecotrust building, friends of Camp Solomon Schechter gathered inside Sunday, May 3 to create a spark – and honor one of their own.

This year's edition of Schechter Spark – held simultaneously with Spark events in Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., honored former CSS Board President Dr. Alan Montrose and Debbie Montrose, whose annual Israeli folk dance retreats at camp have become an institution in the northwest and beyond.

Alan Montrose went to Schechter as a child, spending summers with fellow Congregation Neveh Shalom *bar mitzvah* and Schechter Spark co-chair Rick Rosenbloom. Rosenbloom recalled one year, when he hit his head playing volleyball, Montrose stayed with him all day as he convalesced. When fellow campers came in to ask how Rosenbloom was doing, Montrose wouldn't let him answer.

"Instead, he'd pull out his cassette tape recorder," Rosenbloom recalled, "and he'd play the song by Tommy Roe, 'I'm So Dizzy My Head is Spinning.'"

Susan Rosenbloom, who married Rick and served as a co-chair of Spark, recalled the positive effect she saw camp have on their children.

"When I think about Camp Solomon Schechter, and the things that my children came home with," she said, "Jewish culture, it's about love, tradition, family, helping others, virtues, values. All those things form the underlying foundation of the summer camp program at Schechter."

Montrose later succeeded Brian Suher, another Spark co-chair, as the camp's board president.

"Task number one was asked for by Rabbi Stampfer. He said, for camp to grow and succeed, we need a full-time executive director," Suher recalled. "Alan took that to heart and immediately named himself as head of the search committee."

Montrose's tenure as president was a great success that set Schechter on the course it remains on today, Suher explained. The only thing Montrose couldn't manage was the renovation of the camp's tennis courts, which would



Dr. Alan and Debbie Montrose were the guests of honor at Portland's Schechter Spark celebration Sunday, May 3 in Downtown Portland. Simultaneous celebrations in Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. honored Cindy Fein Strauss and Bob Strauss and Rabbi Matthew Bellas, z"l, respectively. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

have required the removal of a historic, centuries-old maple tree.

"The courts continue to bring service to the camp, but just not quite at the professional level that Alan had attempted to achieve," Suher joked.

Debbie Montrose has also had her own massive impact on Schechter, her daughter Elise Engelberg explained. She was instrumental in the creation of Schechter's family camp program, in addition to her work around Israeli folk dancing at camp.

"My mom's passion, kindness and inclusivity are just a few things that make her so special," she said "She founded the Israeli dance retreat at Schechter and has kept it thriving all these years. She has this amazing ability to make people feel welcome, included and valued."

Schechter had its own impact on her.

"Camp gave me a sense of pride in my Jewish identity," Eisenberg said, "not because someone lectured me about it, but because I got to live it."

"They show up," Glen Coblens said of the Montroses, his aunt and uncle. "They create community. They make people feel seen, included and supported. Along with my parents and grandparents, they've set an extraordinary example of what it means to be there; be there for their family, be there for their community, and of course, be

there for Camp Solomon Schechter. They've set the bar incredibly high, and it's up to us, the next generation, to continue their legacy."

Seattle's gathering honored Cindy Fein Strauss and Bob Strauss, while Vancouver's event honored Rabbi Matthew Bellas, z"l. While the three events were held in different locales with different honorees, they shared a common focus, as articulated by Portland's honorees.

"I'd like to say how proud and how honored Alan and I are to have been chosen to be this year's Portland Spark honorees to help represent how much we love and cherish all that Camp Solomon Schechter offers to our communities and region," Debbie Montrose said.

Alan Montrose recalled one of his early summers at Schechter when money was tight for his family, and he was almost not able to attend. His father had kept a jar of coins, which one of his mother's friends sorted through and found a rare one-cent coin that sold to a collector for \$75, which happened to be the tuition for two weeks of camp back then.

"So, I went to camp for a penny," he said. "Good deal!"

He's given back far more than that over the years, for one essential reason.

"As an adult, I wanted to ensure that our kids have the same experience that I had at the Schechter."

Rabbi Feintuch's examines humans' relations to animals

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

When you hear someone described as acting like an animal, it is typically not a favorable comparison.

Rabbi Yossi Feintuch sees it differently.

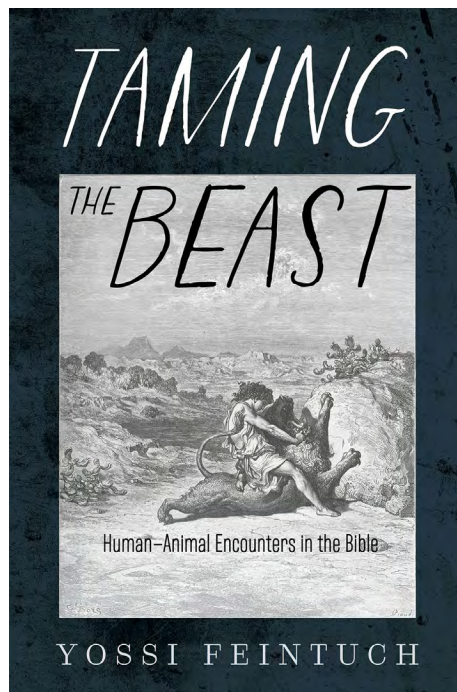
In his book, "Taming the Beast: Human-Animal Encounters in the Bible," the former rabbi of Congregation Shalom Bayit in Bend examines the relationships between humans and animals in Jewish scripture with the goal of informing how we relate to animals today.

"It's an idea that I conceived in my mind right after we moved to Central Oregon," he said. "I was intrigued by the human propensity to accuse and to blame animals for all the woes of humanity."

That was in 2020, but he explained his vision with an observation from 2023. Again, the worst behavior of humanity is often described in animalistic terms, but there is no animal that does what Hamas did on Oct. 7.

"Hamas did not behave like animals. They behaved like human beings," Rabbi Feintuch said. "As I started to think about this critical question, the book started to evolve."

A native of Israel, Rabbi Feintuch was ordained by Hebrew Union College in 1994 – he also holds a doctorate in history from Emory University and has taught at institutions in Israel and the



United States while maintaining congregational postings. When he began his look at human/animal relationships, he naturally looked to scripture and noticed, among other things, that there was no killing of animals, either by humans or by other animals, even, until after the Great Flood. Noah and his descendants, however, are then permitted to kill and eat animals.

"That is a huge change, and I have more than one chapter in the book that tried to unpack and give it some kind of reason," Rabbi Feintuch said. "I

consulted all commentaries and none came with a satisfactory explanation as to this revolution in human diet."

Through the examination of other significant moments in the biblical narrative, from Eve's encounter with the serpent in the Garden of Eden and even the very creation of animals and humans – separately- in the early chapters of Genesis down to the rules that Noah is given about eating flesh, Rabbi Feintuch examines a scope of history and theology that has not been much discussed in past work.

"It's really a book that should, in my humble opinion, attract all people who are interested in the *Tanakh* (Jewish scriptures), because I try and provide interpretations that really are not found elsewhere, and I'm saying it with all humility," he explained. "There are not many books that are written or are dedicated to the subject. I actually researched that, and I found that I was in a gray area. There's very little scholarship on the encounters between humans and animals."

"Taming the Beast" is available through its publisher, Eugene's Wipf and Stock Publishers, as well as through Amazon and at other major booksellers. Find more of Rabbi Feintuch's writing at *The Times of Israel's* blogs at blogs.timesofisrael.com/author/yossi-feintuch.

OJCF Professional Advisors Group to visit Jewish Museum June 3

The Jewish Review staff

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation's Professional Advisors Group is hosting its quarterly gathering at one of the places that donor contributions make a serious impact.

"We are going to be focusing on the impact that the foundation makes, both on our donors and on our partners like the Oregon Jew-

ish Museum [and Center for Holocaust Education]," OJCF's Nadine Gartner said.

That focus will be found at the museum's rooftop event space in Downtown Portland Wednesday, June 3 at 4 pm. The evening starts with refreshments and remarks from an OJCF donor who has used their donor advised fund to support the

museum's work through the years, as well as remarks from the museum's staff.

"After that, we then have a private tour of Oregon Jewish Stories, which is one of the core exhibits at the museum," Gartner said, "and everyone who attends gets a pass to return to the museum whenever they choose."

Not only is it an opportunity for those who work in

fields connected to philanthropic giving – fields which the Professionals Advisors Group exists to support - "this is [also] a great reason to come and mingle, meet up with friends, and learn a bit more about these two really important institutions in our community, the foundation and the museum."

For more information, visit ojcf.org.

Free subscription: jewishportland.org/subscribe



Sharaka panelists share their experiences and goals with attendees at their Monday, Jan. 22, 2024 presentation at Congregation Neveh Shalom. The group, which works to promote diplomatic ties between Israel and Arab countries in the region, returns to Portland next week. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

Sharaka returns to Portland

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Sharaka, the group formed in the wake of the Abraham Accords to advocate for broader normalization of relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors, is returning to Portland.

Youssef Elazhari, Fatema Al Harbi, Noam Meirov and Dalia Ziada are scheduled to speak at Congregation Neveh Shalom Tuesday, May 12 at 7 pm in an appearance co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Neveh Shalom's Israel360.

"The Jewish Federation is delighted to welcome Sharaka to Portland. These young leaders from countries throughout the Middle East are promoting true relationships and openness can lead to peaceful relations," Federation President and CEO Marc Blattner told *The Jewish Review*. "We hope their inspiring message will spread throughout the region."

Elazhari, a Moroccan entrepreneur and activist, and Al Harbi, a Bahraini author and advocate, were part of a five-person Sharaka panel hosted in January of 2024. (See "[Somebody has to start](#)," Jan. 31, 2024, page 1)

"A lot of things changed when I went to Israel," Elazhari told the Portland audience in 2024 of his first visit to the Jewish state. "I went with a lot of misconceptions. I think I was hugged in Israel more than I was getting in Morocco. You see the warmth. You see the love. You see how people are very inclusive.

I felt like I'm home."

"My mom and my sister back home in Bahrain received so much hate because of my trip [to Israel]," Al Harbi said in her 2024 visit. "I went to Israel with the goal of curiosity. I wanted to meet people and see the country. But I left Israel with a special agenda of advocating for peace. I want to build bridges. I want people to see the reality of the people of Israel."

"We are excited to once again be bringing Sharaka to Portland," Federation Chief Community Relations and Public Affairs Officer Bob Horenstein said. "Here is a group of individuals from Israel and Arab countries who believe in a vision of coexistence and deepening of ties even in the face of ongoing conflict in the Middle East. In addition to our community event at Neveh Shalom, they will be speaking at PSU through the Middle East North Africa and South Asia Department, presenting at an interfaith lunch at [Congregation] Beth Israel and meeting with our [Jewish Community Relations Council]."

An audience Q-and-A will follow a talk from the panelists. Preregistration is required, free and available online at jewishportland.org/sharaka2026.

Hear more about Sharaka's 2024 visit to Portland in "[Pushing For Peace with Sharaka](#)," the 10th episode of season one of *The Jewish Review Podcast*, available on all major podcast platforms.

Leopold launches local PAC

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Mike Leopold has launched a political action committee to counter what he sees as political extremism.

His group, NW Oregon Unity in Action, filed as a Political Action Committee with the Oregon Secretary of State's office on Mar. 2 and has reported \$2,111 of cash contributions so far this year.

"Why we exist is this extreme movement within the political parties that are fueling the anti-Zionist hate movement," Leopold told *The Jewish Review*.

The group's website says they are particularly focused on Oregon House District 27, where Tammy Carpenter and Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg are squaring off in the Democratic primary and G. Mark Norman is running unopposed for the Republican nomination to replace retiring Democrat Rep. Ken Helm, as well as races for the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the Beaverton City Council. They have not publicly endorsed any candidates in the coming election, ballots for which are due on May 19.

Leopold said the committee will support "those candidates that do believe that they're there for the local entity they were elected to, not there to raise international geopolitical issues within the city of Beaverton, and not to have a resolution at the county level that has anything to do with international geopolitical issues."

Learn more at nwouia.org/

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Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland

Kollel to celebrate 20 years next Wednesday

The Jewish Review staff

The Portland Kollel is celebrating 20 years in style.

The adult Jewish educational hub will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a Gala Dinner at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30 pm.

“This milestone event will bring together community members, supporters, and friends to reflect on two decades of impactful Torah learning, community building, and educational programming throughout the Portland area,” Rabbi Boruch Diskind said in an email to *The Jewish Review*.

Expected guests of honor include Rabbi Kenneth and Aviel Brodtkin, Rabbi Tzvi and Esther Fischer and Rabbi Yossi and Sarah Faige Goldblatt, among others.

Tickets are still available at \$100 each with multiple sponsorship levels available. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit portlandkollel.org/20.

Zafrany launches to support elders

The Jewish Review staff

Gabby Ruimy’s new venture, Zafrany, is about doing some of what she couldn’t do during her 20 years as a nurse.

Ruimy has spent much of her career working with seniors; Zafrany offers services to seniors that are navigating aging challenges and the health care system.

Her work centers on being “somebody that can fill the gap that the health care system leaves for adult children of seniors in terms of care coordination, figuring out whether or not people are safe at home, hiring outside help, figuring out Medicare

and Medicare Advantage plans,” she said. “Somebody who can be supportive in the same way as a family member but who happens to have 20 years of experience in healthcare.”

After growing up attending Congregation Neveh Shalom, Ruimy attended nursing school in Philadelphia. She returned to Portland in 2011 and now hopes to add a human touch to an increasingly mechanical health care system.

“There’s just no replacing a human being that knows your story,” she said.

Learn more at zafrany.org.

Newman offers outdoor Jewish learning for ages 4-7 in two sessions this summer

The Jewish Review staff

Sharon Newman’s Passionflower Playscapes is launching a Sunday summer program for kids to experience Judaism outside.

Mayim Chayim: Judaism in the Garden will run in two sessions of four Sunday mornings from 10 am-2 pm at Newman’s farm in Southeast Portland. Built for 4-7 year olds, the first session is May 31, June 14, June 28 and July 12, with the second session running July 19, Aug. 2, Aug. 16 and Aug. 30. Each session will include a family Shabbat potluck, scheduled for July 10 and Aug. 21, respectively.

Newman has made a career in early childhood and outdoor education, and

is excited to build a program that introduces kids to the connections between Judaism and nature in a fun, welcoming environment.

“I am really passionate about Judaism as it relates to farming and the outdoors and the teachings in relationship to land stewardship,” she said. “It wasn’t until recently moving out west that I met other people that are seeing Judaism through that lens. It’s funny how all our traditions are so centered around farming in the land and we never talk about it.”

Tuition is \$400 per session, with a \$50 discount for siblings. For more information or to start the enrollment process, visit passionflowerplayscapes.com/mayim-chayim.

NCSG sets summer dates

The Jewish Review staff

The North Coast Shabbat Group is once again bringing monthly *Kabbalat Shabbat* services to the Oregon coast for the summer months.

Services are set for May 22, June 26, July 24, Aug. 28 and Oct. 23 beginning at 7:30 pm at the Bob Chisholm Community Center in Seaside, with an *oneg* (reception) to follow.

May’s service will be lead by Cantor Ida Rae Cahana, Congregation Beth Israel Cantor Emeritus, with the post service *oneg* hosted by Pat and Nolan Newman and a pre-service *oneg* at 6:15 pm courtesy of B’nai B’rith Men’s Camp. June’s service will be lead by Flip Frisch of Congregation Kol Ami, with Carolyn Gorin, Sam Gottlieb and Judy and Al Wenigard hosting the *oneg*. Nein Weinstein and Ilene Safyan will lead the service in July and August, respectively, with Avrel Nudelman leading October’s service; Leslie Berman, Julia and Barbra Weinberg and Kayla Reich will host October’s *oneg*.

Yearly membership is \$27 per person, \$54 per household. For more information, email office@ncshabbat.org.

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JFGP hosts Next-Gen engagement showcase

Young adults flocked to the Eastside Jewish Commons for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Next-Gen Community Education Night Thursday, Apr. 30. The evening featured informational tabling by Jewish community organizations, followed by engagement pitches from Federation staff modeled on the hit reality tv series "Shark Tank." (Rockne Roll/ The Jewish Review)



SHAVUOT EVENTS

Upcoming Shavuot opportunities gathered by Jewish Federation

jewishportland.org/shavuot



MDA brings Medicycle to Portland for donor memorial

This Piaggio MP3 scooter, pictured at the Eastside Jewish Commons Sunday, Apr. 19, is an example of the three-wheeled vehicles used by Magen David Adom for emergency medical response to terror attacks and other incidents. A donation was made in memory of Congregation Shir Tikvah member Eric Westerfeld, z"l, to MDA to purchase such a vehicle - the organization brought one to display at his memorial service held that Sunday. (Jamie Hogland/Congregation Shir Tikvah)



OJMCHE to open summer exhibits for America250

By **AMELIA LUKAS**

For The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education

At a moment when questions of national identity, belonging, and civic responsibility are at the forefront of public life, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education presents two concurrent exhibitions that examine the American experience from complementary perspectives: the ideals that define the nation, and the ways individuals and communities actively shape it.

Opening June 28, *One Nation* and *How We Show Up* arrive as part of the national commemoration of our country's 250th anniversary, using this milestone not as a retrospective, but as a prompt to examine how democratic ideals are lived and challenged today.

Together, these exhibitions move beyond reflection to something more immediate— an invitation to consider how democratic ideals are carried and redefined through everyday participation. In an era of polarization and rapid social change, OJMCHE offers a space to engage more deeply with the responsibilities and possibilities of belonging.

One Nation, a traveling exhibition organized by the Dr. Bernard Heller Museum at Hebrew Union College, brings together a diverse group of artists whose work reflects on the promise and contradictions embedded in the national motto *E Pluribus Unum*, "Out of Many, One." Featuring artists such

as Arthur Szyk, Raphael Soyer, Archie Rand, Ruth Weisberg, and Mark Podwal, the exhibition spans painting, sculpture, textile, and mixed media. Across these works, artists explore themes central to American civic life—immigration and belonging, protest and dissent, labor and economic justice, religious freedom, and racial inequality—while questioning how a nation defined by diversity continues to navigate deep social and political divisions. As curator Phyllis Freedman notes, "Our motto expresses more than an ideal. It reflects an essential truth...we are stronger and more resilient together, embracing all of our differences, than we are apart."

While *One Nation* examines the ideals and mythology, *How We Show Up* brings the conversation closer to home. The exhibit traces the history of Jewish civic participation in Oregon, highlighting the many ways individuals and communities have shaped public life across generations, within and beyond the Jewish community. These stories offer a meaningful and sometimes surprising glimpse into the role minority communities played in shaping race and ethnic relations in the American West.

The unique curation and development of *How We Show Up* is the result of deep collaboration between Portland-based creative studio Upswell; Exhibition Advisor Ellen Eisenberg, Dwight & Margaret Lear Professor of American History, Willamette University; and Alisha Babbstein, Director of

Collections and Exhibitions, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Drawing from OJMCHE's collections of photographs, documents, and personal stories, the exhibition examines moments of tension and contradiction, exploring the limits of acceptance and the complexities of minority politics within broader civic systems. It reveals how communities actively shape public life, even while navigating exclusion and contradiction.

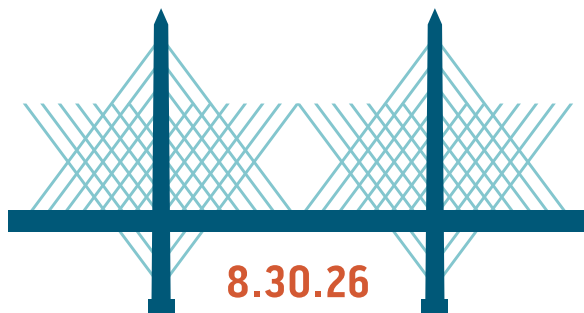
Presented as part of the national America250 commemoration, *How We Show Up* shifts the focus from national narrative to lived experience, inviting visitors to consider how civic participation takes shape over time and what it asks of each generation.

Erica Dillon, Creative Director at Upswell, shares that "The exhibition invites visitors to see these materials not just as history, but as evidence of how each generation decides what it means to show up for others."

Together, these examples illustrate the many forms civic participation can take: from formal political leadership to mutual aid and community-based action, often extending beyond one's immediate circle. Additionally, the exhibition does not shy away from complexity, highlighting moments when solidarity was incomplete, underscoring that participation in democracy is not only about showing up, but about who is included, and how.

Learn more at ojmche.org

Portland



8.30.26

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

MAY 14

MAY 11

Climate Corner

Moving away from microplastics

By STEVE KATZ

Microplastics are small particles usually less than 5 millimeters (0.2 inches) in length. They have been found in our water, our food, our oceans and ultimately in our bodies. They have been found in mother's milk, men's semen as well as in the uterus, placenta and other organs. Their effect is still being investigated but initial findings indicate that they can have negative effects on our bodies.

What can we do to limit exposure to microplastics? It is difficult, but we can change a few things in our lives. Many products we shop for can be wrapped in plastic; stores often have plastic veggie and fruit bags as well. Unwrapped items, mesh bags and paper bags are good alternatives to plastic packaging. Buying unpackaged goods that come in bulk can save you money and provide you with plastic free product. Consider switching from plastic containers food wrap to glass containers or jars and aluminum foil. For coffee, consider a glass French press or pour over with a reusable mesh filter because plastic coffee pods, when heated, can leach chemicals.

The bathroom is another area where we of-

ten find plastic. One can move away from plastic containers by using shampoo bars. Using cotton dental floss and dental cleaning tablets also reduce plastic.

There are many changes that can be made to reduce exposure to plastic and if we each do a little, the effects on our health and civilization will be positive. Remember we are all in charge of *tikkun olam*. (Repairing the world)

Steve Katz is a member of Havurah Shalom's Climate Action Team and the Jewish Community Relations Council's Climate Action Committee.

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The Climate Action Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is sharing tips and resources for healing the Earth in a periodic Climate Corner in The Jewish Review. The group is committed to the important work of tikkun olam. (repairing the world) If you would like to join the Climate Action Committee, please contact Rachel Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org.

Jewish Jobs

Check out the latest Jewish
community jobs

opportunities online at

[jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/
jewish-jobs](http://jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs)



HEROES

גיבורים

Thursday, May 14

7:00 - 9:00pm Concert at the MJCC

Join us for this live immersive musical and storytelling concert with renowned Israeli musician Gilad Segev.

We honor those whose courage and compassion have brought light in times of darkness.

PROJECT HEROES

Tickets: \$15 at oregonjcc.org/daxko



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Project Heroes
Website



Obituaries

Submit obituaries to The Jewish Review's online form at form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary

Events

See all of Portland's Jewish community events online at jewishportland.org/community-calendar

May 7-17: 2026 Portland Jewish Music Festival

Details and tickets at ejcpdx.org/pjmf26.

May 7: JFCS Community Connection

Virtual support group at 2 pm via Zoom. jfcs-portland.org/community-connection.

May 7: PJC goes to First Thursday Night Market

Young adult social outing at Deschutes Brewery in Northwest Portland at 6:30 pm. For more information, portlandjewishconnection@gmail.com.

May 8-10: Scholar-in-Residence 2026 with Rabbi Danny Nevins

Weekend event at Congregation Neveh Shalom. Learn more and register at nevehshalom.org/SIR26.

May 9: Intro to Bibli-

cal Hebrew

Weekly class at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 9:30 am. More information at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/adult-learning.html.

May 9: Women's Torah Study

Weekly class at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 10:30 am. More information at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/adult-learning.html.

May 9: Sephardic Foundations

Weekly class at Congregation Ahavath Achim at 12:30 pm. Learn more at ahavathachimpdx.weebly.com/sep-hardic-foundations.html.

May 10: Krav Maga Introductory Course

Weekly self-defense course at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 10 am. More information at oregonjcc.org/culture.

May 10: Israeli Folk Dance Intermediate

Class & Open Dance

Weekly dance class and session at the Southwest Community Center. Class at 2:30 pm, open dancing at 3:30. More information at sites.google.com/site/pifd-news.

May 10: The Shabbat Effect Book Tour with Dr. Alan Morinis

Presentation at Congregation Shaarie Torah at 5 pm. Registration at shaarietorah.wufoo.com/forms/the-shabbat-effect-book-tour-with-dr-alan-morinis.

May 12: Women's Kabbalah Class with Mimi Wilhelm

Class at Chabad SW Portland at 6:30 pm. Registration at jportland.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/5653557/jewish/Rosh-Chodesh-Society-Registration.htm.

May 12: Ladies Night Out Shavuot Cooking

Workshop

Cooking class with Sonya Sanford at Chabad SW Portland at 7 pm. Registration at jportland.com/tools/events/register_cdo/eventid/22530.

May 12: Sharaka - Promoting Peace in the Middle East

See story, page 6.

May 13: Israeli Folk Dance for Beginners

Weekly class at the Mittleman Arts Center in Southwest Portland at 7 pm. More information at sites.google.com/site/pifdnews.

May 13: Portland Kollel 20th Year Celebration

See story, page 8.

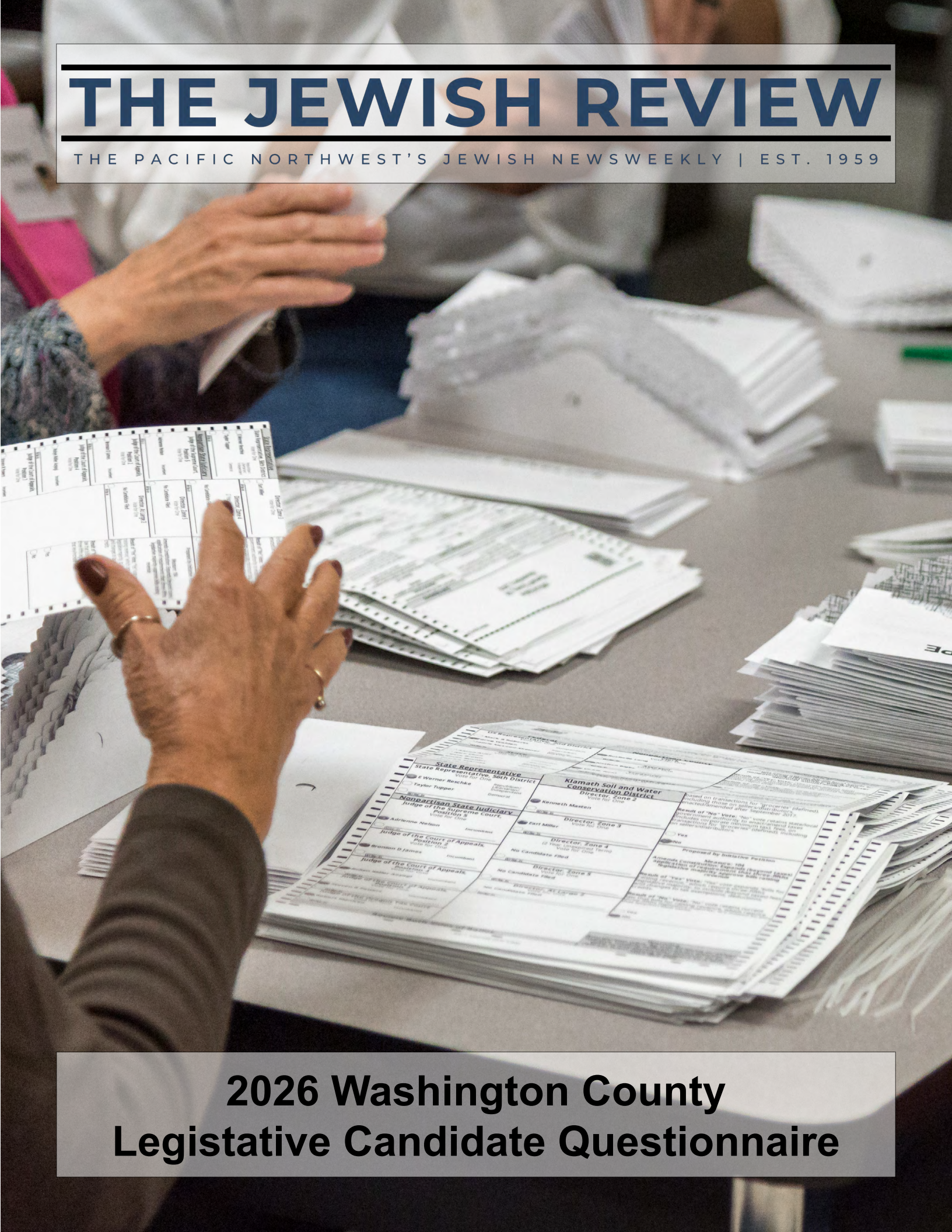
May 14: Heroes - Music Show

Concert at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 7 pm. More information at oregonjcc.org/daxko.

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2026 Washington County Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

The Jewish Review staff

Last month, *The Jewish Review* sent candidates in contested legislative primaries in Washington County a short questionnaire, developed in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's public affairs team, about issues of important to Oregon's Jewish community. The responses we received are printed below, unedited and in their entirety.

State Senate, District 15

Sen. Janeen Sollman

How do you propose that the legislature address the deepening homelessness crisis in Oregon?

Addressing our homeless crisis with both empathy and accountability is one of my top priorities. Through my work with Project Homeless Connect and over 160 community conversations, I've seen firsthand what compassionate, coordinated action can accomplish. We must pair immediate shelter solutions with long-term investments in behavioral health, addiction recovery, and mental health crisis services. Housing stability begins with safety and dignity. I will continue pushing for solutions that connect people to services, reduce bureaucratic barriers for housing providers, and build the kind of cross-sector partnerships that actually move people off the streets and into stable homes.

Given the federal government's slashing of Medicaid funding, how should the legislature respond to preserve health care access for Oregonians in need?

Oregon cannot allow the Trump Administration's reckless cuts to leave our most vulnerable neighbors without care. I've fought back against Trump's healthcare cuts and I'll keep fighting. The legislature must act swiftly, protect eligibility for those who depend on Medicaid, and explore Oregon-based solutions to stabilize our healthcare system. Thirty-five percent of our state budget relies on federal funding, and these cuts demand experienced, steady leadership at the Ways and Means table. I serve in that role and I will center community voices as we navigate these deeply difficult and consequential budget decisions.

Oregon students continue to lag in assessments of academic achievement compared to their peers in other states. How can Oregon improve student success beyond providing more money to school districts?

After a decade in the Legislature, I know we are out of time for incremental fixes. Money alone is not enough. Oregon needs stronger accountability, early literacy investment, and real reciprocal accountability between the state, local districts, and families. We must fix how we calculate the true cost of educating every child and establish measurable benchmarks that go beyond graduation rates. Expanding Career Technical Education gives students clear, meaningful pathways to good-paying careers. As a former school board chair and mother of educators, improving outcomes for Oregon kids is personal to me.

Oregon schools rank 47th nationally in instructional time for students according to a recently published in Willamette Week, and individual school districts vary widely in their requirements. A bill proposed for the coming legislative session would set a floor of 180 school days per year, which is the national average and the same floor as Washington state. Would you support such a bill? Why or why not?

Yes, I would support establishing a floor of 180 school days. Oregon ranks near the bottom nationally in instructional time, and that is simply unacceptable. As a former school board chair, I know that time in the classroom matters enormously for student development, early literacy, and long-term outcomes. Consistency across districts also matters for equity. Children in some communities are receiving far less instructional time than their peers. Setting a statewide floor aligned with the national average and Washington state is a common-sense, accountability-driven step that directly serves students.

Unemployment in Oregon continues to run above the national average. How should state government promote economic growth, boost local economies and foster job creation?

Growing our workforce and offering living wages are the foundations of a strong economy. I will fight to expand Career Technical Education, apprenticeship programs, and partnerships with local employers so workers have the skills and options that drive wages up. When workers earn wages that reflect the true cost of living, they gain the stability to access housing and build toward the future. I support targeted economic development investments that benefit working families. An Oregon that works for everyone starts with good jobs and clear pathways to reach them in every corner of our state.

For decades, Oregon has had significant economic and cultural ties to the State of Israel. Should the legislature build upon these relationships to produce outcomes that potentially benefit the state?

Oregon exported over \$25 billion in manufactured goods in 2025, led by high-tech products like semiconductors and integrated circuits. Israel remains a key foreign trading partner for Oregon - top ten in both imports and exports. As Washington County both serves as an economic engine for the state, and a hub for our international trade, it is particularly important for my constituents that we nurture this relationship and help to foster economic activity. I am sensitive to proposals that would single Israel out for disparate economic treatment or otherwise compromise that relationship for politicized objectives.

Antisemitism has been increasing for several years. In Oregon and nationally, antisemitic rhetoric has become more common and antisemitic acts have become more violent. How should the legislature address this troubling trend?

Oregon must stand firmly against hate in all its forms. Silence in the face of rising hate is not an option. I am pleased with the recent work of the legislature to expand hate crimes reporting systems through the Oregon Department of Justice (HB 3443 2023). But we can and should do more. Antisemitism and hate fester when they are allowed to flourish without challenge. That's why all of us, and especially public leaders, must call out antisemitic rhetoric and efforts to demonize the Jewish community.

Sollman's opponents in the Democratic primary, Nelly Donis-Purcell and Myrna Munoz, did not respond as of press time.

State Senate, District 17

Autumn Sharp

How do you propose that the legislature address the
continued on next page

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deepening homelessness crisis in Oregon?

We need to focus on what actually moves people off the street and into stability. Oregon has taken steps to allow more middle housing, but we are not seeing it built at the scale we need. The legislature should reduce permitting delays, align local rules with state goals, and fund water, sewer, and transportation upgrades that allow housing to move forward. On behavioral health and addiction, we should fund treatment capacity, including medically assisted treatment and detox beds, and tie funding to outcomes like treatment completion and housing stability, with clear standards, reporting, and coordinated outreach.

Given the federal government's slashing of Medicaid funding, how should the legislature respond to preserve health care access for Oregonians in need?

We need to protect access by stabilizing the system we have while making it work better. The legislature should prioritize funding for primary care, mental health, and addiction treatment, and reduce administrative costs by simplifying billing and reporting requirements. We can expand the workforce by funding training programs, loan repayment, and licensing pathways for providers. I would also support stronger oversight of coordinated care organizations, with required reporting on access, wait times, and outcomes, and tie state funding to those results. If resources shrink, accountability matters more. Every dollar should improve access, quality, and care.

Oregon students continue to lag in assessments of academic achievement compared to their peers in other states. How can Oregon improve student success beyond providing more money to school districts?

Oregon needs a clear, statewide strategy to improve student outcomes. Require evidence-based literacy and math instruction, fund early intervention, and set consistent standards across districts. Expand high-quality tutoring through targeted grants and require districts to use real-time data to track student progress and adjust instruction. Strengthen accountability with clear goals and tie a portion of funding to measurable improvement. Invest in family engagement strategies that reinforce learning outside the classroom and help ensure students stay on track.

Oregon schools rank 47th nationally in instructional time for students according to a recently published in Willamette Week, and individual school districts vary widely in their requirements. A bill proposed for the coming legislative session would set a floor of 180 school days per year, which is the national average and the same floor as Washington state. Would you support such a bill? Why or why not?

Yes. As a Portland Public School parent, I would fully support a 180-day school year. Our students deserve the same instructional time as those in neighboring states, and today's variation across districts creates real inequities. I would support setting a statewide minimum and aligning funding and school calendars to meet it. That includes providing resources for staffing and scheduling so districts can implement it successfully. More time should be used intentionally, with structured time for reading, math, and targeted support so students who are behind can catch up.

Unemployment in Oregon continues to run above the national average. How should state government promote economic growth, boost local economies and foster job creation?

We need to make it easier to start, grow, and keep businesses in Oregon. That includes streamlining permitting by setting clear timelines and reducing unnecessary delays. We can support small businesses by expanding access to capital through state-backed loan and grant programs, and providing targeted tax relief for startups and local employers. Workforce development should align with real job demand, including funding apprenticeships and career training. We should also invest in sectors where Oregon has a competitive advantage, including clean technology, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing. Strong local businesses create jobs and more resilient communities.

For decades, Oregon has had significant economic and cultural ties to the State of Israel. Should the legislature build upon these relationships to produce outcomes that potentially benefit the state?

Yes. Oregon should strengthen relationships that drive innovation, economic opportunity, and shared learning. Israel is a global leader in areas like water technology, agriculture, and healthcare innovation. There are clear opportunities for collaboration that benefit Oregon's economy and sustainability goals. We can support partnerships between universities, businesses, and research institutions to bring those innovations here. Strong international relationships should be grounded in mutual benefit, respect, and a focus on real outcomes for people and communities in Oregon.

Antisemitism has been increasing for several years. In Oregon and nationally, antisemitic rhetoric has become more common and antisemitic acts have become more violent. How should the legislature address this troubling trend? This is deeply personal to me, and it demands a serious response. Antisemitism is not just rhetoric. It is showing up in threats, vandalism, and violence. The state should strengthen hate crime laws, fund law enforcement training to recognize and respond to antisemitic incidents, and expand security grants for at-risk institutions like synagogues and community centers. Education matters too. We should invest in Holocaust and antisemitism education so students understand the real consequences of hate. Silence is not neutral. We have a responsibility to act clearly and consistently against it.

Sharp's opponent in the Democratic primary, Sen. Lisa Reynolds, did not respond as of press time.

State House of Representatives, District 27

Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg

How do you propose that the legislature address the deepening homelessness crisis in Oregon?

We must continue to build a diverse housing supply across the state so that we have a place to house every single Oregonian. We need to fund our behavioral and mental health, substance abuse, and other treatment programs so that anyone with needs beyond just housing can gain access to support. We need to fund organizations like Transition Projects and Community Warehouse that help people with the items they need to turn their housing into a place where they can

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be comfortable and know they are safe. I'm eager to support LIFT funds as part of the legislature as well.

Given the federal government's slashing of Medicaid funding, how should the legislature respond to preserve health care access for Oregonians in need?

Oregonians deserve to have food on the table and have access to affordable healthcare. As a governing body we are going to have to answer difficult questions, do we pause projects that are non-essential but our communities want it or do we backfill losses in Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan), SNAP benefits, etc. As a state we are going to have to get creative with our spending, if programs aren't working or are not essential for Oregonians, we will have to make adjustments. It will be important to strengthen our relationships with the philanthropic community for collaborative efforts.

Oregon students continue to lag in assessments of academic achievement compared to their peers in other states. How can Oregon improve student success beyond providing more money to school districts?

Oregon's schools are failing and that is unacceptable. We owe the next generation of Oregonians a strong education, in a healthy and safe school system, that prepares them for whatever they choose after high school. I will join in the efforts that are ongoing to reform our schools, increasing days and hours, help fund programs that are working in other states, reduce technology use in schools and get our students back to the basics. We can do this in a collaborative and sustainable way that uplifts students, teachers, and staff.

Oregon schools rank 47th nationally in instructional time for students according to a recently published in Willamette Week, and individual school districts vary widely in their requirements. A bill proposed for the coming legislative session would set a floor of 180 school days per year, which is the national average and the same floor as Washington state. Would you support such a bill? Why or why not?

I would absolutely support this concept. A report published by Stand For Children in January showed us, with certainty, that increasing school days will improve educational outcomes and prepare students for whatever they choose to pursue after graduation. I would support such a bill. We must ensure that our teachers and staff are compensated for these increases as well.

Unemployment in Oregon continues to run above the national average. How should state government promote

economic growth, boost local economies and foster job creation?

Oregon should partner with local businesses to understand the support they need to create jobs. In Beaverton, investments in the Oregon Start Up Center and the Non-Profit Incubator help new businesses build skills, access resources, and form strong networks as they grow. The state needs targeted economic development strategies that expand diverse industries and adapt to change so workers are not left behind. Businesses also need stability and predictability to invest with confidence. Permitting reform is a key opportunity to provide that certainty and encourage sustainable economic growth across Oregon's evolving economy.

For decades, Oregon has had significant economic and cultural ties to the State of Israel. Should the legislature build upon these relationships to produce outcomes that potentially benefit the state?

We can build human connections that benefit Oregonians across the state. Oregon can expand economic and cultural ties with Israel in ways that benefit trade, education, and innovation- potentially in biotech and cybersecurity. We should focus on partnerships with universities, businesses, and community organizations. The state can also ensure its resources are directed toward collaboration in areas such as technology and agriculture, while reflecting Oregon's values and maintaining a careful, balanced approach. Israel has made innovative ideas around water for agricultural use, as Oregon faces drier years and ground water shortages, we could learn from Israel regarding water innovation.

Antisemitism has been increasing for several years. In Oregon and nationally, antisemitic rhetoric has become more common and antisemitic acts have become more violent. How should the legislature address this troubling trend?

Antisemitism is unacceptable. I am aware that we have laws on the books against antisemitism, but that members of the Jewish caucus are experiencing increased bias incidents and insufficient response from capital police. We must do better. Our students, families, and everyone in our community deserves to feel safe in school, at home, and at their places of worship. The legislature should make it clear that hate has no place in Oregon. Even though we have anti-bias crimes on the books, we could adopt a comprehensive plan to combat anti-semitism specifically.

Hartmeier-Prigg's opponent in the Democratic primary, Tammy Carpenter, did not respond as of press time.

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