

417 DAYS - BRING THEM HOME NOW!

THE JEWISH REVIEW

ESTABLISHED

1959

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From left, comedians Gibron Saleem, Paul Schissler, Dotan Malach (stage name Erik Angel) and Liz Glazer take questions at Comedy for Peace's afternoon performance Sunday, Nov. 17 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. (Andie Petkus Photography for The Jewish Review)

Steiner, Bonamici elected

The Jewish Review staff

While most Oregonians mailed in or dropped off ballots for the Nov. 5 general election, a smaller number of individuals also had their names on those ballots – including members of the Jewish community.

In perhaps the highest profile race featuring a Jewish candidate, State Sen. Elizabeth Steiner has been elected as Oregon's first female State Treasurer. Steiner, a Democrat, defeated her Republican opponent, fellow State Sen. Brian Boquist with approximately 49 percent of votes counted as of press time. Forty-three percent of votes went to Boquist with Mary King, the Working Families and Pacific Green parties' candidate, receiving seven percent.

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Peace through laughter

Comedy for Peace performances bring joy across divides

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Few things can cross divides like comedy. "I grew up in Israel with two million Muslims and Arab Christians that I never really met," Dotan Malach said. "We were sup-

posed to be enemies, but I think we were all curious about each other."

That curiosity led Malach, a professional comedian, to establish Comedy for Peace five years ago. The group's unique brand

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On the NEXT Podcast:



Kabbalah Crash Course with Dr. Yosef Rosen

On The Podcast

Mikvah a source of spiritual meaning

Naomi Malka, a long-time mikvah manager and educator who consulted on the construction and operation of Rachel's Well Community Mikvah in Portland, spoke with Jewish Review Editor Rockne Roll about the uses of mikvah and how it can be a spiritually transformative experience. A portion of their conversation is transcribed below. This transcript has been edited for length and clarity. The full conversation is available in "The Magic of Mikvah with Naomi Malka" from The Jewish Review Podcast, available on all major podcast platforms.

The Jewish Review: What makes Rachel's Well, unique or unusual in the landscape of American mikvaot?

Naomi Malka: Rachel's Well is a pluralistic, trans-denominational community mikvah, which means that anybody who is Jewish or who is converting to Judaism can immerse for any reason. There are only about 25 or 30 other mikvaot like that in the U.S., out of I think 450 or 500 total.

Rachel's Well as far as I know, is the only federation operated mikvah in the county, and it's a great model for other cities and other communities. Usually there are private donors and some foundation money and a little bit of membership dues from other participating institutions or congregations that will be using it. But most of the time it's attached to a synagogue. If it's free standing, that land may have been donated.

Rachel's Well is really operating as a model for other cities and I'm referring people all the time to [Rachel's Well manager Caron Blau Rothstein] to talk about why Federation decided to do this and how it's done and how it's done so well. I was involved a little bit with the architecture of it and just seeing the plans, and what I really loved about that process was the building intentionally has a path through it that represents on an aesthetic level, this which will of transition, and this experience of transition that we're talking

about because people don't walk in there or walk out the same way, and that flow through the building, it's a really powerful statement. Another thing that I love about Rachel's Well is that it reflects a feeling of the northwest, and I believe all indoor mikvaot should reflect their surroundings and the landscape around them. One in Miami should look different from one in Chicago. The materials and the colors and the textures of Rachel's Well are just so perfectly reflective of Portland and the northwest. And we know that rain is such an important part of the mikvah and of the Northwest, so it also highlights that as well.

JR:As someone who has had a regular mikvah practice, what is that experience like spiritually?

NM: Immersing in the mikvah one time can be an important spiritual experience. Immersing on a regular cycle is very different though in the same way that if you did yoga once you might think you understand it and have like gotten all of its benefits or if you ran a mile and then think you've like unlocked lifelong heart health, or if you write when journal entry and like think you've represented your entire self there. These are disciplines and this is a spiritual discipline for some people. My first immersion, I had no idea what would be ahead of me, and I also hadn't fully committed to it at that point. I was trying it and I was committed to trying it and seeing how it worked and what it was like, but I didn't know the sort of benefits that I would get from it, the spiritual wisdom that it would speak to me and the messages that I would receive when I was in the waters of the mikvah. I didn't realize that it would become a source of healing for me and that I could talk about that also with people in my community and offer it to other people as a source of healing for them for lots of different things.

There were moments when I was thinking of the beginning of life on Earth at this moment of creation and how these vary waters that I was in had not been created; they were always there, and I was feeling connected to the very beginning of life on Earth. That my breath was part of that, that this water that was touching my skin was eternal. There were times when I invoked my ancestors' presence by saying their names and feeling hopeful that they were somehow blessing me while I was in the water. There were other times that I was able to just talk with HaShem and sort of go over the highlights of the previous month and ponder some of the questions in my heart and set an intention for the coming month and whisper the truths of my life in the water. Those were highlights; those were when I really felt like I hit the octaves. It wasn't always like that, and it's not always like that for everybody, but that's why I encourage everyone to begin practice, because that's when the multiple meanings of it are able to be revealed.

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WHERE WE ASSEMBLE THE TOTES
THAT ARE DISTRIBUTED
TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!**

**Sunday, December 8, 2024
1:00-3:00 PM**

CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



dignitygrows
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

jewishportland.org/dignitygrowspack

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Dignity Grows pack is Dec. 8 at Neveh Shalom

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Portland's chapter of Dignity Grows has received a grant from the Leonard and Lois Schnitzer Charitable Supporting Foundation of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation.

The group, part of a nationwide effort by Jewish communities to provide menstrual supplies and other hygiene products to those who need them most, has received a \$3,000 grant to support its ongoing operating costs.

Wendy Kahn, Chief Development Officer for the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, which supports Dignity Grows through its Women's Philanthropy, explained that while volunteer support has proven plentiful, the financial resources to acquire the supplies to pack into Dignity Grows signature tote bags has proven to be the limiting factor in expanding the group's reach and impact in the community.

"The last year or so, [Dignity Grows] has had to turn away agencies who have said, 'Could we participate in your program?'" Kahn explained. "It's not an inexpensive program to run."

A Dignity Grows packing party, where volunteers will typically load up more than 500 supply totes to be distributed by partner agencies, costs approximately \$6,000 to put on.

This is the third year that Dignity Grows has received a grant from the Schnitzer Foundation. Added to its own fundraising and grant-writing efforts and – beginning this year – support from the Federation's Campaign for Community Needs, its onward and upward for the vital support Dignity Grows provides to those who need it.

"We've been working a lot on focusing our chapter's goals and vision and it's all built on what's been done before," Dignity Grows chair Arielle Goranson said. "We're talking how do we sustain what we are doing, how do we grow and how do we deepen engagement?"

In that spirit, Dignity Grows' next packing party, scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8 from 1-3 pm at Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland, will look just a little different than parties past.

"We're going to try out a couple of ideas giving people opportunities to advocate on behalf of menstrual equity and combating period poverty," Goranson said, "things like signing letters to local representatives, and national representatives urging legislators to act on bills that have to do with combating period poverty."

Goranson gave credit to Dignity Grows volunteer Nancy Judson for kickstarting this advocacy approach and the group's first pack of the fall

with a discussion of legislation in Minnesota around providing menstrual products in schools, which was backed by then-Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee Gov. Tim Walz.

Additionally, while Dignity Grows' distribution partners, local agencies that take the packed totes and put them in the hands of those in need, have always been a fixture of packing parties, Goranson wants to make their presence more interactive.

"We're going to invite the distribution partners up, all together and really ask them how Dignity Grows fits into the work that they're doing," she said. "What kind of stories are they hearing from people that they're serving around how these totes are impacting their lives?"

The combination of local engagement and national impact is something that speaks deeply to Goranson.

"This is the opportunity to really address gender inequity on a systemic level," she said. "I'm always a fan of when we can do these things simultaneously; work at the local level and also contribute to the broader systemic issue."

Pre-registration for Dignity Grows' Dec. 8 is required, free and available online at jewishportland.org/dignitygrowspack.

Beit Am celebrates 50 years with gala banquet at Oregon State

The Jewish Review staff

Beit Am, the mid-Willamette Valley Jewish community based in Corvallis, celebrated their 50th anniversary with a gala banquet at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center on the Oregon State University campus Sunday, Nov. 3.

More than 150 attendees gathered to look over a timeline of Beit Am's growth and development before sitting down to dinner and a keynote address from Willamette University's Prof. Ellen Eisenberg, followed by a series of stories about "The Beit Am Way" from community members past and present, including former Beit Am Rabbi and current Havurah Shalom Rabbi Benjamin Barnett.

Kenneth Krane, the evening's emcee and a founding member of Beit Am, told *The Jewish Review* that "The Beit Am Way is a spirit of volunteerism that says 'do it yourself if you want it done. Don't wait for somebody else to do it.' We've had 50 years of that kind of work in our community where, when there's a need for something to be done, you just ask for volunteers and people step forward and volunteer to do it."

That spirit has carried the congregation from its founding 20 members to a community of nearly 500 scattered throughout Western Oregon but brought together by the spirit of Jewish community.

"It is personally very rewarding," Krane said. "We feel that we built something for the future."



Beit Am members enjoy a 50th anniversary gala for the congregation Sunday, Nov. 3, at Oregon State University. (Courtesy Kenneth Krane/Beit Am)

nity of nearly 500 scattered throughout Western Oregon but brought together by the spirit of Jewish community.

"It is personally very rewarding," Krane said. "We feel that we built something for the future."

ORA mikvah project unveiled at MJCC

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

In the hours before the beginning of Shavuot in 5784, a band of artists gathered at Rachel's Well Community Mikvah to set their intentions and gather inspiration for the new project they were about to undertake. Now, with the High Holy Days of 5785 in the rear-view mirror, their work is ready to be seen.

ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists held an opening for "Mayim Hayim: Waters of Life," their show of work inspired by Rachel's Well Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Twelve works, made in a variety of mediums, remain on display in the center's main lobby as an expression of how the artists connect with Rachel's Well and the practice of *mikvah*.

The *Erev Shavuot* gathering, which included a Torah study with Rabbi Josh Rose of Co/Lab, was followed by a study session with Congregation Neveh Shalom's Rabbi Eve Posen. After that, the artists went to work, pairing up to discuss ideas and techniques. Zac Banik, an arts educator who helped shepherd the project, saw the finished work when the show was hung at the MJCC in early November and was in awe.

"It was just breathtaking to see it all come together like that and have all these really fantastic pieces in front of us," he said. "I'm just so impressed with all the all the artists that participated."

The works spanned a wide gamut of materials and approaches: Ceramics pieces by Glenn Decherd, an acrylic abstract painting by Sharon Segal, another painting by Segal rendered into sewn thread by Laura Fendel, Judy Brown's glass mosaic, Nissa Rost-Rothman's design for seven stepping stones representing water's journey from near her home in Corvallis to the *mikvah*, and Sarah Rohr's constellation for four images reflecting on her experience as a *mikvah*



Above: Poet Brian Rohr reads his contribution to ORA: Northwest Jewish Artists' collection of work inspired by Rachel's Well Community Mikvah at the exhibit's opening Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Below: Attendees take in the exhibit. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

guide. Some are quite large – Merridawn Duckler designed a topiary installation that could be installed outside the *mikvah*'s front door – while some occupy only the space of the written word, such as poems by Brian Rohr and Leora Toper, both of whom were on hand at the opening to read their works. Most were solo efforts, but Eddy Shuldman and Diane Fredgant worked together to create an interactive piece from glass and silk that invites viewers to select a word tile from a "pool" at the base of the piece and reflect on its meaning to them.

"Each one really was a reflection of the journey that the artist took, whether it was a collaboration or an independent piece," said Shuldman, who is also ORA's marketing and publicity director.

The opening, she continued, gave the artists the opportunity to see how their interpretations on Jewish immersion ritual, and the community venue for those rituals, came through to an audience.

"You could hear the ways in which the viewer, who is new to each piece, could understand something about water, about *mikvah*, about a spiritual journey, and I think it was important for the artists to hear that kind of feedback," she said.

"I think that it was clear that a lot of people really pushed themselves to do things differently or outside of their normal pathway of making work,"

Banik added "We tried to foster a space of experimentation, and I think that that kind of filtered its way all the way down to the end results, which was I found to be exciting."

It was exciting for the artists, too – some of whom were publicly showing work for the first time.

"At the core of what we're trying to do at ORA is creation of opportunity, and that's not just for people who are already practicing artists, but also, for people to be able to enter into the art world," Banik said. "Part of championing a robust Jewish arts community is not just representing and gathering what's already there, but also opening up the doors and the possibilities for people who would not have previously thought of themselves as being artists or maybe have thought of themselves that way, but haven't ever had the space to do it."

Helping create that space in this project were the MJCC, which donated the space in the gallery for the show, Neveh Shalom, Co/Lab, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and, of course, ORA, as well as a grant from the Stern Grandchildren's Fund at the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation.

"I don't think we've ever had that many [organizations] involved in something along the lines of art," Shuldman said.

Planting joy in Beaverton

On Sunday afternoon, Nov. 11, Portland Jewish Connection and Moishe Pod West Portland joined the Highland Neighborhood Association in Beaverton to plant 21 trees. For three hours, 27 volunteers (mostly young adults) enjoyed replacing and planting street trees at various streets in Beaverton. PJC liaison Devin Getreu said, "We all had an amazing time engaging with the HNA community and planting *simchas*." Afterwards, 10 young adults enjoyed nearby Peruvian food. PJC and Moishe Pod look forward to helping HNA again in February 2025. For young adult events, you can find PJC on Facebook and Instagram. (Courtesy Portland Jewish Connection)



Portlander 'reboots' classic Chanukah game

By ABIGAIL MINCH
For The Jewish Review

Portland local Adam Zucker, never thought that as a Water Resource Engineer, he would one day be manufacturing a game he created.

Over a decade ago, Zucker's goal was to give the Chanukah dreidel game a "reboot" and create a fun game to bring his family together for the holidays. After some brainstorming, he was able to create a more engaging game with higher stakes.

During the game, the chosen banker will facilitate the eight rounds and track with the Menorah diagram. Players each choose their color and during the rounds place bets to predict the dreidel spin result to receive a payout.

Instead of spinning one dreidel, Super Dreidel is a game with two dreidels spinning at the same time. While creating the rules for the game, Zucker realized that there were six permutations of spins and instantly made the connection to a six pointed Star of David — thus creating the game board design.

"I kind of got goosebumps," Zucker said. "I felt like I was onto something... six points on the Star of David really felt like I was unlocking something there."

After playing on a hand-drawn board the first year, Zucker printed a larger board the year after, and his family used it for 10 years.

The motivation to finally manufacture the game was found last year at a fundraising event that Zucker and his family hosted using the Super Dreidel game. They introduced their friends and family to the game while creating a profit to give to local charities.

"That was probably the turning point where I talked with my wife and we said let's give this a try and figure out how



"Super Dreidel," the creation of Portlander Adam Zucker, adds more challenge and chance to the classic Chanukah children's pastime. (Courtesy Adam Zucker)

we can just kind of revamp this and make it something that other folks and other families could enjoy," Zucker said.

Today, Super Dreidel has its own website, superdreidel.com, where you can learn about the game and purchase it. Zucker hopes to ship as many as possible so families to have them in time for Chanukah.

"We feel pretty good about what we've produced and look forward to having other families and folks enjoy Super Dreidel," Zucker said.

Abigail Minch graduated from The University of Oregon with a degree in Journalism and a minor in Judaic Studies. She is excited to combine these two loves into writing for The Jewish Review.

EJC gets new look - inside and out

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Passing by the front of the Eastside Jewish Commons in Northeast Portland, you may notice a new look.

The popular Jewish communal space, once a rusty orange color, is now a bright, radiant blue and the pillars around its entryway bear a mural of pomegranates. The mural is the work of Fahd Sadiq, a Portland artist who is also featured as the first exhibition in EJC's new dedicated art gallery space.

The seeds for the project were planted two years ago when Howie Bierbaum, EJC's Executive Director, was connected to Dana Lynn Louis of Portland arts nonprofit Gather:Make:Shelter.

"She's Jewish, she's awesome, she runs this cool nonprofit. It's the right fit for you. You both have the same vibe," Bierbaum recalls being told of Louis and her organization.

Founded in 2017, Gather:Make:Shelter works to, "bring housed and unhoused people together in creative and extraordinary ways," using art to work toward solutions on issues of housing and poverty in the com-



Fahd Sadiq's pomegranate-themed mural adorns both sides of the Eastside Jewish Commons' sliding glass doors. The mural was commissioned in collaboration with local nonprofit Gather:Make:Shelter. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

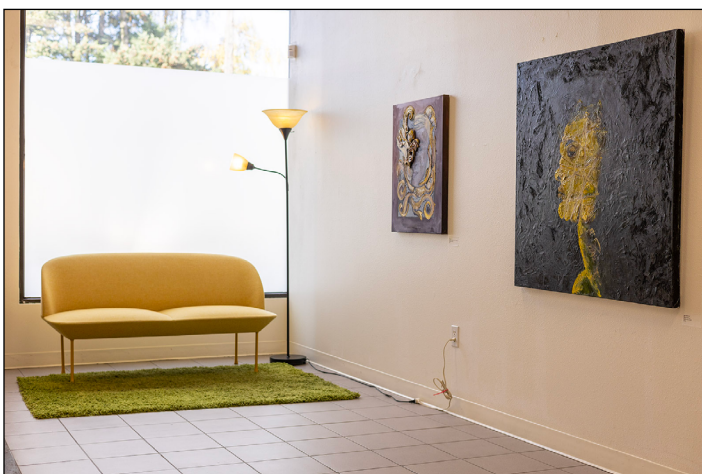
community. Louis had already worked with Sadiq, a queer refugee from Pakistan who fled to the United States when his life was threatened due to his sexual orientation. He made his way through Florida to Portland, Louis explained, where he was then carjacked and ended up living in the Queer Affinity Village shelter project in Southwest Portland. Louis connected

him to Rabbi Ariel Stone of Congregation Shir Tikvah who was working with a separate program to help LGBTQ Pakistanis escape persecution – they immediately hit it off.

Sadiq is a lifelong artist, working in a variety of mediums, including calligraphy in the multiple languages he speaks. When EJC was able to secure funding for a mural through the Schpee Fund

of the Oregon Community Foundation, established by Shir Tikvah member Howard Shapiro, z"l, the collaboration came to fruition and Sadiq received his first solo public art commission.

The mural starts with pomegranates, Louis explained, with the fruit's skin peeled back "in such a way that it's become like a rendering of
continued on next page



Left: The new gallery space at EJC with work by Fahd Sadiq on display. Right: EJC's signature atrium surrounded in the building's new "dynamic blue" paint job. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

continued from previous page
a three-dimensional peace sign. Growing off the top of it is a *shin* (the Hebrew letter) and the Hebrew word for peace, hello and goodbye, *shalom*. It's very subtle, it is very poetic."

"In Hebrew and in English, he wove in some of the values and themes of both EJC and Shir Tikvah--community, love, respect," Bierbaum added.

The mural particularly pops against EJC's new paint job, a color fittingly labeled "dynamic blue" by its manufacturer.

The artwork is integrated into the color of the outside of the building," Bierbaum said. "It's the most vibrant building on Sandy Boulevard right now."

Coinciding with the mural's official unveiling is the opening of Sadiq's show, "Eye in the Sky," now through Dec. 4 in the EJC's new gallery in the westernmost corner of the building.

"They're impressionistic and abstract," Bierbaum said of the paintings that make up "Eye in the Sky." "He's heavy with texture."

The room has been known unofficially as the "the gallery room," even as it has been used for other purposes – and there's a reason why.

"It's got northern light, it's

the right size, it's got lots of wall space," Bierbaum explained. "You can hang about 20 pieces, depending on size, so it's sizable."

Bierbaum gave credit to EJC Events Coordinator and Cultural Arts Ambassador Eric Stern for developing the gallery's vision, as well as the team at Co/Lab, whose Art/Lab program will open a group show in the space early in December.

"The art gallery space was something I was looking at for a while with [Stern], and it finally, it all coalesced and came together," Bierbaum said, "because there was a demand for it, so it kind of forced us to get off our butts and make it happen."

Following Art/Lab's show, the gallery will feature an exhibit by Portland artist and Shir Tikvah member David Schroeder. While the space is notable as Portland's first dedicated Jewish art gallery, there's a certain degree of flexibility that accommodates exhibits like Sadiq's.

"We want to be a showcase for Jews," Bierbaum explained, "but there's 'Jewish-adjacent,' and if you support our values of justice, charity, community, we can then, quote-unquote, bend a little."

"Eye in the Sky" will be open through Dec. 4.

EJC Night Market returns Dec. 14

The Jewish Review staff

Eastside Jewish Commons's annual Chanukah market event returns for its third year Saturday, Dec. 14 from 5-8 pm at the Commons.

The first market was a daytime event, Bierbaum explained, thrown together on short notice. It was a hit.

"We had like 200 people through the doors immediately," he said. "It was insane."

Moving to an evening event last year drew 300 attendees and more than 20 vendors. This year's event moves the opening time up an hour and will add a second "living room" space for shoppers to congregate and enjoy beverages from Leikam Brewing and others and fresh-fried latkes, courtesy of Henry Higgins Boiled Bagels.

Beyond the shopping opportunities, it was the ability to be in community with one another that proved to be a major part of the market's appeal, and EJC Executive Director Howie Bierbaum anticipates this year will be no different.

"Last year was post-Oct. 7, this year is post-election," he said. "People need a sense of community, so we're happy to provide it in a celebratory fashion."

As for the shopping, Bierbaum explained: "It's a whole mishmash. It's like a Jewish Saturday market."

Admission is free. For more information, visit ejcpdx.org/events.

Nice Jewish Runners offer weekly Portland runs

Nice Jewish Runners Portland

In the wake of the tragic events of Oct. 7, 2023, at the Nova Music Festival in Southern Israel, a new initiative was born in New York City: Nice Jewish Runners (NJR). Formed just five days after the tragedy, NJR aims to unite Jewish runners around the world, offering a space for solace and community through the shared passion of running.

Since its inception, NJR has expanded rapidly, establishing chapters in over 20 cities globally, from Los Angeles

to Tel Aviv. The organization has successfully brought together thousands of Jewish individuals, fostering connections and support during difficult times.

In Portland, Leonard Druker became aware of NJR through his Jewish connections and felt compelled to establish a local chapter in response to rising antisemitism. Partnering with Dustin Reisberg, Leonard launched Nice Jewish Runners Portland in August 2024. The Portland chapter meets for weekly runs at Leikam Brewing at 5812 E Burnside St. every Monday at 6:30 pm

during daylight savings time (March to November) and at Ben & Esthers at 1800 NE Alberta St. at 10am during the winter. All are welcome to join.

NJR's weekly runs emphasize a relaxed, social atmosphere. Each run typically concludes at a local coffee shop, bar, or ice cream parlor, encouraging participants to build camaraderie and friendship beyond the track.

More information can be found on Instagram at @NiceJewishRunners and @nicejewishrunners_pdx or by emailing nicejewishrunnerspdx@gmail.com.

ELECTION

(continued from page 1)

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici won a seventh full term in the U.S. House of Representatives in Oregon's First Congressional District. A Democrat first elected in a 2012 special election, Bonamici garnered nearly 69 percent of votes cast, besting Republican Bob Todd (28 percent) and Libertarian Joe Christman (three percent). With the changes in Congressional districts driven by the 2020 Census, Bonamici's district now includes a larger swath of East Portland as well as the entirety of Tillamook County, while cutting out its previous portions of Yamhill County. Bonamici remains one of two Jewish members of Oregon's Congressional delegation; the other, Sen. Ron Wyden, was not up for reelection this year.

In the Oregon House of Representatives, Democratic State Rep. Dacia Grayber won a resounding victory in her reelection bid for the

28th District, which centers on Tigard. Grayber took 86 percent of votes counted, with Republican challenger Charles Mengis garnering 14 percent. This represents Grayber's largest margin of victory in her three state house elections.

State Rep. David Gomberg was unopposed in his bid for reelection in the 10th District, which includes all of Lincoln County and parts of Benton and Lane counties. Gomberg, a Democrat, was also the nominee of the Republican and Independent parties in his quest for a seventh term; it's the second time he's been elected without registered opposition.

In the 53rd State House District, Democratic Rep. Emerson Levy won reelection with 54 percent of votes counted; Republican Keri Lopez received 46 percent. This will be Levy's second term in the House; she increased her margin of victory from 2022, when she defeated Republican Michael Sipe, 51 percent to 49 percent.

In the race for Multnomah

County Commission District 1, Vadim Mozyrsky lost to Megan Moyer, garnering 39 percent of votes to Moyer's 60 percent. A Federal administrative law judge in Portland, Mozyrsky took 40 percent of votes in May's primary election to replace departing Commissioner Sharon Meieran, who is term-limited, advancing with Moyer to the general election.

In District 2 of Portland's reworked City Council, Elana Pirtle-Guiney was the top vote-getter of 22 candidates for the districts three seats. She was marked as first-choice on 12,196 ballots, with subsequent choices from other ballots eventually giving her 21,067 votes in the final round of the elimination process in Portland's new ranked-choice voting system. This amounted to 28 percent of final-round votes, with current City Council member Dan Ryan also receiving 28 percent and Sameer Kanal receiving 25 percent. All three will represent the council's District 2, which covers all of North

Portland and most of Northeast Portland. Sam Sachs received 296 first-choice votes and was the second candidate eliminated.

Stan Penkin and Bob Weinstein were unsuccessful in their bids for the Portland City Council's District 4, covering all of West Portland along with Sellwood. Penkin received 1,061 first-choice votes and was the 18th candidate eliminated. Weinstein garnered 3,786 first-choice votes and was the 24th candidate eliminated. Olivia Clark, Mitch Green and Eric Zimmerman were elected to represent the district on the City Council.

The Jewish Review has collected election results for as many Oregon races with Jewish candidates as possible. These results, collected from the Oregon Secretary of State's office and from Multnomah County Elections Division, are up-to-date as of press time. If you know of a Jewish candidate for office who is absent from this list, please email editor@jewishportland.org so their information can be included.

Community Calendar

MON TUE WED THUR

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Community Calendar contains information on local events, speakers, webinars, the arts, information for young families and much more!



Above: From left, comedians Paul Schissler, Gibran Saleem, Dotan Malach (stage name Erik Angel) and Liz Glazer take questions at Comedy for Peace's afternoon performance Sunday, Nov. 17 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. Below: A packed house takes in Saleem's jokes. (Andie Petkus Photography for The Jewish Review)

COMEDY

(continued from page 1)

of humor came to Portland for a pair of shows hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Sunday, Nov. 17 at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, giving nearly 400 attendees a chance to laugh, relax and enjoy a moment to decompress from modern life – for Jews, Americans and everyone.

Malach, who performs under the stage name Erik Angel, relayed a story that cut to some of those difficulties. Being picked up in a rideshare car in Alabama, Malach said he learned his driver was Egyptian. The driver inquired where Malach was from and, fearful of what might happen if he revealed himself as an Israeli, he skirted around the question before identifying himself as Syrian.

At the ride's end, Malach said, "I came to the window, and I told him, 'I'm an Israeli,' and I started to walk as fast as I can. He calls out, 'Me too!'"

While antisemitism is real, there's a stupidity behind it, Malach said, "because everyone can be Jewish. You can be black. You can be brown. You can even be happy!"

It was comedy that first introduced Malach to cultures outside his own, and his work traveling with Comedy for Peace has given him a new appreciation of those cultures and the similarities with his own.

"Jews and Muslims, we're much more alike than different," he said. "We believe in one God. We pray a lot. We fast. Somebody who is Muslim can marry four wives. Jews can marry one



wife with four different personalities."

Muslim comedian Gibran Saleem doesn't have any wives.

"I'm single, born and raised. You can't forget your roots," he told the crowd. "If I took a DNA test, it would just come back 'alone' at this point. It would be '23 and Just Me.'"

Saleem grew up in North Carolina, the child of Pakistani emigrant parents who wed through an arranged marriage.

"When they got to the states, they got divorced. Don't feel bad. That's a good thing. They came here for the opportunity," Saleem recalled. When his parents arrived in the United States, "I think my dad was like, 'What do you want to see first?' And my mom was just like, 'other people.'"

He had never met a Jewish person until he moved to New York – a rideshare

driver was giving him a tour of an Orthodox neighborhood in Brooklyn and pointed out a Hasidic couple mid-argument on a street corner.

"I had never heard the word Hasidic before in my life," Saleem recalled. "I thought Hasidic was a vocabulary word. The couple seemed really upset, so I thought Hasidic meant 'sassy.' So, I just started using the word Hasidic in everyday vocabulary conversations, confusing everyone around me."

Many people have not heard his name before, Saleem said, leading to some awkward introductions.

"I feel like sometimes, when I say my name, people only hear what they're already expecting. So, I'll meet someone, and I'll be like, 'Hi, my name is Gibron,' and they'd be like, 'Oh, nice to

continued on next page

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meet you, Muhammad,” he said. “How in the world did they get my middle name? That is so impressive.”

Paul Schissler, a Christian from Florida, has one wife with whom he is raising three sons. He recounted his wife giving birth.

“For nine months, she carried a human being in her stomach, then her body ripped open, and a baby came out. She was walking an hour later,” he said. “One time in high school, I pulled the hip muscle, and I was in a wheelchair for six weeks, and she’s just over here like, ‘let’s have another one!’”

His two oldest sons, ages 6 and 3, sometimes push him to his breaking point.

“They teamed up on me because I was being really cruel and making them leave the playground, and they got mad and they shouted at me ‘You’re a stupid man,’” he recounted. “I’m tired. I’m not sleeping, I have no patience left, I have 1.3 brain cells left, and so the only thing that I shouted back was, ‘Yeah, I am a stupid man!’ And then I realized how silent the playground was.”

Liz Glazer, the evening’s headliner, has experienced some of the anxieties that come with being Jewish amid the Israel-Hamas War. For example, when she saw a man in a “Hamas” t-shirt on a flight – though the shirt turned out to say “Bahamas.”

“I did think the tie-dye was an odd choice,” she said.

In another instance in New York, “I noticed that there was a sign, and it said ‘Free,’ and I got nervous again, but it’s because somebody was standing in front of the rest of the sign, and then that person moved and it said, ‘Free Samples.’”

Glazer previously taught

law before changing paths and entering comedy, a career track that she explained has plenty of difficulties.

“Here’s what pursuing comedy is like,” she said. “One time a guy asked me, ‘Hey, Liz, can you do this show? It’s in a tent outside of a strip club off Route 46 in New Jersey. It does not pay, and it’s on Thursday.’ And I asked this guy, in all seriousness, ‘Do you think I could do every Thursday?’ He said, ‘No.’ And I was upset.”

Glazer mentioned the Jewish tendency to find humor in life’s difficulties – a fitting theme for the evening, and the world as it is today, by recounting the days after her father’s passing when she found expired lox in her parents’ refrigerator. She mentioned to her mother that the lox was out of date, and her mother insisted that it was fine, pointing out her father had eaten it just days before.

“I was like, ‘I’m pretty sure I won that argument’” Glazer recalled. It was heart disease that killed her father, she said, but “had he died of food poisoning, he would have died going out exactly doing what he loved the rest of his life, which was eating expired lox.”

Audiences at both shows ate up the jokes like Glazer’s father’s lox, proving her point about the Jewish people’s ability to laugh through adversity. It’s an idea that was the whole point behind Comedy for Peace, and one that has proven true time and again.

“The first show was amazing,” Malach said of Comedy for Peace’s founding five years ago. “Two hundred fifty people came to support us. After five years, more than 50 cities, two countries, we feel that we’re just starting.”

Ruach retreat comes to Solomon Schechter

Camp Solomon Schechter

This December, Camp Solomon Schechter will host the inaugural Ruach PNW retreat, a unique, two-day gathering crafted for Jewish educators, song leaders, early childhood professionals, camp staff, and community builders and members across the Pacific Northwest. Held from Sunday, Dec. 22, to Monday, Dec. 23, Ruach PNW offers a journey into discovering and nurturing one’s *ruach*—the spirited essence that brings meaning, joy, and resilience to our work and lives in the Jewish community.

Ruach PNW is designed specifically for Jewish professionals who work in a variety of community-centered roles and want to connect, refresh, and return to their communities inspired. Whether you are an educator, preschool teacher, camp counselor, day school leader, song leader, or a professional at a JCC or synagogue, this retreat provides the space to meet others like you, share experiences, and dive deeper into what it means to bring *ruach* into your life and work.

Ruach PNW’s immersive schedule is thoughtfully structured to balance learning, creativity, community, and personal reflection. Participants can expect to engage in sessions on topics such as songleading, outdoor education, Jewish text study, and various professional development workshops tailored for educators and community leaders, explore art options for both the individual and collective spirit and creativity, explore topics of self-care and growth through workshops led by experienced professionals, providing time and space to nourish and replenish and enjoy a Community Concert on Sunday evening—a powerful event that will bring everyone together in celebration of music’s role in uplifting spirit and fostering connection.

The retreat is co-chaired by Kim Schneiderman, Chief Community & Jewish Life Officer at BB360 and Artist-in-Residence at Congregation Beth Israel, and Josh Niehaus, Artist-in-Residence at Temple De Hirsch Sinai and Camp Solomon Schechter. Together with an esteemed faculty of educators and Jewish leaders, they are creating a meaningful experience that’s sure to leave a lasting impact on participants.

For Jewish community members across the Pacific Northwest looking to build connections, refresh their spirit, and gain tools to bring back to their communities, Ruach PNW is the perfect opportunity. Register now and join us for a weekend that promises to inspire, connect, and elevate your spirit.

To learn more and reserve your spot, visit campschechter.org/ruach.

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Security Corner

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

DEC 4

NOV 27
(early)

By **JESSICA ANDERSON**
FREE MONEY!

I got your attention, didn't I? With the costs of running organizations increasing, Executive Directors are always looking to find new sources of funding. Funding for security is a particular issue these days, and I'm here to share some information about two sources that are available to all Jewish organizations across the state and how JFGP is assisting in those efforts.

FEMA distributes significant funds each year, and one of these mechanisms is through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). Once a year, non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for up to \$150,000 in funding for safety and security improvements. This specific program focuses on organizations that are susceptible to acts of terrorism or ideological criminal activity. Jewish organizations have been particularly successful in meeting this bar. In 2024, FEMA received a record 7,500 applications for a total request of almost \$1 billion in funding. Congress had appropriated a record \$454 million so only 45 percent of the applicants received funding - further evidence that it is a very difficult award to receive. Thirty-one organizations in Oregon received funding this year including eight Jewish organizations.

Due to the Israel-Hamas



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.

war, Congress passed the Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act and through this, DHS received an additional funding package to supplement NSGP funding. \$180 million of it was used in the 2024 NSGP process and the remaining \$210 million will now be awarded through the NSGP National Security Supplement. Think of it like a mini, second NSGP with a focus in protecting organizations from impacts of the Israel-Hamas war.

All Jewish organizations in Oregon have been notified about this opportunity. Part of my role is helping them navigate this process and have the information they need to prepare a successful application. Registration is due by Nov. 29 and application submission by Dec. 31. Awardees will be notified in Spring 2025.

Another stream of funds available for safety and security is a newly developed grant program for all Oregon and SW Washington Jewish

organizations that choose to participate in the JFGP Security Program. Thanks to a partnership with JFNA's LiveSecure (<https://www.jewishfederations.org/livesecure>) and generous local donors, JFGP has \$250,000 to provide directly to local organizations. This year, grants of either \$6,000 or \$12,500 are awarded for use towards security guards or physical improvements and we anticipate higher funding levels may be possible next year. The funding rates are different based on whether the organization has already received an NSGP award. To date, JFGP has already approved almost \$100,000 in grants and this program has been particularly useful for small organizations which may not be competitive for FEMA's NSGP program. Questions about the JFGP Security Fund should be directed to Jessica Anderson at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org or 872-273-9214.

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[jewishportland.org/subscribe](https://www.jewishportland.org/subscribe)

Jewish Women Unite! at Kesser Dec. 7-8

Congregation Kesser Israel

The silent noise of news and social media is deafening. The daily stresses of life are resting on your shoulders. Spirituality is something that lives within, but doesn't get much expression. You and your friends wistfully text, "Let's get together..." And life has a way of getting so, so busy.

Imagine sitting in a cozy lodge overlooking an orchard, sipping some wine or hot cocoa, the sound of pouring rain and friends laughing and talking. It has been a while since you've gotten away and slowed down to breathe, relax, reflect, and rejuvenate with like-minded women. Sound like a dream?

The dream is coming true! This Dec. 7-8, Miriam Carr of Congregation Kesser Israel is creating a space for Jewish women to come and play - this is your invitation to come as you are for 20 hours of much needed self-care for the heart, body and soul.

The retreat starts at 7pm Saturday night with a lively *Melave Malka* with musician Eve Rivkin and guest speaker Robin Meyerson. (late night pajama party optional) Sunday will host a wide range of activities, including meditation, yoga, dance, self-defense, DIY arts and crafts and guided discussions, aiming to build community, celebrate individuality, and bring to light all that we have in common.

Registration is still open! If the theme of "Jewish Women Unite!" speaks to you, and you're looking for a done-for-you, fun and fulfilling local get-away, sign up at kesserisrael.org/event/retreat. For more information, contact Miriam Carr at mcarr@kesserisrael.org. Can't wait to see you there!

Constructive Disagreement workshop at Neveh Shalom Dec. 2

Congregation Neveh Shalom

Join Mel Berwin of Congregation Neveh Shalom and Cara Abrams from Congregation Shaarie Torah for "Decision-Making and Constructive Disagreement: A K-12th Grade Parent Workshop" Monday, Dec. 2 at Congregation Neveh Shalom.

This interactive workshop will use Jewish sources to practice constructive conversation and problem-solving skills on contentious issues. This helpful, hopeful protocol, inspired by Cara and Mel's participation in the Mahloket Matters educator program at Pardes Institute in Jerusalem this past summer, promotes community connection, social-emotional skills, and a practical technique for decision-making.

Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm, with the workshop set for 7-8:30 pm.

Registration is free, and childcare is available with advance registration online at <https://members.nevehshalom.org/form/decision--making-and-constructive-disagreement--2024.html>.

New day camp building work underway at BB Camp

By NOA RUBIN

BB360

In a snap, on Nov. 7, 2024, BB Camp's old BB Day Camp structure came down to pave the way for a state-of-the-art BB Day Camp Center. With the help of individual donors and a grant from the Oregon Department of Justice, the BB Day Camp Center will support year-round camp activities in three community rooms, surrounding a semi-enclosed courtyard for outdoor activities. Located close to the northside playground, the pool, and beautiful Devils Lake, the BB Day Camp facility will serve a total of sixty campers at any one time. The new BB Day Camp Center is scheduled to open in late spring, ready to welcome campers in the summer of 2025.

In 2006, BB Camp's Chief Executive Officer, Michelle Koplman, observed children spending time in the game room of a local casino. Realizing they were there due to a lack of alternative activities while their parents worked, she quickly took action. She reached out to explore the possibility of launching a summer day camp at BB Camp's residential site to provide a supportive environment for these children. This initiative led to the establishment of BB Day Camp, a non-sectarian day camp designed to serve the community during the summer months.

Since 2006, BB Camp has offered a safe and enriching day camp experience to more than 5,000 local children. Each weekday, day campers enjoy nutritious breakfast, lunch, and two snacks while participating alongside resident campers in a wide range of BB Camp's activities. BB Day Camp has positively impacted an entire generation of local children and has significantly enhanced the reputation and presence of BB Camp within the Lincoln County community.

"What began as a humble effort to ensure our local children had a safe space to spend their summers, has now expanded into a meaningful and important program for the community. Building a designated Day Camp Center will help us to meet our mission and continue to make a significant impact in the community. I'm incredibly proud of what our program has become for so many," shared Michelle Koplman, chief executive officer.

The new BB Day Camp Center is a dedicated space for Lincoln County youth who benefit from BB Camp's day camp programs, not just in the summer but for expanded year-round programs that promote personal growth and achievement. With three multi-purpose rooms and a courtyard for outdoor activities, the new Day Camp Center will provide opportunities for character development, building self-confidence, and providing opportunities to enhance social and life skills for children throughout Lincoln County.



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

BEVERLY CONTORER

Beverly Contorer, z"l, passed away on Nov. 11, 2024. She was 87. Her husband Paul, z"l, of almost 60 years, preceded her in death in March. She was born in Milwaukee, Wis., and moved to Portland in 1966. She was a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Madison. Beverly, also affectionately known by her granddaughters as "BB," was a gracious hostess, baker and entertainer. She was a talented piano player and loved

local theater, classical music, opera, and seeing shows on Broadway in New York. She played weekly Mahjong and enjoyed watching Judge Judy. Beverly is survived by her sons, Joseph (Jason) and David (Beth); and her two granddaughters, Danielle and Maya. She will remain in our hearts forever. The family suggests any donations be made in her honor to the Jewish Free Loan of Oregon - <https://www.jewishportland.org/jewish-free-loan>.

Events

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

Nov. 20: CNS Keshet Queer Movie Night - The Producers

Screening of Mell Brooks' film at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 6:30 pm. \$5 for CNS members, \$7 public. Registration at members.nevehshalom.org/event/QMNNov24

Nov. 20: Tefilah - Discovering Judaism Core Spiritual Practice

Weekly classes with Rabbi Devin Villareal at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 6:30 pm. Registration at members.nevehshalom.org/form/adult-ed--synagogue-skills-24-25.html

Nov. 20: Practicing Tefilah with Miles Hochstein

Synagogue skills practice session at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7:35 pm. Registration at members.nevehshalom.org/form/adult-ed--synagogue-skills-24-25.html

Nov. 21: The Only Way To Hold A Weight Curator Talk

Discussion of Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for

Holocaust Education's Richard Serra exhibit with Daniel Duford at 6pm at the museum. \$5, free for members. Purchase tickets at ojmche.org/events/the-only-way-to-hold-a-weight-curator-talk-with-daniel-duford.

Nov. 21: Cultures of the World Lecture Series

Weekly lecture series at Cedar Sinai Park at 7 pm. For more information, email jennifer.felberg@cedarsinaipark.org.

Nov. 22: George Fendel Presents The Obscure George Gershwin

Lecture at Cedar Sinai Park at 3 pm. For more information, email jennifer.felberg@cedarsinaipark.org.

Nov. 22: Moishe Pod Friendsgiving Shabbat Dinner

Thanksgiving-themed Shabbat potluck dinner at Moishe Pod West PDX at 7 pm. Register at tinyurl.com/MPWestPDXFriendsgiving

Nov. 23: What if Adam Took the First Bite?

Feminist Torah study at Congregation Shir Tikvah at

6 pm. For more information, email dovwalton68@gmail.com.

Nov. 23: Four-Step Technique to Quieting the Mind

Hasidic meditation technique session at 7:30 PM at Eastside Jewish Commons. For more information, visit ejcpdx.org/events.

Nov. 24: Nice Jewish Runners

Group run at 10am. For more information, email nicejewishrunnerspdx@gmail.com.

Nov. 24: Carpathian-Pacific Express at The Artichoke

Neo-klezmer concert at The Artichoke in Southeast Portland at 7 pm. \$20. For more information, email sarah@artichokemusic.org.

Nov. 26: Mommy and Me - Autumn Edition

Weekly mothers' group at The Gan Preschool at 8:45 am. \$36. For more information, email office@portland-jewishpreschool.com.

Nov. 26: Nign Singing Workshop with Christina Crowder

Workshop on wordless Jewish melody at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7 pm. \$18. For more information, visit ejcpdx.org/events.

Dec. 1: Jewish Research in the Former Russian Empire

Free lecture by Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon at 10:30 am on Zoom. For more information, visit jgsoregon.wixsite.com/home/events-1/.

Dec. 1: Klezmer Workshop with Christina Crowder

Musical workshop at Eastside Jewish Commons at 2 pm. \$18. For more information, visit ejcpdx.org/events.

Dec. 4: Jewish Poetry Book Club

Quarterly book club meeting at 12:30 pm at Eastside Jewish Commons. For more information, visit ejcpdx.org/events.

Dec. 4: Women's Philanthropy Meetup

Intergenerational philanthropic gathering at Guildler Café in Northeast Portland at 5:30. For more information, email wendy@jewish-portland.org.

Jobs Board

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