

THE JEWISH REVIEW

ESTABLISHED

1959

OREGON & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S JEWISH NEWSPAPER

July 17, 2024 / 11 Tamuz, 5784 Volume 59, Issue 14

Pathways returns to Portland

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

For Jewish young adults in Portland, the “Pathway” to leadership development and networking is open.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is opening applications for the seventh cohort of its PDX Pathways mentoring program today through Aug. 7. This is the first cohort since 2022, and is now open for those ages 22 through 40.

“They can be new to Portland, they can be lifelong Portlanders,” Federation Associate Campaign and Engagement Officer Laura Jeser explained. “It’s about providing them networking opportunities, exposure to meaningful Jewish experiences in Portland and mentorship opportunities from prominent professional and volunteer leaders in our Jewish community.”

See **PATHWAYS**, page 2



Families enjoy Congregation Kesser Israel's expanded playground area during an ice cream social held to mark its opening Sunday, July 14. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

'A labor of love' opens at Kesser

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Congregation Kesser Israel's facility has undergone significant changes in the last year – a new perimeter fence, a new gathering tent, and other upgrades. The latest is likely the most fun of all – a playground.

The Orthodox synagogue staged a grand opening ice cream social for their playground expansion Sunday, July 14, with families coming out in force to enjoy the

new facilities.

Even a glancing inspection of the new structure reveals that this is no ordinary playground.

“It’s a little taste of Israel right in our backyard,” Kesser Israel President Charles Elder said.

-

The new facility is the product of two

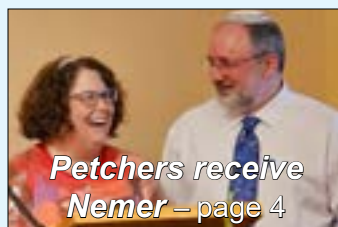
See **PLAYGROUND**, page 6

INSIDE

Security – page 10

Events – page 12

Obituaries – page 12



Petchers receive Nemer – page 4



Rensin named chaplain – page 8



On this episode of the podcast:

Rabbi Motti Wilhelm, Chabad of Oregon

Letters from Camp

Marking a lifetime at Camp Solomon Schechter

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

With summer in full swing, so is Camp Solomon Schechter. Nestled in the woods outside Olympia, Wash., the camp named for a founding figure of Conservative Judaism is the scene for all the same kinds of joys that make Jewish summer camp special, but this year is an extra special one as the camp marks its 70th season.

Like so many of the Pacific Northwest's Jewish institutions, Camp Solomon Schechter was founded by Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, z"l, to solve a problem. In this case, the problem was the lack of a kosher, *shomer Shabbat* summer camp for his son. Working with a congregation in Seattle, the Camp's first session was in 1954 at a motel near Echo Lake outside of Seattle. In 1959, the camp moved into permanent quarters at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island in the northern part of Puget Sound, but the growing camp quickly needed its own facility. By 1969, the former Trail's End Camp was purchased and remains the home of Camp Solomon Schechter to this day. Rabbi Stampfer was in the center of all of it.

"He really ran the camp," said Melissa Bloom, who is heading up the 70th Anniversary celebrations for the camp. "Everything about it in the summers for many, many years."

Bloom was born in New York, but her family moved to West Linn when she was 10 years old at a time where there was no Jewish life in town.

"By high school, I was one of five kids that were Jewish and it was an identity crisis for me," she said. "For me, [camp] was really transformative because I sought out those answers then and camp gave me that. I lived at camp for three weeks. I kept kosher. I prayed every morning. If I hadn't had that, I wouldn't have the Jewish identity that I have today."

Bloom pointed out that traditional Jewish teachings equate 70 years with a lifetime – Rabbi Stampfer embraced this by having a second bar mitzvah at age 83 – and the marking of Camp Schechter's first lifetime is an opportunity to show the community what that life is like at camp through presentations and hands-on experiences.

"Now we're entering our second lifetime and when people come, they're able to do the ropes course and the boats, then there will be a barbecue and then we're going to have a great program really showing a day in the life of camp kid of over 70 years."

The celebration will also mark another milestone – the first event open to the public at camp since the COVID pandemic. It's an opportunity for campers past and present to reconnect with a space and a community that means so much to them. For Bloom, her work planning the event means she has gotten a bit of a head start on that.

"I came across a name of a friend that I was a camper with. We had all lost touch with this person. I called to see because they were listed as picking up their kids that day," Bloom recounted. "He said, 'We don't do a lot of Jewish things. I go to the synagogue in Tacoma sometimes. But when it came time to go to camp, I knew where to send my kids.' I thought that was so beautiful; This person is not engaged in Jewish life very much, but they had the memories of living their life at camp every summer and wanted to pass that on to their children."

Those are memories Bloom shares as well. When she steps foot on Camp Schechter's grounds, walking down by the lake that bears its founder's name, many things look different, but much is also the same.

"Camp is a magical place for a lot of kids," Bloom said, "and especially right now, in today's world, it's nice to be immersed with Jewish people, with Israeli staff, with Jewish leaders of today, it's even more needed today than it has ever been."

Registration for Camp Solomon Schechter's 70th Anniversary Celebration is free and still open. Learn more and RSVP at campschechter.org/70-celebrate.

"*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: *Sephardic Adventure Camp*. For more on Jewish summer camps, listen to "Campfire Kehillah with Avi Orlow" on *The Jewish Review Podcast*, available on all major platforms and visit the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's camp resources page at jewishportland.org/inclusion-camping.

PATHWAYS

(continued from page 1)

The Pathways cohort of 10 to 15 individuals will meet monthly as a full group, along with smaller meetings of three or four cohort members with a small-group mentor. The program starts in September and will run for six months.

Activities will include participating in a hands-on service day through The Mitzvah Project, also coordinated

by Jeser, a business skills training centered on improvisational techniques and more. In addition to the materials available to cohort members, PDX Pathways represents one of Portland's premier networking opportunities for young adult Jewish leaders and professionals.

"Our alumni from the other six cohorts are going to be involved as well, in the kick off and the closing events," Jeser said. "So it's a lot of networking and meeting our younger

Jewish professionals that have gone through the program."

For Jeser, this program has special meaning – it was launched by Michael Jeser, z"l, her late husband and the former Chief Development Officer for the Federation.

"The next generation was always his biggest passion," Laura Jeser said of her husband, "making everyone in NextGen feel welcome in our communities and wanting to network with them and share what the community

has to offer in all aspects of their lives. That's something that I really want to take and move forward."

Applications are available online at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/young-adults/pdx-pathways until Aug. 7. Candidates will be interviewed after the submission deadline, with cohort selection notification to follow and a kickoff event set for Sept. 18. For more information, email Jeser at lauraj@jewishportland.org.

LET'S
CELEBRATE!

Pride

JULY 21
2024



JEWISH PRIDE
GREATER PDX IS
SPOT 101

WE WILL BE
GATHERING
ON NW PARK
BETWEEN
NW COUCH AND
NW DAVIS



PLEASE ARRIVE
BETWEEN 11-11:30

PARADE
KICKOFF
IS AT
11:00 AM!



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland

jewishportland.org/pdxjewishpride

Petchers: Shaarie Torah "like being home"

Couple recognized with shul's Harry R. Nemer Service Award

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

Daniel and Leslie Petcher did not expect to receive the Harry R. Nemer Service Award from Congregation Shaarie Torah.

"You don't realize that others are really watching and thinking about you in those ways," Leslie said.

But the Conservative synagogue was watching, and the Petchers were thusly honored with the 2024 award at the synagogue Sunday, June 30.

For Leslie, there's been plenty to watch, as she has been a part of the Shaarie Torah community since she was three years old. Her parents were both active within Shaarie Torah, she and her siblings were educated, confirmed and eventually married at Shaarie Torah along, and her and her father worked with two other members to run a kosher catering operation out of the shul's kitchen.

"It was their side hustle, as you say in today's vernacular," Leslie explained.

She was living in Tennessee when she met Daniel, and they eventually moved to be closer to her family in Portland. Daniel was soon introduced to Shaarie Torah.

"Before we were married," Daniel recalled, "I had a little, almost like a job interview with Rabbi [Yonah] Geller, of blessed memory, to see if I was good enough to marry one of his congregants."

After passing Rabbi Geller's "exam" and marrying Leslie at Shaarie Torah, the couple lived in Tigard while Daniel worked in Northwest Portland. His commute ended up taking him past the synagogue each day.

"I was driving past the shul every darn morning and I realized, 'you know I'm really not as involved in my congregation as I should be,'" Daniel said. "So I started dropping in for minyan on Mondays and Thursdays, and slowly got more active in the in the activities of the congregation."

Leslie joined Shaarie Torah's Sisterhood, continuing the practice she learned from her mother of portioning the fruit filling for the thousands of hamantaschen the Sisterhood sells each Purim.



From left, Leslie and Daniel Petcher accept the Harry R. Nemer Service Award at Congregation Shaarie Torah Sunday, June 30. (Courtesy Congregation Shaarie Torah)

"I was doing that long before Daniel got involved, and then I needed a helper," she said, "So the two of us go and it's very quiet. We do it alone; lots of numbers and weighing and measuring."

She joined the Sisterhood's board, and when help was needed in the office, she stepped in there, working for three and a half years.

"Any place that needed somebody to help out, I kind of was always there," she said.

Daniel, meanwhile, had joined Shaarie Torah's board in 2016, and recently stepped down after five years as the shul's president.

"I knew that we had a rabbi search coming up," Daniel said of assuming the presidency, "but I didn't know we had a pandemic."

Daniel led the synagogue through Covid and the process of hiring Rabbi Gary Oren.

"The Rabbinical Assembly gave us a great deal of guidance and helped us with a good framework for defining and deciding what describes us as a congregation, so that we could put together a good description for pro-

spective rabbinical candidates," Daniel said. "[Rabbi Oren] brings a lot to the table. He's got a good head for rabbinics, a good head for administration and a good attitude for Portland."

Both Petchers have been there for the synagogue, but the community has been there for them as well. When Leslie faced a severe health crisis just as they were moving into a new home, the Shaarie Torah community went above and beyond.

"People really came in and helped create our new home, since I was unable to do so and Daniel was unable to manage it single-handedly," Leslie said. "You hope you never have to rely on others for something like that; nobody ever wants to be in that position. But to experience something like that, and people just are there, they show up; that, to me, is a sense of community."

Today, Daniel continues to serve on the congregation's board, while Leslie helps manage the Sharron Scales Scholarship Fund to support Jewish education for young members. The congregation remains an indispensable piece of their lives.

"Walking in there is like being home," Leslie said. "The building structure is different. What it looks like inside is different. But all the memories of growing up there and it being a really friendly, welcoming kind of environment are there."

"I've always felt a little bit like an outsider, and Shaarie Torah really lives the values of welcoming outsiders and bringing people in and being available," Daniel added, "Being available to people in their time of need, as well as just being there to celebrate with us."

And just as the congregation means the world to them, receiving the Nemer Award has been a grand summation of how they mean the world to their synagogue community.

"We don't do what we do ever expecting anything in return," Leslie said. "Anything you get from your community is a blessing, and to have been selected to receive this award was truly an overwhelming and humbling experience."

Pride Parade returns to Park Blocks July 21

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Portland's annual Pride Parade is taking place Sunday, July 21, and Jewish Pride Greater PDX is spearheading participation for Jewish groups in Portland. It's a wonderful opportunity to show up in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ Community – with hundreds of fellow Jews.

"It's important for the Jewish community to show support of the LGBTQ plus community and to make it clear to everyone that the Jewish community is supportive," explained Liza Milliner, cofounder of Jewish Pride Greater PDX and Immediate Past President of Congregation Neveh Shalom said. "It's especially important this year, after Oct. 7, to show that we're still united as a community and we're still supportive of our LGBTQ community."

Jewish Pride Greater PDX was co-founded in 2016 by Milliner, Rachel Nelson, Director of Educational Initiatives and Associate Director of Community Relations at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, and Michael Jeser, z"l, then Federation's Campaign director, along with six other Jewish LGBTQ community members who had just returned from Israel on a Jewish Federations of North America Mission. The group began its streak of organizing large contingents of participants for the annual parade the



Above: Beth Milliner prepares her vehicle for the 2023 Portland Pride Parade Sunday, July 16, in Portland's North Park Blocks. Below: Jewish community members participate in last year's parade. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

next year, regularly stretching multiple blocks of the formation area in Portland's North Park Blocks.

"It is important for the Jewish LGBTQ+ community to see a reflection of themselves and their organizations," Nelson said, "and we stand strong as both Jewish LGBTQ members who are active in leadership positions across our community and as people who are strong allies of the LGBTQ+ community."

In the Post-Oct.7 reality Milliner mentioned, security is often a concern for Jewish participation in public events of any sort – concerns that are not lost on Jewish leaders.

"Rachel and I have had multiple meetings with Pride organizers and the Portland Police, both of whom are very committed to making the event safe and enjoyable for everyone," Community Security Director Jessica Anderson explained. "We're encouraging families and supporters to come join us. We're all out there to support both the Jewish and the greater LGBTQ-plus community, and that is our sole focus for the day. We're expecting a great event."

Jewish Pride Greater PDX is partnering with Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Kol Ami, Congregation Neveh Shalom, Congregation Shir Tikvah, Eastside Jewish

Commons, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Cedar Sinai Park, Mittleman Jewish Community Center, Portland Jewish Academy, the Anti-Defamation League of the Pacific Northwest and P'nai Or of Portland to participate in this year's parade. Everyone will meet up for the Parade in Space 101 of the formation area, on Northwest Park Avenue between Northwest Couch and Davis Streets, from 11-11:30 am on Sunday.

For more information, follow Jewish Pride Greater PDX on Facebook at [facebook.com/jewishpridepdx](https://www.facebook.com/jewishpridepdx), visit [jewishportland.org/pdxjewishpride](https://www.jewishportland.org/pdxjewishpride), or email Nelson at rachel@jewishportland.org.





Above left: Steve Lebwohl of Wildwood Playgrounds, left, is honored by Rabbi Sholom Skolnik and Congregation Kesser Israel President Charles Elder at the opening of the synagogue's new playground. Above Right: Ayanne Groupp, together with her mother, Elyse Groupp, wrote the grants that made the new playground possible. Below: The central structure's walls are made to resemble the stone walls of Jerusalem. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

PLAYGROUND (continued from page 1)

years of work. It started with a conversation between Ayanne Groupp and Rabbi Yerachmiel Kalter, then of Maayan Torah, about a grant program for children's educational initiatives.

"My mom and I read through the description of the grant and immediately we thought about how insufficient the playground was," Groupp recalled.

Groupp's mother, Elyse Groupp, is a scientist and ex-

perienced grant writer. They spoke with Steve Lebwohl of Wildwood Playgrounds, a member of Congregation Neveh Shalom, who has been building playgrounds for nearly five decades, including for many of Portland's synagogues.

"It wasn't just 'get the kids outside and then let them play on the monkey bars,'" Ayanne Groupp said. "Playgrounds have really huge community impacts."

Simultaneously, Rabbi Chanan Spivak of the Portland Kollel helped Groupp connect with the state agency responsible for managing the grant.

"At first, she said, 'it's not really for the construction,'" Groupp recalled of their conversation. "I said to her, 'We have some safety issues. We have some accessibility features that we'd like to bring in. We'd like to make it more inclusive so that kids and community could really be out there.'"

That seemed to get the agency worker's attention, and Groupp was encouraged to apply. Working with her mom, the proposal was submitted and approved.

"We were able to use some for programming," Rabbi Sholom Skolnik said, but the lion's share went to the playground.

"[Groupp] was the hero of the day, for sure," Elder said. "She's the one who put the whole thing together."

With the budget secured, Lebwohl took to the site as an artist to a canvas. The new playground covers approximately 3,000 square feet on the southern edge

of Kesser Israel's property but is quite narrow by playground standards.

"So, we had budget restraints, site restraints, yet also trying to give the kids as many layers of fun and challenge and imagination as we could," Lebwohl said.

At its easternmost end, the new spaces include a cushioned platform surrounding an accessible merry-go-round; the rotating surface is flush with the surrounding floor, and the shape of the structure leaves room for a wheelchair user to simply roll aboard and go for a spin.

This area represents the Dead Sea, Lebwohl said. Moving westward, the existing play structure was retained, adding tree-shaped toppers to its support poles that are reminiscent of Israel's forests; forests which Lebwohl spent his childhood stuffing loose change into JNF tzedakah boxes to support. Behind that, under a high canopy, is the main part of the new structure, which represents Jerusalem.

This new structure, along with the Masada-themed climbing structure behind it and the Noah's Ark-centered

continued on next page



continued from previous page

early childhood area behind it, were built by Psagot Playgrounds in Israel and designed by Lebwohl in collaboration with the Kesser Israel community. Custom made panels include maps of Israel, both ancient and modern, as well as the Seven Species and animals found in the Torah. The walls of the Jerusalem area are plastic, enclosing a central area reminiscent of a city square, but have been cast and painted to resemble the stone walls of the Old City.

A staff member from Psagot Playgrounds came to aid the installation last month; the installer is part of the family that runs the company, which takes its name from the settlement in the West Bank where it is based, and had just days beforehand completed a four-month Israel Defense Forces deployment to Gaza.

“The builders of this were Arab and Jewish,” Lebwohl explained. “They have more Arab workers there, my understanding is, than Jewish. So that’s a nice thing to have the two groups working together.”

Psagot wasn’t just chosen for their Jewish connections. Lebwohl noted details in the joints between panels and the quality of materials in explaining that the structure is not just good-looking and educational, but exceptionally well made. “It’ll be here for a long time,” he said.

And much as the builders can be proud of its quality, the design and arrangement, down to the placement of ladders on the Jerusalem structure’s southern side, more vertical than they otherwise might be to account for the limited space, are testaments to Lebwohl’s passion for playground design and his connection to the Jewish community.

“This was a labor of love,” he said.

The new playground is not just reflective of the love that went into its construction, but the care that the synagogue has for those who will use it – whether climbing up the wall of Masada, reading a Hebrew phrase off one of the custom educational panels, or sitting on one of the numerous benches that surround the structures looking in on their children and the rest of Judaism’s next generation at play.

“We hold kids and families in such high regard, we need to support that,” Grouppe said. “I think a playground with benches and covered areas does that. It puts our words into action that we value you, we want you to be here.”

“It’s important for families to have a sense of connection and for kids to have something to do,” Rabbi Skolnik added.

“If I was considering joining a shul and had young kids, this would definitely sway me,” Elder said. “We have a lot of kids, and the parents come to *daven* (pray), and it’s a really fun and safe structure for them to play at.”

From top: The central, Jerusalem-themed section of the new playground, with the existing playground structure in the foreground. A view of the toddler-oriented Noah’s Ark structure, with the Masada-themed climbing area in front. Psagot Playgrounds is owned by an Israeli Orthodox family; the firm is based in the West Bank and employs Jewish and Arab workers in playground construction. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)



Bezodis hired as Shir Tikvah EA

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

One of Portland's most experienced synagogue administrators is back in the saddle.

JoAnn Bezodis, the administrator for the Oregon Board of Rabbis, is now also the Executive Administrator for Congregation Shir Tikvah in Northeast Portland. Bezodis takes over for outgoing Executive Director Ruthie Prasil.

"Rabbi Ariel Stone called me and asked me if I was in a position to be able to come help them out because they recently had quite a bit of office turnover," Bezodis said.

Rabbi Stone and Bezodis have previously worked together with the Board of Rabbis – one of Bezodis' primary jobs with OBR is managing the Introduction to Judaism class put on twice a year, which Rabbi Stone teaches a session of. It was this class where they first meet in 1997, which Bezodis took on her way to converting to Judaism.

"We both had dark hair back then," Bezodis said of herself and Rabbi Stone.

By 2002, Bezodis was working at Havurah Shalom. In 2006, she started at Congregation Neveh Shalom, first as Program Director and later managing the cemetery, coordinating external communications, working at Foundation School. Bezodis eventually served as a clergy assistant and building administrator.

"A lot of folks who go this path," Bezodis said of choosing Judaism, "take it with gusto."

She also continued her education, receiving a Masters

See **BEZODIS**, page 9

Rensin assumes chaplaincy

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Jewish Community Chaplaincy is back!

Rabbi Sarah Rensin has been named Portland's next Jewish Community Chaplain, succeeding Rabbi Barry Cohen, who departed for Houston earlier this year. The role is now housed within Jewish Family & Child Service and will be part-time; Rabbi Rensin will continue her other part-time employment with Royal Hospice.

"Her dedication to serving those in need and creating programs for spiritual-care support make her a valuable asset to our community," JFCS Executive Director Susan Greenberg said in the announcement of Rabbi Rensin's hiring. "Her vision aligns with our community's commitment to meeting the spiritual care needs of the most vulnerable and providing education in non-traditional settings."

She's been serving informally in the role already – helping field requests for services, along with Rabbi Abby Cohen, in the time since Rabbi Barry Cohen's departure while the structure of the chaplain role was under review. It's work she's long been motivated to do.

"I knew that I wanted this position from the beginning," Rensin said.

Chaplaincy had been a path she looked to pursue since entering rabbinical school, first at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies before transferring to the Academy for Jewish Religion – California.

"I decided that I wanted to do chaplaincy when [my brother] died," she explained. "I just felt kind of compelled to do it."

Rabbinic studies, chaplaincy training, and dealing with her brother's passing proved to be overwhelming, so Rabbi Rensin focused on her ordination, then accepted a position at The Jewish Day School of Metropolitan Seattle. Chaplaincy work still found her.

"I started getting calls from the community saying, 'Hey, we, we have a person in spiritual distress. They'd like to talk to a rabbi. Can you come see them?'"

Rabbi Rensin completed her chaplaincy training with the Department of Veterans Affairs and dove into hospice chaplaincy, first in Washington state and, starting in 2020, in Portland. Since moving here, she's also led an artist residency program at Congregation Beth Israel.

Rabbi Rensin has also become an advocate for medical aid in dying for individuals with terminal illnesses and continues to



Rabbi Sarah Rensin (Courtesy photo) work with the end-of-life resource nonprofit Compassionate Choices.

"Because of experiences I had in Washington, I became a huge advocate for medical aid and dying, and I was actually present for several people who completed medical aid in dying," Rabbi Rensin said, "and I learned from them."

Taking on her new role this month, she's hitting the ground running. Having lived in Portland for five years, building relationships inside and outside the Jewish community, she has something of a head start.

"Being housed at Jewish Family & Child Service, it gives me an opportunity to be available as a rabbi and the chaplain to the community," she said. "It's taken me three years to build the relationships I have now allow me to do this job more efficiently than if I had to build the relationships from scratch."

She also took a moment to pay tribute to her predecessor's contributions to the role.

"It's on account of [Rabbi Cohen's] work that people know what this job is and what it can provide," Rabbi Rensin said, "and I appreciate everything that he's done and put into place."

Rabbi Rensin can be reached at rabbisarah@jfcs-portland.org or 503-226-7079 x740.

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.

BEZODIS (continued from page 8)

in Divinity from Marylhurst University in 2016. Two years later, she started in her role with the OBR, facilitating the education of others – among other tasks while still working full-time at Neveh Shalom.

Though she remains – and will remain – a member of Neveh Shalom, Bezodis departed the synagogue's professional staff in 2023.

“My health had been really taken a beating since COVID,” she said.

Renewed and restored, Bezodis will be at Shir Tikvah through the end of 2024, and potentially longer.

“We'll give this a trial run, and if I can make it manageable so that I can keep going, I'm happy to keep going,” she said. “I just didn't want to accept the job without giving them a heads up that I really need to know that this will fit into my life without making everything out of balance again, and I don't think it will.”

rss.com/podcasts/jewishreviewpdx



PDX PATHWAYS PROGRAM
APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Apply for this exciting, exclusive opportunity for Jewish Young Professionals from any occupation, ages 22-40 years old.

The advertisement features a photograph of two women in conversation. One woman is holding a smartphone displaying a QR code. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for 'NE TGEN' with the tagline 'NEVER ASKED ANYTHING'.



2025 CAMPAIGN FOR COMMUNITY NEEDS

jewishportland.org/give

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

As One

WE BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

DONATE

The advertisement shows a group of people in a kitchen setting, some wearing aprons. One man's apron has a 'PJ Library' logo. A QR code is visible in the bottom left corner.

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

Editor

Rockne Roll
editor@jewishportland.org

Associate Editor

Caron Blau Rothstein

Circulation

To receive the Jewish
Review in your email
inbox, fill out the form at
[jewishportland.org/
subscribe](http://jewishportland.org/subscribe)

OPINIONS printed in the
Jewish Review do not
necessarily reflect those
of the Jewish Review,
the Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland,
its governing board
or the staffs of either
the newspaper or the
Federation.

Jewish Federation of

Greater Portland online

Website: jewishportland.org

Instagram: [instagram.com/
jewishfederationpdx](https://www.instagram.com/jewishfederationpdx)

Facebook:

[facebook.com/JewishPDX](https://www.facebook.com/JewishPDX)

Jewish Review:

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

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

NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

JULY 31 JULY 25

Security Corner

Plan ahead for NSGP grants

By JESSICA ANDERSON

Local organizations who applied for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) this year still have a couple of months to wait before award selections are made. If you're an organization who might benefit from applying, it's not too early to start thinking about next year.

Parts of the following are excerpted from Secure Community Network's (SCN) June NSGP newsletter. If you don't already receive it and would like to, let me know.

In June 2024, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it will distribute an additional \$160 million in funds as a first tranche of supplemental funding approved by Congress to protect faith-based institutions and nonprofit organizations against targeted attacks. This brings the total amount to be awarded to \$434.5 million, a new record.

It is anticipated that these funds will be added to the current FY2024 NSGP allocation to provide additional funding to those nonprofit organizations that already applied for FY2024 NSGP grant funds.

Since the NSGP application window is closed for FY2024, we should look ahead to the FY2025 NSGP grant season and start getting ready. It is an excellent opportunity to assess your organization's security posture and map out your organization's strategic security goals for the year ahead.

Does your organization have a security committee?



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.

A security committee can help bring staff and leadership together to ensure that there is maximum "buy-in" to a security plan. A typical security committee is composed of professional and lay leaders and may include a security director, facilities manager, organization leadership, board chairs, and other stakeholders. Ensure that clergy, staff, leadership, and congregants know their role in security and what to do in the event of an emergency or incident. The committee should have responsibility for ongoing maintenance of security procedures and training and can help orchestrate the implementation of your security training drills.

Does your organization have an updated emergency preparedness plan?

It is vital that your organization have an updated emergency preparedness plan. Emergencies can involve a range of scenarios, such as a medical crisis (e.g., a member having a heart attack), a natural disaster (e.g., a hurricane or tornado), or an act of targeted violence (e.g., an active shooter event). Having a plan and educating your organization's members about the emergency

preparedness plan can save lives. Test existing safety devices and equipment (locks, alarms, walkie talkies, AEDs, etc.) to ensure that they are in working order. Plan and practice training drills regularly with your organization's members. SCN resources on Emergency and Preparedness Planning can be found here.

Does your organization have a threat, vulnerability, and risk assessment?

A threat, vulnerability, and risk assessment (TVRA) will identify the security weaknesses of your facility and recommend solutions to remedy those vulnerabilities. If your organization is interested in applying for NSGP funding, all investments requested in an NSGP application must be supported by a current vulnerability assessment. A professional assessment conducted by experienced assessors is advisable and is a best practice for a successful application. An important feature of the NSGP is that every separate address at your facility is eligible to submit a separate request for \$150,000. So, if your organization is a multi-building or multi-lot

See SECURITY, page 11

Jobs Board

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland is hiring a
Director of Jewish Life and Learning

Learn more and apply at

jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs/directorofjewishlifelearning

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

EJC names new officers

Eastside Jewish Commons

The Eastside Jewish Commons announced the election of new officers to its board of directors last week: Erik Richmond, as chair; and Alys Rose, as treasurer. Both are founding directors of EJC.

Richmond takes the helm from Karen Blauer who served as chair for three years. She will continue to serve on the board through June 2025. Rose follows Mia Birk, a founding director of the Commons, who most recently served as treasurer and chair of the finance committee, and also had stints as board chair and interim executive director.

Richmond said, "I'm excited to serve as chair of the EJC board. I have so much admiration for how far the EJC has come, since that first meeting in 2017. This has been a labor of love for the many people involved from that first meeting until now. The EJC is now a reality, performing such a vital and necessary service to Portland's Jewish community. It would be my greatest honor to be a part of its continued growth, and to ensure its wellbeing into the future."

Rose said, "I'm honored and excited to serve EJC in a new capacity and to work with Erik, our board, and our partners to further advance EJC's success in creating a joyful, welcoming and inclusive space for Jewish life in Portland's east side.

Richmond has lived on Portland's east side for 33 years. He served on the EJC's original steering committee beginning in 2017. He was the first treasurer of the organization, a position he held for five years. In addition to the Commons, Richmond has served on various committees or boards for Congregation Shaarie Torah, Portland Jewish Academy, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. A specialist

in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery who was in private practice for 25 years, he is now the Predoctoral Oral Surgery Program Director at Oregon Health Sciences University School of Dentistry. He and his wife, Annette Demsey, live in Northeast Portland and are the parents of two adult children, Owen and Grace.

Rose grew up all over the east coast and has lived in Oregon since 1993. She served on EJC's original steering committee beginning in 2017; has served on the executive and finance committees; and has contributed to the creation of its business model; mission, vision, and values; board and staff development; and strategic framework. In 2022, Rose was selected by EJC for a Song of Miriam award for her many significant contributions to the organization. She served as Board Chair of Congregation Shir Tikvah from 2013-2015. A seasoned business leader with more than 30 years of executive experience in industries and environments, Rose is currently Acting Executive Director of the Red Door Project, former President and CEO of Relay Resources, an organization that creates training, employment and housing opportunities for people with disabilities; and former CEO of Rejuvenation Inc., a revered Portland based leader in home furnishings, acquired by Williams-Sonoma in 2011. She and her husband, David Finkelman, live in Northeast Portland and are parents of two adult children.

Currently, EJC's board is composed of 10 directors. Members include Noah Barish, Karen Blauer, Hannah Berg (secretary), Hope Peskin-Shepherd, Erik Richmond (chair), Alys Rose (treasurer), Brian Scott, Ellie Simon Goldman, Andrew Terres Kedem and Tamar Wyte-Lake. Howie Bierbaum is the Executive Director.

SECURITY

(continued from page 10)

facility, you may be leaving grant money on the table if you're only submitting one application for your organization. As your community security director, I am always available to come out and conduct an assessment and complete a TVRA. By getting a jump on this earlier than others, you'll have plenty of time to put together a quality application.

As always, if you have safety and security needs in your personal life or organization, please contact me at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org or 872-273-9214. Please see the Security website at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland to report incidents, review past incidents or sign up for online training: <https://www.jewishportland.org/security>

SUBSCRIBE:
[jewishportland.org/
subscribe](http://jewishportland.org/subscribe)

Events

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

July 17: PDX Nigun Circle

Community singing event from 6:30-9:30 pm. Free. Email aidenkent13@gmail.com for details and location.

July 17: EJC Presents 'Shiva Baby'

Film screening of Emma Seligman's comedy at Eastside Jewish Commons at 7 pm. Free. More information at ejcpdx.org/events.

July 18: Anat Cohen & Marcello Gonçalves Concert

Grammy-nominated artists perform at 7:30 pm at the Eastside Jewish Commons.

\$30 advance, \$33 at the door. More information at ejcpdx.org/events.

July 19: NGG & JFCS Community Connection

Support group for Holocaust survivors and Next Generation Group members qt 10 am on Zoom. Email MissyFry@jfcs-portland.org to join.

July 19: Noontime Concert - Kerry Politzer with Ben Graves

Free concert at Eastside Jewish Commons at noon. More information at ejcpdx.org/events.

July 20: Mini Men-

shes Travelling Tot Shabbat

Congregation Beth Israel children's outdoor Shabbat program at 9 am at Gabriel Park in Southwest Portland. For more information, email chelsea@bethisrael-pdx.org.

July 20: Outdoor Movie Night at Moishe Pod

Screening of "Homeward Bound" at Moishe Pod West Portland at 9 pm. Email moishepodportlandwest@gmail.com for more information.

July 21: Jewish Pride Greater PDX at Port-

land Pride Parade

See story, page 5.
July 21: Tefillin for Israel

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

July 21: Camp Solomon Schechter's 70th Anniversary Celebration

See story, page 2.

July 25: Jews Who Wine

Wine tasting event at 7 pm at Eastside Jewish Commons. \$20. More information at ejcpdx.org/events.

Obituaries

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

ED SHERMAN

With profound sadness, Congregation Kesser Israel announces the passing of Ed Sherman, z"l.

We send our sincere condolences to our dear members Mike and Alison Sherman as well as the rest of the Sherman family: siblings Dana Zatulove, Steve and Rita Sherman, Debbi Bodie, grandchildren Zack Sherman, Talia Sherman, Joshua Sherman, Jacob Sherman, Brian Zatulove, Lauren Zatulove, Adam Bodie, Jennifer Bodie, and great-grandchild Nathaniel Sherman.

The funeral was held Sunday, July 7, at Riverview Cemetery.

JEFFREY GOTTFRIED

Jeffrey Gottfried, z"l, mentor, life-long student and champion of the natural world, died Sunday, July 7. He was at home, surrounded by family, after a three-year struggle with leukemia.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Jeff came to Oregon for college and was captivated by its beauty and by the community he found. He studied science education and went on to lead educational programs at multiple museums, including OMSI. Jeff spent the last chapter of his career exploring Oregon's wild places with hundreds of young people through Educational Recreational Adventures, the nonprofit he founded.

The son of a Holocaust survivor and the husband of a cantor, Jeff was also deeply committed to his Jewish heritage. Emily Georges Gottfried, z"l, his wife of 32 years, died in 2013. He is survived by his daughters, Miriam and Benna; his partner, Marcia Danab; his brother, Bob; and his two beloved granddaughters. Donations can be made in his memory to the North Coast Land Conservancy.

SHARYN SPITZER

Congregation Neveh Shalom is sorry to announce the pass-

ing of Sharyn Miller Spitzer, z"l, on July 6, 2024, in Jerusalem, Israel. She will be greatly missed by her husband, Dennis Spitzer; children Joshua and Elisa Stevens and Aaron and Jennifer Stevens; grandchildren Chloe, Jonah, Caleb, Ellie, and Jacob Stevens, her brother Elliott Miller, and her stepchildren/grandchildren in Israel. The funeral took place Sunday, July 7, 2024, at Har Hamenuchot in Jerusalem.

ELISABETH LINDER

Elisabeth Linder, z"l, passed away Monday, July 8 in Portland at the age of 96, *The Oregonian* reported.

LARRY ROSEN

Congregation Neveh Shalom is sorry to announce the passing of Larry Rosen, z"l, on July 9, 2024, in Maryland, one week shy of his 101st birthday. He is lovingly remembered by his daughter Sherry Scheinman; his grandchildren Michael Scheinman and Dan (Blakelee) Scheinman; and his great-grandchildren Levi and Dassi.

MARIS BISHOPRICK

With great sadness, Congregation Kesser Israel extends our sincere condolences to our dear member Sura Rubenstein on the passing of her sister Maris Bishoprick, z"l. We also extend our condolences to Maris's daughter, Sara. The funeral was held Friday, July 12, at the Kesser Israel cemetery.

LESLIE NUDELMAN

Leslie Elaine Nudelman, z"l, passed away Tuesday, July 9 at the age of 76. She was a lifetime resident of Portland. After graduating from USC, she began a career in journalism in New York City. After several years she returned to Portland to continue her journalism career.

Leslie is survived by her brother Ronald Nudelman and her niece and nephews, Sara, Samuel, and Maxwell. She will truly be missed, and her memory will be that of a sweet woman who would never give up.