

THE JEWISH REVIEW

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Portland Jewish drag sensation Polly Poptart hypes up the crowd at Jewish Teens of Portland's Drag Show fundraiser Thursday, June 27 at the Eastside Jewish Commons. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Dragging into summer

Eastside youth group caps first year with fabulous fundraiser

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

A year ago, Eastside parents and staff at Congregation Shir Tikvah set off to build a new Jewish youth program on the east side of the Willamette River.

Today, Jewish Teens of Portland is as vi-

brant and energetic as their recent fundraiser, a drag performance at the Eastside Jewish Commons headlined by Polly Poptart.

“It was kind of the hope that when I came into the position that I’m in now that we

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Grants, donations aid local security

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Issues of community security have become increasingly prominent in the post-Oct. 7 Jewish world. The resources available to address those issues have, at least in Oregon, grown as well.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland concluded a special security-focused fundraising campaign to raise \$750,000 to support ongoing community-wide security work for the next three years. This will be supported by matching funds from LiveSecure, a joint program of the Secure Community Network and the Jewish Federations of North America. Additionally, the Federation received \$90,000 in grant funds from The Tepper Foundation’s National Emergency Security Fund, awarded through the Jewish Federations of North America, to enhance security at

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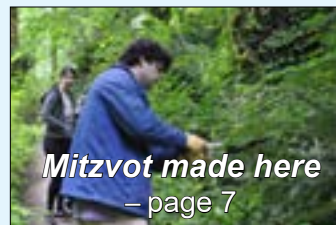
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On this
episode
of the
podcast:

Avi Orlow, Foundation
for Jewish Camp

Letters from Camp



BB360 Chief Community and Jewish Life Officer Kim Schneiderman, top center, performs at the dedication of the expanded dining hall and performing arts facility at the organization's facilities outside Lincoln City during Friends and Family Day Sunday, June 23. (Courtesy BB360)

Friends and Family, and the first days of camp

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

As temperatures warm and schools go on break, the focus of many Jewish families turns to camp.

At B'nai B'rith Camp on the Oregon Coast, the first busloads of overnight campers arrived Tuesday, June 25. But at BB Camp, there's plenty of camp excitement to go around even before the first buses arrive.

The weekend before, the camp celebrated Friends and Family Day, opening their doors to the broader community, including those who would be starting their camp adventure just days later and those who had their first taste of camp long ago.

"As long as I can remember, we've done it," BB360 Chief Executive Officer Michelle Koplan said. "Honestly, it's been really fascinating to see how many alumni come and how many donors and supporters attend just to kind of spend the day in the magic of camp."

Recent years have also seen the day's bevy of camp activities expanded to include dedication ceremonies for new buildings popping up on the shores of Devil's Lake as the camp grows and renovates. This year's event was no exception, with the dedication of a performing arts space and extension of the

facility's dining hall.

"We got to cut the ribbon and had three young adult counselors that spoke about how they've been inspired by the arts at camp and how that has impacted their lives and has truly made them who they are as individuals," Koplan explained.

There will be more such ceremonies coming – including a new administration building which, it was announced, will be named after Koplan, who is marking 25 years as CEO. The new building will be the first at camp named after a professional staff member.

The focus of Friends and Family Day remains a small taste of the camp experience. Koplan shared a story of a woman and her child taking a ride on a canoe in the lake, with another woman they did not know accompanying them to fill the space in the canoe.

"They were chatting the whole time and as they were coming back to shore, they asked each other to exchange phone numbers," Koplan said a staff member told her, showing that it's not just kids that make new friends at camp.

While Friends and Family Day is always a special moment of the year, little compares to busses pulling into the camp driveway, their passengers stepping off to a tunnel of camp staff

singing "*Shalom Aleichem*." Koplan said this year had a special energy, particularly on that first evening as the campers gathered for a meal of Sloppy Joes, the traditional first dinner of each session. It was the first time since 2019 that a full camp session had assembled for a meal as the cohort dining protocols that had been a product of the pandemic have been withdrawn.

"Right away, the kids started the song, 'We've got spirit! Yes, we do! We've got spirit! How about you?'" Koplan said.

Later, the campers chanted in unison, "Bring out the chef!" prompting Becki Bazen, BB360's Food Service Director and head Sloppy Joe maker, and her team to step out for a curtain call.

"The energy is awesome, and kids are so excited to be here," Koplan said. "It's just really lovely."

"*Letters From Camp*" will feature stories from each of the five Jewish overnight camps in the Pacific Northwest over the course of the summer. Next issue: *Camp Solomon Schechter*. For more on Jewish summer camps, listen to "*Campfire Kehillah with Avi Orlow*" on *The Jewish Review Podcast*, available on all major platforms and visit the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's camp resources page at jewish-portland.org/inclusion-camping.



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Jewish Federation of Greater Portland



The 2024 Song of Miriam Award honorees, pictured at their Awards Brunch Sunday, June 9 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. (Courtesy Jewish Women's Round Table)

Song of Miriam brunch honors 18 volunteers

Jewish Women's Round Table

The 29th Annual Song of Miriam Awards Brunch honoring women volunteers was held on Sunday, June 9th, at Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

The event, put on by the Jewish Women's Round Table, honored 18 women who volunteer for Jewish and community organizations. More than 260 people attended the brunch.

Marki Maizels, JWRT President and Toby Blake, a past honoree and JWRT member, presented the awards to:

Laura Bergstrom, honored by Beit Haverim

Laura has been on the Beit Haverim Board of Trustees for seven years, serving in multiple roles including board secretary and treasurer.

When Zoom became a mainstay during the Covid era, Laura jumped in to help with the technology to enable online services. She continues to run the tech booth so that Beit Haverim

can broadcast live Shabbat services.

Ruth Bolliger, honored by the Next Generations Group

Ruth is honored for her work supporting the mission of Next Generations: to keep the personal histories and lessons of the Holocaust alive for today's world.

Ruth helped plan for and build the Holocaust Memorial in Washington Park, and traveled with a group to Poland to bring back soil from concentration camps to bury there. She continues to be an educator about the Holocaust, relating her story of fleeing Czechoslovakia and being in hiding for six years.

Chava Mirel Daitchman, honored by Congregation Kesser Israel

Chava Mirel is part of the team that revived the Sisterhood at Kesser Israel by running monthly women's events. She organizes "group gifts" from members for special occasions like

weddings; she does the same for orders for shul needs. She also organizes women's learning sessions and Shabbos socials for girls.

In the Jewish community, Chava Mirel is an attendant at Rachel's Well Mikvah, and is a member of the Chevra Kadisha, which prepares bodies for burial.

Laura Dawson, honored by Temple Beth Sholom of Salem

Laura currently organizes a quarterly meal for homeless families through Family Promise, a local non-profit that works with faith communities to help the homeless. She also volunteers monthly at Marion-Polk Food Share.

Laura also helps lead the twice-monthly "Secular Shmecular" meetings that provide a way for religious and non-religious Jews to connect and socialize.

Carlie Dunn, honored by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holo-

caust Education

Carlie began volunteering for the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center in 2002, driving survivors to give presentations about their Holocaust experiences.

Since then, she has led tours for museum visitors, facilitated workshops in connection with exhibitions, and processed photographs for the collection. She also participated on the Education Committee.

Nadine Gartner, honored by Portland Jewish Academy

Nadine Gartner is the President of the PJA Board, a role in which she works to build relationships and reach consensus. She has also volunteered for the school as a class representative, PJA Admission Ambassador, and as parent of two students.

She is an alumna of the Wexner Heritage program that trains lay leaders.

Margaret Gotesman, hon-

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Frankel inducted to OJCF Legacy Society

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Josh Frankel made the ideal candidate for induction into the Julie Diamond z"l Legacy Society, an honor he received at the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation's Annual Meeting Monday, June 17. A former board chair of OJCF, Frankel worked closely with Diamond, including on the legacy giving efforts that now bear her name.

"Julie was the ultimate professional. She didn't have a philanthropy background when she came into the role but she was incredibly passionate about community and philanthropy and she became an expert," Frankel said. "Helping with complex gifts, serving donors and introducing transformational programs to the community."

Frankel, who also steps down after more than a decade on OJCF's board this year, became involved with the organization after his grandfather passed away in 2010.

"It really got me thinking about legacy, his legacy, but also my legacy and everyone's legacy," Frankel recalled of his grandfather's passing. "It's ironic that it was really legacy planning that got me involved in the organization."

The people he ended up working with, especially Diamond, were also part of the draw.

"I think the idea of helping others and their philanthropic endeavors and their legacy plans and then connecting



Former Oregon Jewish Community Foundation board chair Josh Frankel, right, receives his Julie Diamond z"l Legacy Society plaque from OJCF President and CEO David Foreman at the Foundation's Annual Meeting Monday, June 17 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. (Alana Cogen/OJCF)

that to the Jewish community, it just all connected," Frankel said. "Then when I met Julie and met other people on the board, it just seemed like a really good fit for what I was looking to do."

Asked about his most meaningful moments on the board, he mentioned the way OJCF was able to use emergency funds to support community organizations through the difficulties of the COVID pandemic, the foresight to build those funds up and the work that was immediate-

ly undertaken to replenish the emergency fund in case it needs to be called upon again. He also mentioned the personal relationships he built, particularly with Diamond as she battled cancer while continuing to work toward the Foundation's goals.

"My dad was also battling cancer at the same time she was battling cancer, and they both lost their battles a few months apart," Frankel recalled. "Having genuine conversations with both of them gave me empathy for what they were both go-

ing through in their different ways. Talking to Julie helped me understand what my dad was going through, and talking to my dad helped me understand what Julie was going through."

Frankel has continued that work – much of it now bearing Diamond's name.

"Several years ago, we named a few things after her," he explained "We also have the Julie Diamond Scholarship; education was incredibly important to her, so that was one way for us to honor her and give back in her honor."

Though much of those efforts bear Diamond's name, Frankel has been a major part of them – thus his induction into the society.

"Receiving the Julie Diamond Legacy Society Award is a testament to Josh's generosity of spirit and his dedication to the Foundation's vision of building community - *l'ahavat ha'kehilla* - for the love of community," OJCF President and CEO David Foreman said. "His unwavering commitment to the Foundation and the organizations he has served will inspire others to create a leadership and philanthropic legacy of their own."

That the honor he received carries Diamond's name is not lost on Frankel.

"I've often said that Julie's legacy is legacy; that she really helped us build a legacy program across the entire community," Frankel said. "Anytime I can be attached to Julie Diamond, I'm certainly very proud of that."

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3G PacNW unites third-gen survivors

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Holocaust survivors have always banded together, united by the shared horror of what the Nazis inflicted. Their children have done likewise, forming second generation groups to carry on the stories of their parents and connect over their own shared experiences.

Now, in Portland, the process of forming those connections has extended to the third generation.

3G PacNW is getting organized and planning its first activities for third-generation Holocaust survivors, including Sunday's Walk for the Living at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

"The youngest survivors at this point are in their 80s. And even their children, some of them are getting up there in years," Naomi Derner, one of the co-founders of 3G PacNW said. "We realize that we are the last living links, the last people who had a personal relationship with the survivor, who knew a survivor, who met a survivor.

While third-generation survivors often grew up around their grandparents, it's not unusual that their experiences in the Holocaust were not shared openly. All four of Derner's grandparents survived the Holocaust, but she didn't learn about their



3G PacNW founders Dan Sharp, left, and Naomi Derner at 3G PacNW's Walk for the Living Sunday, June 30 at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. (Courtesy 3G PacNW)

stories until she was an adult and they had all passed away.

"That experience isn't uncommon among 3Gs, to grow up with this shadow hanging over you if you know that somebody or multiple people in your family have gone through this experience, but you really don't know anything about it," Derner said.

Derner said some of the draw for those who have joined is for this connection, but she's also noticing that

third-generation survivors are eager to share the stories they have, both for their own sake and to help stem the growth of antisemitism that has exploded in recent years.

"We feel it's our responsibility to carry on their stories into the future," Derner said. "Hearing a real person's story, that has a lot of impact, and that is what's going to hopefully help turn the tide on antisemitism and reverse the direction that's been going."

The group is affiliated with

Living Links, a national organization for third-generation groups that is partnered with the Shoah Foundation at the University of Southern California.

One of 3G PacNW's first public events was Sunday's Walk for the Living, a local spinoff of the annual March for the Living which originally ran from the main labor camp at the Auschwitz complex to the Birkenau death camp.

"During COVID, they made it so if you wanted to participate from wherever you were in the world, you could organize an event," Derner said.

The group proceeded from OJMCHE in the North Park Blocks up to Washington Park and the Oregon Holocaust Memorial, where a guided tour of the Memorial was waiting for them, before returning to the Museum – a round trip of approximately three miles. The event was also a fundraiser for both OJMCHE and the Jewish community center in Krakow, Poland.

"They've done a great job of kind of helping rebuild Jewish presence in Poland and really taking a lot of responsibility with aiding refugees from Ukraine," Derner said.

To connect with the group, email 3gnorthwest@gmail.com.



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

Baross gets (even more) personal in "Bakersfield"

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Jan Baross' latest book has been in the works for years – one could say since she was a child.

"Bye-Bye, Bakersfield" is a humorous fictionalization of the Portland author's experiences growing up in the small Jewish community of Bakersfield, Calif. after her family relocated there when she was a young child.

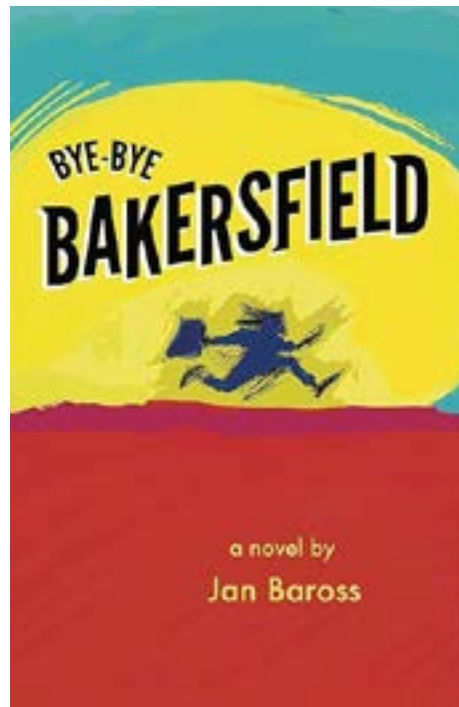
"I was born in Oakland, but my family moved there 'temporarily,'" Baross said of Bakersfield. "My mom was a big-city person, so she was kind of horrified by the whole thing for the whole 25 years she was there."

Much like her own family, the protagonist of "Bye-Bye, Bakersfield" is the daughter of a doctor who relocates to California's Central Valley in search of work but dies at a young age. The narrative follows her as she comes of age and eventually escapes the region. The book is structured as a series of interconnected short stories and while the characters and events are based on reality, the work is decidedly one of fiction.

"It's based on things that happened in my life but a bit exaggerated to make it humorous and to have tension and all the standard things you need for a good story," Baross said.

Baross has worked as a filmmaker, playwright and painter whose writing career began thanks to a message she received from her mother.

"She sent me an article about this Mexican man in Tijuana who built a three-story woman and lived inside of her," Baross recalled, "and I thought that was such a fun story. I wrote what I thought might be a first chapter just to amuse myself, to see what it would be like to start a novel and then then I was wondering, how would this end?"



Over the course of 10 years, she finished it, found a literary agent, and published it as "Jose Builds a Woman," receiving a first-place prize for fiction at the Kay Snow Literary Awards for her efforts.

She produced other works – photographic books, multimedia works on her travels, plays, and even an operatic libretto – while continuing to work on "Bakersfield." She took her time assembling its material, but she also didn't want to publish it in her mother's lifetime.

"I didn't want to publish it or finish it or even show it to my mother because I thought she would be critical," Baross said. "I wanted to write whatever I wanted to write about her, which is a lot of, I think, really funny stuff. She may not have thought so."

The turn toward the autobiographical is not new in her work. Even "Jose Builds a Woman" is informed by her

own experiences spending three decades of winters in Mexico. Her second novel, "Sylvia," depicts a centenarian would-be assassin and was inspired by a centenarian friend's aggravations with then-President Donald Trump.

"I felt I could almost be a little Mexican girl with an impossible dream," she said of writing "Jose Builds a Woman," "because I just felt like I was absorbing the culture; it's so rich and interesting."

The creative license Baross took, the hyperbole for humor's sake, runs the risk of making her Bakersfield experience sound worse than it was, or at least worse than she recalls experiencing it at the time.

"I think my father suffered the most because of antisemitism and being a Jewish doctor there, she recalled. "My mother said one time, she overheard her friends talking; they thought there was something wrong with her brain because she was a Democrat. Most of the Democrats were Jewish. The thing is it just kind of slid over my head. But the thing that I remember first off, when we moved to Bakersfield, was, 'don't tell by anybody you're Jewish and don't tell them you're a Democrat.'"

Like many before her, Baross has handled the burden of antisemitism by turning to humor.

"My grandma said, 'If you can laugh, there's no tragedy in things,'" Baross recalled. "We have a very funny family."

The laughs are set to continue in Baross' follow up to "Bakersfield," which carries the title "The Last Virgin in the Haight" and is in progress.

Find "Bye-Bye Bakersfield" at Amazon or Barnes and Noble or your favorite local bookseller. Learn more about this and Baross' other works at janbaross.com.

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OJMCHE presents summer of contrasts

The Jewish Review staff

A pair of new exhibits are opening for the summer this Sunday at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education

“Chim: Between Devastation and Resurrection” and “The Magic World of Leonora Carrington” both open July 7 and will be on display through Oct. 13.

“OJMCHE has the distinct opportunity to share two stellar exhibitions this summer that while disparate in format share an artistic exploration of reality through the artistic lens of photographer David “Chim” Seymour and the surrealist feminist artist Leonora Carrington,” museum Executive Director Rebekah Sobel said.

“Chim” is a collection of the work of renowned Polish Jewish photojournalist Dawid Szymin. Rising to prominence for his coverage of the Spanish Civil War, his work was published under the name David Seymour but he was best known by the nickname Chim, an abbreviation of his birth surname. Along with Robert Capa, with whom he covered Spain, and Henri Cartier-Bresson,

Szymin co-founded Magnum Photos in 1947 and became its second president from 1954 until he was killed covering the Suez Crisis in 1956.

“The photographs by Chim shine a light on the often-overlooked details about the aftermath of World War II. In particular, the work takes a poignant look at the lives of children coming out of years of war,” Sobel said. “Leonora Carrington, while working in a similar span of years, takes a mystical viewpoint and invites viewers to explore a reality infused with her otherworldly visions.”

“Carrington” features 17 prints by the British-born surrealist painter and novelist who lived most of her adult life in Mexico City, and includes a portfolio of 11 lithographs illustrating the artist’s costume designs for a stage production in New York of S. Ansky’s 1916 play “The Dybbuk.” Carrington is recognized as leading the charge of feminist thought in the surrealism movement, saying “I didn’t have time to be anyone’s muse...I was too busy rebelling against my family and learning to be an artist.”

Her work incorporates animals and mythology and is influenced by the Mayan mystical writings of her adopted home country as well as the Kabbalah. After her husband fled the Nazis with another woman in 1938 and she suffered a breakdown, she was sent to a mental health facility in South Africa by her family but fled to the Mexican embassy. She eventually became a luminary of the Mexican women’s liberation movement in the 1970s.

Both exhibits will be discussed in depth in museum-hosted lectures. Chim’s nephew, Ben Shneiderman, will discuss his uncle’s work on Sunday, July 21 at 2 pm with a reception to follow; both are free with museum entry. Abigail Susik, chair of the Art History department at Willamette University and founding board member of the International Society for the Study of Surrealism, will lecture on Carrington’s work and legacy Thursday, Aug. 8; doors open at 5:15 pm with the event set to begin at 6pm. Tickets for Susik’s lecture are \$15, \$10 for members, and are available online at [OJMCHE.org/events](https://www.ojmche.org/events).

FUNDS (continued from page 1)

Jewish preschools throughout Oregon.

“This is a major success story for our Jewish community,” JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner said. “Sadly, security is a top concern for all Jewish institutions, and we’re doing everything that we possibly can to help support them.”

Portland was one of the first communities in North America to join SCN’s Regional Security Director program under a cost-sharing arrangement with SCN as well as with the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and a consortium of local agencies. As SCN’s costs have gone up, the Portland community will be fully funding the program and contributing to the work of SCN’s national command

center. While 30 percent of those costs continue to come directly from Federation, OJCF and other local agencies, 14 local families contributed the other 70 percent through Federation’s recent security campaign, ensuring the continuation of SCN-coordinated security efforts for at least the next three years.

“People stepped up in a beautiful way,” Blattner said of those who contributed to the security fundraising drive.

Thanks to the matching funds, Federation will have \$250,000 available in each of the next three years for security improvements at Jewish institutions throughout Oregon. A grant application process to request these funds will roll out in the coming weeks. It will be

the first time Oregon Jewish organizations will have dedicated resources for security improvements outside the Nonprofit Security Grant Program administered by the United States Department of Homeland Security.

“Maybe it’s cameras, extra security guards, or assessments,” Blattner said, “but this will be money for the Federation to be able to give to community organizations across the state of Oregon. We’ve never expanded fully across the state. Now we can include Bend, Ashland, Medford and Eugene, just to name a few.”

As this campaign was coming together, Blattner received an email from JFNA about the Tepper Foundation grants.

“I immediately jumped on the opportunity to make

this available to our Jewish preschools,” he said. “Why wouldn’t we?”

The Tepper Foundation grants are awarded to support short-term additions to security personnel at Jewish preschools through the end of the 2024 calendar year; the Federation was awarded \$10,000 for each of the nine qualifying preschools in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

“Preschools are a vulnerable area, and we want Jewish families to feel as safe and secure dropping their kids off at a Jewish preschool as they would anywhere else,” Blattner said.

To learn more about security improvement resources or to contribute to the fund, email Blattner at marc@jewishportland.org.



Mitzvot made here

With the help of rangers from Oregon State Parks, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's inaugural Mitzvah Project service project took on overgrown paths at Tryon Creek State Natural Area in Portland Sunday, June 23. (Marc Blatner and Laura Jeser/The Jewish Review)



Youth Foundation applications still open

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, a nationally celebrated program of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, is excited to announce a unique opportunity for Jewish and Jewish-adjacent teens in grades 9-12. This program encourages a lifelong passion for philanthropy and social activism, offering participants a meaningful leadership experience through *tzedakah*.

Participants in OJCYF will learn and apply essential leadership skills, experience what it's like to serve on a board of

directors, build new friendships with like-minded peers, engage in fundraising and planning a youth-led benefit dinner and participate in discussions, site visits and grant-making to support important causes and organizations.

Applications are still being accepted, but spots are filling up quickly. Rising freshmen and sophomores are particularly encouraged to apply. For more information about OJCYF and the application process, please visit ojcf.org/programs/ojcyf or contact OJCF Collaborative Giving Director Susan Berniker at susanb@ojcf.org or 503-248-9328.

AWARDS (continued from page 4)

ored by Cedar Sinai Park

Margaret began volunteering at the Rose Schnitzer Manor's Stop 'N Shop 12 years ago. She now assesses supplies, goes shopping for what's needed, and arranges and prices items. She also volunteers to work in the store.

Jan Lieberman, honored by Congregation Kol Ami

Jan was instrumental in establishing the Jewish Community Association of Southwest Washington in 1991, and then helping it grow to become Congregation Kol Ami.

Jan first served as Trustee of the Association, then as Vice President and President. Jan is also an active member of Kol Ami Women of Reform Judaism.

Karen Maher, honored by P'nai Or

In 2019, Karen was elected to P'nai Or's Council and was appointed secretary. In addition to that role, in 2020 she became one of the co-presidents of the congregation.

Karen has also served on various committees and represented the congregation on the Secure Community Network, which helps to ensure the safety of the congregation.

Rose Marshall, honored by Women of Reform Judaism, Beth Israel Sisterhood

Rose takes care of the Sisterhood newsletter, sends out monthly emails about

events, as well as working on the webpage and coordinating social media.

She also helps with Mitzvah Days, the Community Seder, Shabbat on the Plaza, and as a greeter, welcoming others into Sisterhood.

Sheryl Martel, honored by Jewish Family & Child Service

Sheryl has been a nurse for 30 years and a decades-long volunteer in the Jewish community. She volunteered for Jewish Family & Child Service as the lead on its program providing social outings for adults with special needs.

Currently, Sheryl helps pack and deliver holiday food boxes to JFCS clients who are isolated, and drives Holocaust Survivors to and from social events.

Bonnie Newman, honored by Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

Bonnie is the second chair of the Portland chapter of Dignity Grows, which is leading the fight against Period Poverty.

As a participant in the Climate Action Committee, she helped organize the James Recycling Event at MJCC in 2022, and wrote "Climate Corner" columns in *The Jewish Review*.

Rachel Peck, honored by Beit Am of Corvallis

Rachel regularly leads parts of Beit Am services, chants

Torah, and organizes chanters for High Holiday services.

She is the current chair of the Safety and Security Committee, and regularly volunteers as a greeter at services and events. She also tutors B'nai Mitzvah students, proofs the Beit Am newsletter, and volunteers at Stone Soup Food Kitchen and the Men's Homeless Shelter.

Sara Radcliffe, honored by Eastside Jewish Commons

Sara has served as Eastside Jewish Commons' board secretary for three years.

She is an effective conduit for timely and concise communications between board and staff, handles record-keeping, and dispenses valuable advice on organizational and membership structure and development.

Doria Raetz, honored by Congregation Shalom Bayit of Bend

Doria was a board member and an essential contributor to Congregation Shalom Bayit during an uncertain time just before the Covid pandemic.

After the congregation lost its long-time Rabbi, she undertook the process of affiliating with the Reconstructing Judaism movement, and then steered the process of trying to find a new Rabbi.

Vicki Rotstein, honored by Congregation Neveh Shalom

For ten years Vickie pre-

pared 6th graders to lead services at their B'nei Mitzvah. After retiring, she found she missed being with kids and returned as a tutor.

She was a driving force behind "Soup to the Streets," which prepared food for the homeless, and has been a volunteer for Friends of Seasonal and Service Workers for 23 years.

Rose Schneider, honored by Shaarie Torah Sisterhood

Rose has been the Manager of the Diane Nemer Sisterhood Gift Shop since moving here from Texas in 2022. In that time she has overhauled the shop's website, its point-of-sale system, the merchandise selection and publicity.

She also volunteers remotely as a support-group facilitator at the Austin, Texas, Center for Grief and Loss, and as a mentor for elementary-school students through Austin's "Communities in Schools" program.

Sarah Shine, honored by Havurah Shalom

Sarah has committed her time to promoting and facilitating a family-friendly Friday night service that has become a mainstay for families with young children.

She co-chaired Havurah's music committee and has become very involved in leading services. She also tutors B'nai Mitzvah students.

TEENS (continued from page 1)

would be able to create an inclusive Jewish youth program,” explained Heather Laffitte, the Youth Program Lead at Congregation Shir Tikvah, which operates JTOP. “So we started from scratch.”

Laffitte explained that parents had been in touch looking for youth group options that weren’t tied to synagogue membership and didn’t have strict attendance requirements or limited membership numbers.

“We are not tied to membership of any shul and we are inclusive of all movements of Judaism,” Laffitte said.

The group’s inclusivity has also stretched outward, organizing a Pride shabbat celebration and this year’s fundraiser. JTOP’s teen membership, ages 13 and up, had a more limited role in the initial planning of the event as it was slated to be ages 21 and over, but when it changed to an all-ages event, the group dove in with both hands, paying particular attention to the preparation of the makeshift green room where the performers prepared.

“We really invite the kids to lead the group,” Laffitte said, “And that includes such things as having circles where we share pronouns before each meeting, deciding to support different organizations and some of



An attendee records video of one of Polly Poptart’s numbers at Jewish Teens of Portland’s Drag Show fundraiser Thursday, June 21 at the Eastside Jewish Commons. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

those related to LGBTQIA organizations.”

That support can mean the world to a child – it certainly did to Polly Poptart. While not yet out as a member of a Jewish youth group in the Bay Area, Poptart spoke on stage Thursday night of that group attending San Francisco Pride in solidarity with another member who was openly gay.

Pride month made a drag performance seem like a natural fundraiser to JTOP’s members.

“Having the wonderful connection with the Community and Polly Poptart,

Ruthie [Prasil, Shir Tikvah’s Executive Director] was able to interface and make that happen,” Laffitte explained.

And while this and other JTOP events are a lot of fun, they definitely connect back to Jewish values.

“We’ve gone out for fun things like, you know, arcade dates, sushi wheels, and whenever we do meetings, we try to connect them to a Jewish value,” Laffitte said. “For example, when we made treats and food for the Oregon Humane Society, we connected it to the Jewish value of compassion for animals.”

With much of the group’s core membership away at overnight camp, JTOP will reconvene with a pool party in August to embark on their second year.

“The feedback we’ve gotten from parents has been really positive,” Laffitte said. “We have a really clear pathway for the next year and the coming years in terms of what meetings will be, where they’ll be located and how we want to do outreach.”

For more information, contact Laffitte at heatherl@shirtikvahpdx.org.

Jobs Board

See the latest Jewish jobs at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs

Security Corner

The big picture of bias

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

JULY 17

JULY 11

By JESSICA ANDERSON

I've spent several of the last few articles talking about different aspects of incidents – reporting, collection, and sharing. This installment will share with you a message from the Portland Police Bureau and provide a link to a PPB flyer and its collection of bias crimes and incidents. It's not a well-known source of information but PPB has dedicated itself to increasing awareness about the site as well as its processes investigating these incidents.

Here's a message Sgt. Matthew Jacobson of the Detective Division's Major Crimes Unit asked me to share with the community:

The City of Portland continues to see a year-over-year increase in reported Bias Events, which include Bias Crimes, non-criminal Bias Incidents, and Bias Unfounded reports. The Portland Police Bureau continues to evolve and update our response to these events, which have far-reaching traumatic impacts in the community.

PPB recently updated our policy around response to Bias Events (Directive 640.80 – Response to Bias Events) which among other things, codifies best practice for a holistic response to these traumatic circumstances. Included in this policy is a mandatory referral for any reporting parties to the Oregon Department of Justice Bias Response Hotline, which is a policy which goes further than state law requires. The updated policy also confirms our previous requirement to document non-criminal Bias Incidents



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.

in police reports.

PPB is one of two Law Enforcement agencies in the State who have the requirement to document all types of Bias in a report. The PPB Detective Division reviews every Bias Crime, Bias Incident, and Bias Unfounded event to ensure these events are properly screened and tracked. PPB publishes up-to-date statistics via a public dashboard on our Open Data Portal. We have created the attached informational flier with the hope of having it posted in public areas to provide information to our community members. Please contact me with any questions at Matthew.Jacobsen@Police.PortlandOregon.Gov.

A link to PPB's flyer can be found [here](#).

PPB's Reported Bias Crime

Statistics webpage can be found at portland.gov/police/open-data/reported-bias-crime-statistics and from there, you can click on the box labeled "Launch Dashboard." On that page, you can view incident numbers by year or jump to the "Bias Crimes & Incidents" tab which will take you to a dashboard where you can manipulate data to show incidents by time frames and incident type. As an example, below is a snapshot of the data for Jan 2023 through March 2024. There's a lot of information to be found on this site and I encourage you to review it.

As always, I can be reached at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org or by cell at 872-273-9214. Registration for my online safety training as well as an ongoing list of local incidents can be found at jewishportland.org/security.



When nationalism is a good thing

By ELISSA WALD

I was listening to the most recent episode of “Call Me Back,” my favorite podcast hosted by Dan Senior, who was in conversation with Dr. Micah Goodman: author, Research Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, and host of his own podcast, the most popular Hebrew-speaking podcast in Israel, “Mifleget Hamachshavot.” Dr. Goodman’s commentary was so illuminating for me. It both offered me a way to understand myself better and provided a real insight into the disconnect between Israel and America in a way I hadn’t precisely articulated to myself before.

Dr. Goodman posited that Israeli society is divided into three rough categories: a minority of extreme nationalists who have no use for liberalism; a minority of extreme liberals who have no use for nationalism; the vast majority of Israelis, who are perhaps unique in all the world for the hybrid political sensibilities they embody. The vast majority of Israelis are both nationalistic and liberal. The false dichotomy between the two that prevails in almost every other country is not recognized in Israel.

I was listening to the podcast in my car and as Dr. Goodman said this, my whole body started to tingle. It explains so much. Here in the U.S., “nationalist” is a filthy word in leftist circles. We routinely characterize the Trumpian right as Christian nationalists. We see “America First” as a very distasteful phrase. I count myself among those who feel this way.

Zionists are accused of ethnonationalism, which is inaccurate in any case, since Jews span all ethnic groups and the Jewish family considers the convert with zero Jewish DNA as Jewish as a frum-from-birth Satmar Hasid. “Nationalism” is the only true part of that misnomer, but that’s considered nearly as damning even without the prefix because the only image America has for nationalism is that of white Christian supremacy or hopelessly misguided world-police aspirations that have led to fiascos like the Vietnam War.

This superimposition of a western lens onto Israel is what leads to this enduring disconnect. This is wildly ironic, since western-centrism is a cardinal sin in progressive circles — and yet nearly all of them insist on applying a western-centric framework to this conflict. This is one of the reasons for the claim that you can’t be both progressive and Zionist. In

the western liberal ideological framework, Zionism is Jewish nationalism, and nationalism is bad.

Here’s something they don’t realize (and I’ve said this before, but I’ll say it again): White Nationalism is about white supremacy and world domination. Jewish Nationalism is about Jewish survival. The difference between these two entities is the difference between a whites-only college and an HBCU. One is hateful and exclusionary, the other is protective and necessary.

One point of real tension between Zionists and western liberals is that the latter are in no existential danger and they have the luxury of scolding and judging from their safety on high. But if you can look at a map of the middle east and say with a straight face that Jews don’t need primacy within their vanishingly tiny, nearly invisible, surrounded-by-mortal-enemies sliver of this earth, then I have some oceanfront property in South Dakota to sell you.

We are nationalistic, and that does not negate our liberalism.

Most of us realize that we must insist on Jewish primacy within our little hangnail sliver of territory. That doesn’t make us Jewish supremacists; it makes us Jewish survivors. And they can call us anything they want, but I believe we should never equivocate on this point, nor apologize for it.

I’ve been haunted ever since my trip to Seattle a couple of weeks ago, by something that Rudy Rochman said the evening I heard him speak at Temple de Hirsch Sinai. He said that, as bad as things are for diaspora Jews right now, the problem is not what antisemites are doing, but what the Jewish community isn’t doing. Too many of us aren’t pushing back against it, hard and with conviction.

We need to organize and recognize our time and place here in the diaspora as another front of the same war.

Am Yisrael Chai.

Adapted from “A Hybrid Unique In All The World,” published June 19, 2024.

Elissa Wald is the author of the “Never Alone” Substack, approaching local and global events from a liberal Zionist perspective. Subscribe to “Never Alone” online at neveralone.substack.com. Opinions expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the views of the Review, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, or its staff.



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DONNA MCFALL

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Donna McFall, z"l, who passed away on June 17, 2024 at the age of 74.

Donna is survived by her husband, Dennis McFall; children, Jane Moisan and Matt Moisan; stepchildren, Connie Kimber, Clarissa Aoyama, and Clint McFall; and seven grandchildren. Donna was preceded in death by her mother, Wanda Sullivan, z"l; father, Donald Sullivan, z"l and brother, Michael Sullivan, z"l.

The funeral was held at Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery Friday, June 21. Donations in Donna's memory can be directed to the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education.

IZZY EPSTEIN

It is with tremendous sorrow that Congregation Kol Ami announces the death of our member Izzy Epstein Saturday, June 22.

Izzy's family suggests that any donations made in his mem-

ory be made to Friends of the IDF (FIDF) or to Congregation Kol Ami. Our deepest condolences to Izzy's wife Kathy, their daughters Lynn, Becky and Debbie and their families. Our entire community will mourn the loss of someone who brought so much wisdom and humor to our congregation.

GUNTER HILLER

It is with great sadness that Congregation Shaarie Torah announces the passing of Gunter Heinz Hiller, z"l.

Gunter was born on August 16, 1928 in Berlin, Germany, and passed away on June 27, 2024, just months shy of his 96th birthday. His parents, Herta Applebaum, z"l, and Hans Alfred Hiller, z"l, both perished in concentration camps in 1943. He is mourned by dear friends in the community and those who knew him through the Holocaust Survivors program at Jewish Family & Child Services.

The funeral was held Monday, July 1, at Shaarie Torah Cemetery.

Events

More upcoming community events online at jewishportland.org/community-calendar

July 5: First Friday Shabbat Dinner

Free Shabbat dinner at Tigard Chabad at 7pm. Registration required at jewishtigard.com/firstfridays

July 7: Tefillin for Israel

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

jewishtigard.com.

July 7: The Jews who Left Spain and Their Genealogy

Free Zoom program at 10:30 am hosted by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Oregon. Preregister at jgsoregon.wixsite.com/home/events.

July 7: Israeli Folk Dance at SWCC

Weekly class and open dancing at Southwest Community Center Sundays; lessons at 2:30 pm, open dancing at 3:30 pm. \$6. For more information, email Rhonaf@comcast.net.

July 7: Rescue of the Danish Jews

Presentation at 3:30 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons. Free. Registration required at ejcpdx.org/events.

July 8: Send a Kid to Camp Golf Tournament

Annual fundraiser for BB360 camp programs at Langdon Farms starting at 11:30 am. Register at secure.qgiv.com/for/pbfks4/event/2024golftournament.

July 8: Accessing Trans Health Care

Presentation by Professor Talia Buchsbaum at Congre-

gation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm. Registration required at members.nevehshalom.org/event/CNSATH.

July 11: Drag Queen Bingo at MJCC

Bingo, snacks and drinks with Poison Waters at 6 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. \$10. Register in advance at oregonjcc.org/daxko.

July 12: Moishe Pod Shabbat Dinner

Shabbat dinner at Moishe Pod Portland West, 7 pm. Email moishepodportlandwest@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP.

Burial Societies

Portland has two holy societies of volunteers who prepare the deceased for burial according to Jewish tradition: Chevra Kavod haMet and the Portland Hevra Kaddisha.

For questions about end of life, death and mourning, email chevrakavodhamet@gmail.com, visit ChevraKavodHaMet.org, or contact the Portland Hevra Kaddisha at michael@cashcolan.com or 503-519-2454.



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