

THE JEWISH REVIEW

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Seattle Kosher ends retail delivery service

Editor's Note: A previous version of this article incorrectly described Seattle Kosher's delivery practices.

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Sourcing kosher food in Portland, already a challenge, just got that much harder.

Seattle Kosher announced in a May 31 email to customers that it was ending its retail delivery service, which provided local delivery for a variety of kosher products that were otherwise difficult or impossible to find in the Portland area.

"Over the past eight years, the kosher-consuming population in the Pacific Northwest has declined. This shift, combined with rising costs for housing and a 40 percent increase in grocery prices over the last decade, has created significant challenges. Kosher-specific items like beef, poultry, and cheese have seen even steeper increases," Seattle Kosher owner Phillip Klitzner said in the email. "As consumer habits have shifted toward bulk delivery and 'cherry-picking' individual sale items, the full-cart model necessary to maintain a sustainable retail operation is no longer viable."

Emails to Seattle Kosher from The Jewish Review received no response as of press time.

Seattle Kosher's sister operation, Pacific Northwest Kosher, will continue serving customers ordering wholesale quantities, such as nonprofits and caterers like Portland's Century Catering. "It really impacts me very slightly,"

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Congregation Neveh Shalom Cantor Eyal Bitton performs at the synagogue's spring fundraiser Sunday, May 31 in Birnbach Hall at the synagogue. The event celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Neveh Shalom's Foundation School early childhood program. (Polina Olsen for The Jewish Review)

70 years in the making

Neveh Shalom celebrates preschool's milestone

By **POLINA OLSEN**
For The Jewish Review

When the speaker asked teachers from each decade to rise, the packed room of celebrants stood and cheered. May 31 marked the 70th anniversary of Congregation Neveh Shalom's Foundation School, and former parents, students, teachers, and administrators were ready to take a bow. Neveh Shalom's Birnbach Hall looked prepped for a party, with tables covered with treats, an open bar, and pop-up posters advertising events such as a Moroccan Dinner for Ten and a Chocolate Making Workshop.

The preschool started in 1953 when Ahavai Sholom's Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, z"l, envisioned a magical place for kids, full of life and laughter. When Ahavai Sholom merged with Neveh Tzedek to form Congregation Neveh Shalom in 1961, the school moved with it. Today, Foundation School is the oldest continuously operating Jewish early childhood center in Oregon.

Brian Suher's memories of attending the school reach back to 1956. "My mother was the director," he said. "We made challah on Fridays and took turns

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caring for the pet turtle. There were lots of songs.” The school started with six or eight students but quickly expanded to more than 30. Originally unaccredited and offering half-day sessions, today the Foundation School is licensed and certified, with many students attending all day.

“Most mothers didn’t work at that time,” said Joyce Stein, who has taught at the Foundation School for nine years. “Now, everyone works, but the kids get companionship here. I love the energy, the chaos, and knowing we influence young people with joy, love, and kindness. We’re nurturing a community with everything we do. We’re fostering community in a lonely world.”

Director of Early Childhood Education Ronit Scheyer agrees. “The importance of a Jewish early childhood program is the bond it creates between Jewish communal life, ritual, learning, and identity,” she said in her speech. “Strong bonds between our young Jewish families and Foundation School are a major part of Neveh Shalom’s growth and vitality. It’s more than a place where young parents drop off their kids in the morning and pick them up at the end of the day. It is a place where we understand the value of community. The future of the Jewish people is in early Jewish childhood

education.”

Foundation School Administrative Director Candace Rothstein recalled cherished anecdotes during her talk, including the time she overheard two preschoolers.

“One child said she’d been Jewish her whole life. And the other one said, ‘Not me! I became Jewish last year when I tried a bagel for the first time.’”

Rothstein also gave examples of the school’s philosophy, which relies on the Reggio Emilia approach to student-centered education.

“We could teach children about evaporation,” she said. “Or, like two-year-old Logan, we could look outside and say the sun has cleaned up the rain. Instead of teaching about fog, we could look to four-year-old Penelope, who observed that the ‘sky looks blurry.’”

“As preschool teachers, we get the profound honor of being able to take hold of this fleeting time in your child’s life, slow it down, and capture it,” Rothstein said. “Preschool spans ages zero to five, the most crucial years of child development. Our children’s relationships and experiences lay the foundation for the rest of their lives.”

Polina Olsen is the author of several books on Portland Jewish history and Portland in the 1960s. Learn more at amazon.com/author/polina_olsen

KOSHER (continued from page 1)

Century’s proprietor, Alan Levine, said. “Now there’s a few small things that I won’t be able to get from them.”

Levine also pointed out that Pacific Northwest Kosher is the vendor for kosher foods sold at the Safeway on Portland’s Southwest Barbur Boulevard and other outlets – a practice which will be continuing.

“It’s really going to affect the people that were ordering one or two things. They’re going to have to come to Safeway and pay them [more],” Levine noted.

Another alternative is Kansas City-based KC Kosher Coop. Rabbi Yossi Daitchman helps coordinate the company’s seven annual deliveries to Portland. The Rose City is one of more than 20 communities nationwide that receive deliveries from KC Kosher Coop – Portland used to participate in five of the seven annual dates but recently opted in to the other two due to local demand, he said.

However, products must be ordered by the case, and ordering deadlines are typically a month prior to delivery. The order deadline for KC Kosher Coop’s June 25 delivery was yesterday, Rabbi Daitchman said, and the next order must be placed by July 29 for delivery on Aug. 27 – items are picked up on delivery day at Congregation Kesser Israel, usually between 6 pm and 7 pm, though there can be delays if, for example, the delivery truck gets stuck in traffic. Rabbi Daitchman said there’s a WhatsApp group and a collection of spreadsheets he helps maintain to enable multiple buyers to coordinate splitting up a case of something they need but not in such a large quantity.

“You’re often ordering things three, four weeks before you get it. For the Passover order, you have to order before Purim,” he said. “The flip side is that then you’re able to get bulk items, bulk pricing and some foods that are not necessarily easily accessible in Portland, aside from flying to New York and bringing something back in a suitcase.”

Planning that far ahead isn’t workable for some folks like Shulamit Urenia, the owner of Kashrootz Catering in Portland.

“It’s going to be a barrier to have access to kosher food,” she said of Seattle Kosher’s termination of delivery service. “Safeway has been great and I’m really grateful for that option. However, it’s limited for bulk purchasing, and it’s not always reliable in the sense of having consistent product in.”

She’s also developed good relationships with the management of the Trader Joe’s on Southwest Garden Home Road in Portland, and with the staff of Barbur World Foods. However, Portland’s limited options will mean Urenia will need to drive to Seattle more frequently for certain items – a three-hour drive made more frustrating by gas prices that continue to exceed \$5 per gallon.

“That’s something you just have to budget in your catering, she said. “Everything just kind of adds up. But I still will try to offer the best rates that I can so people can also keep kosher and enjoy a nice meal.”

For more information on ordering from KC Kosher Coop in Portland, email Rabbi Daitchman at ydaitchman@gmail.com.



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SESSION 1 10:30–11:30

- Stories from South Portland: The Rise and Displacement of a Jewish Community
- Jonas Mekas and the Diary Film
- Sacred Flow: A Jewish Yoga Experience

SESSION 2 11:40–12:40

- Jewish Women Remembering: A Conversation on Memoir with Jewish Women Authors
- Oregonian Jews in the Fight Against Fascism
- Write What We've Forgotten
- Experiential Introduction to Jewish Mystical Practice

LUNCH 12:45–1:40

SESSION 3 1:45–3:00

- The Real Housewives of Chabad: A Panel on Female Jewish Leadership
- The Current State of Transgender Judaism
- Make Your Container: A Jewish Studio Workshop on "Being Jewish &"
- Making your Grandparents Kichel

SESSION 4 3:10–4:25

- Contemporary Jewish Fatherhood: A Father's Day Panel
- Bridging the Divide: A Jewish Response to America's Political Polarization
- Tachrichim: Traditional Jewish Burial Garments Demystified
- Olive & Ember: A Sephardi Food & Wine Tasting Experience

SHUK AFTERHOURS: DRINKS & DJ 4:30–6:00

REGISTER AT theshukpdx.com

Dignity Grows celebrates multiple milestones

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

What kind of year has it been for Portland's Dignity Grows chapter? Only their biggest yet.

"We packed more totes than we ever have before, thanks to the addition of a new partner and increased totes going to some of our existing partners," Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Volunteer Coordinator Merit Pinker, who helps run the program, said. "So, we are having a larger impact than ever, and I believe we've engaged more volunteers than ever before, too."

Dignity Grows, a program of the Federation's Women's Philanthropy, started the program year on uncharted ground at Vancouver, Wash.'s Congregation Kol Ami, and wrapped up in Northeast Portland last week with its first ever Celebration Fundraiser pack at Chabad of Northeast Portland as Sarah Rosenberg Brown celebrated her 50th birthday with friends, loved ones and some new friends made while loading up hundreds of the program's signature blue-and-black totes with a month's worth of hygiene products for those in need.

"in lieu of gifts," Pinker explained, Rosenberg Brown invited attendees "to make a donation to Dignity Grows in her honor. So we were able to celebrate Sarah, we were able to gain resources for Dignity Grows and we were able to introduce new volunteers to the work that Dignity Grows is doing."

"When I thought about how I wanted to celebrate today as I entered this new decade, I kept coming back to the idea of cycles, transitions, and shared strength," Rosenberg Brown said at the event. "This has been a central part of my life, my cycle, and my coming into womanhood and motherhood.



Above and below: Volunteers pack hygiene supply totes at Dignity Grows' packing party Thursday, May 28, at Chabad of Northeast Portland. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Coming together tonight to pack these hygiene totes for our neighbors who lack access to basic necessities feels like a lovely and deeply meaningful whole circle as a way to honor our body's wisdom, to acknowledge transitions that we all go through, and to pass the dignity forward to those who need it most."

It was also a big year in the fundraising department. Dignity Grows met its \$28,000 fundraising goal halfway through its program year, which runs from late summer to late spring, and donations, like the ones that came in from the attendees of Rosenberg Brown's party, mean the group can look at expanding the number of totes its able to provide to the community despite the increased costs of the totes and the supplies that go in them.

"While our goal is to grow and increase the number of totes going into

the community and increase the number of partners that we can include, we are very intentional about making sure that any expansion is sustainable," Pinker said. "If we bring on a new partner, if we commit to an increased number of totes to any of our partners, we don't want that to be a one-time expansion; we want that to be able to continue for years to come. We take expansion seriously and we don't take it lightly, but we are always thinking about how to make it happen."

Dignity Grows is now planning for another year to come. A "Floats and Flows" ice cream social and body movement class with personal trainer and Dignity Grows co-lead Alana Cogan is being planned for July, with the first pack of the new year set for Aug. 2 at Kol Ami.

Learn more and get connected online at jewishportland.org/dignitygrows.



jewishportland.org/subscribe

Student to Student seeking new presenters

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Student to Student, the awareness and advocacy program that brings Jewish high school juniors and seniors to classrooms in their community to talk about Jewish lived experiences, is already setting its sights on next year.

Rachel Nelson, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Chief Planning Officer and the coordinator of Portland's Student to Student program, said that the program's presenters reached nearly 500 students in area schools in the last academic year. Its biggest successes were a presentation to the Jewish Student Union at Davinci Middle School in Portland and two days at Oregon City High School.

"A lot of the students there have never met someone Jewish before," Student to Student presenter Eliana Yoken said of Oregon City High School, "so to be that first window into our culture and our people is pretty cool. It feels like sort of an honor to be able to represent a community that's so diverse."

"There's always kids that ask questions, that want to learn more," presenter Ben Luria said. "I remember one of my first presentations, there was a student that came up to each of the presenters and gave us a hug. I thought that was very sweet."

The program began in St. Louis; Nelson brought it to Portland two years ago. While presentations to fellow Jewish students have long been a staple of Student to Student programs in other communities, this year's visit to DaVinci was Portland's first example.

"For those students specifically, it was an opportunity to see those slightly older than them displaying what they can accomplish and what they can do when they're older," Nelson said. "It also gave them a feeling of 'we're not alone. We're here as part of a larger community.'"

One of Student to Student's calling cards are the packages of single-serve Oreo cookies that come with each presentation – it's an example of a very



Student to Student presenters explain the construction of a tallit during a presentation Friday, May 30. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

common food that many don't know is kosher and marked as such. Connections like this help open up the world of Jewish life to peers in places like Oregon City.

"It's both enlightening to hear that these are just teens just like they are - They play basketball, they do lacrosse, they go swimming, they're doing a lot of the same activities - but on the flip side, these are teens who are experiencing marginalization that many in the Oregon City community might not have experienced in the same way," Nelson said. "So they're hearing both these commonalities and also the things that are unique and challenging to these teens."

It's also been an enlightening experience for the students at the front of the room.

"I've always gone to Hebrew school, and this has been stuff that I've been around my whole life," Luria said. "We'll get a lot of questions about, 'Why don't you eat pork?' Or 'Do you believe in Jesus?' This stuff that we get

taught from an early age but doesn't really apply to everyone. It was a very eye-opening moment of the power of simple conversation and not assuming and meeting people where they're at."

The students at Davinci had different questions, Nelson recalled.

"We had students come up to us afterwards saying, 'What age do I need to be to register? When can I start presenting?'" she said.

The answer is that rising juniors and seniors are eligible to participate. Applications are open now with a training program set to occur later in the year.

"If a student wants to go and talk about their Jewish identity and they don't feel like they can do that in their day-to-day life or at their school, this gives them that opportunity," Yoken said, "and I think that can be very important, especially in empowering Jewish youth for the future."

Learn more and apply online at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/studenttostudent-application.

Free subscription: jewishportland.org/subscribe

Leadership, labor bring Gaga to PJA playground

The Jewish Review staff

A new old Gaga pit now graces the playground of Portland Jewish Academy thanks to some leadership, grant writing and old-fashioned work from a group of students.

PJA's *Manhigut* Leadership Exploratory was looking for a way to make the school's playground more fun, an email from the school explained. After some research, they settled on adding a Gaga Pit.

Gaga could roughly be described as an Israeli spin on dodgeball. Players stand in a recessed sand-filled pit a couple feet deep and attempt to hit a single ball at fellow players' lower halves. A hit below the waist – and only below the waist – is an out. The game exploded in popularity at summer camps in the late 20th century and remains a staple of young Jewish life.

The Schnitzer Family Campus already featured one Gaga pit – but it was on the Mittleman Jewish Community Center side of campus and not getting much use.

"It wasn't actually accessible to the kids at school during the school year," PJA teacher Susan Sparrow explained.

The *Manhigut* (Hebrew for "leadership") group decided that the easiest way to fix the issue would be to move the pit from where it wasn't being used to where it would be used – they wrote a grant which was approved and the pit was relocated shortly after Passover.

The pit wasn't ready yet, though – it needed its sandy bottom. The sand was on-site, in large bags adjacent to the pit but yet to be installed. Leadership students – and much of the rest of PJA's student body – took it upon themselves to bridge that last divide.

"Can we go get shovels and get the sand into the Gaga Ball pit?" 12-year-old Kayla Hilbert recalled students asking. "You'd see like first graders trying to help, you'd see middle schoolers trying to help, everybody wanted the Gaga pit to be like ready to play in before the end of the school year."

"You saw kids using big shovels, little shovels, buckets, whatever they could find," Sparrow added. "There were like 10 kids at a time from all ages, just sort of trying to fill it as fast as they could, but it took a long time."

What started as a leadership class project morphed into a full-school mission, one that was fulfilled last Monday when the pit was officially opened.

The result? More Gaga, more fun, and a new sense of inter-age connection among PJA's students.

"I hadn't really seen like elementary schoolers and middle schoolers playing together, unless it was through like maybe a buddy program," 12-year-old Noa Richmond said. "Now we just play together in the gaga ball pit; everyone is just doing it. Older kids are cheering on the younger kids, and they know their names."

OJCF to honor Jonathan Singer at June 15 annual meeting

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation will host its 2026 Annual Celebration and Meeting on Monday, June 15, at 5:30 PM at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. The event will bring together donors, trustees, nonprofit partners, and community members to reflect on a year of meaningful giving, and to celebrate one of the Foundation's most dedicated volunteer leaders. Light nosh and re-

freshments will be served, and all are encouraged to register and attend.

A highlight of this year's Annual Meeting will be the recognition of Jonathan Singer as the Julie Diamond Z"l Legacy Society honoree. A fifth-generation Portlander with deep roots in the community, Jonathan joined the OJCF board of trustees in 2015 and went on to serve as Chair-elect, Chair, and Chair Emeritus between 2021 and 2025.

This year's Annual Meeting will be a tribute to the power of sustained, values-driven service. Jonathan's story embodies what OJCF stands for, the idea that when individuals commit themselves to community, the impact endures for generations.

Join OJCF on June 15 to celebrate Jonathan's legacy, hear about the Foundation's work over the past year, and look ahead to the future together Register online at tinyurl.com/OJCF2026.

Jewish National Fund hosts Special In Uniform for services June 13

Jewish National Fund-USA

Join Israel Defense Forces Lt. Col. Tiran Attia for Shabbat morning services and an opportunity to learn about Special in Uniform Saturday, June 13, at 9:45 am in Portland.

Jewish National Fund-USA, through a partnership with Special in Uniform, gives individuals with disabilities the chance to train and serve in the IDF, ensuring that Israel remains

strong, organized, and ready. After contributing to Israel's defense effort, graduates of the program prepare to integrate into the workforce and society.

This transformative program integrates young adults with disabilities into the IDF, helping them develop social skills, everyday life skills, and practical job skills. Each participant undergoes a personalized assessment to determine his or her abilities,

followed by a three-month life skills and job training course. After military training, they are placed on IDF bases.

Their roles are as diverse as their talents—from assisting with IDF intelligence to working in print services to supporting the Iron Dome program. Some live part-time in community homes, learning independence while their families participate in workshops to support this

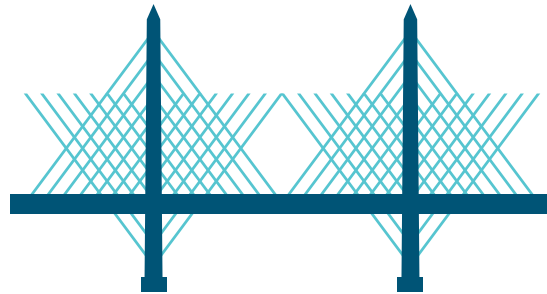
growth.

Special in Uniform is a shining example of Jewish National Fund-USA's Circle of Impact. By empowering people of all abilities, we don't just create opportunity—we build a more resilient, unified Israel. We're building a society where every individual, regardless of ability, can proudly serve, thrive, and belong.

For more information or to RSVP, email skorin@jnf.org.



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Editor

Rockne Roll

editor@jewishportland.org

Associate Editor

Rachel Nelson

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date **Deadline**

JUNE 11 **JUNE 8**

Security Corner

Security in action in Ashland

By JESSICA ANDERSON

Last weekend I traveled to Ashland to visit the Jewish community there and attend a bias response workshop. Ashland can feel quite far away, but I was reminded that it's an easy 4.5-hour drive with a good audiobook playing. I traveled there a couple of years ago to do community training (Ashland has two synagogues and a Chabad), and I recall a turnout of about 25 people; a solid number. Of course, it was great to meet community leaders and members. This most recent trip came at the invitation of the Southern Oregon Jewish Community Coalition, a group representing all three Ashland organizations, which was hosting A Day of Action Against Antisemitism: From Awareness to Action - Responding to Antisemitism in the Rogue Valley and Beyond. This workshop was funded in large part with funds from the JFGP Security Grant. This workshop would not have happened without that support, and the community was very grateful for the funding.

I'll pause here to say that I've decided to make this column into two parts, and this is Part One. This part is the who-what-where of the workshop. My next column will be lessons learned, as I know many people have an interest in the topic and a desire to be more comfortable responding to bias.

The SOJCC community is also a formal Kulanu group. Kulanu is a Hebrew word meaning "all of us;" as a formal organization, it seeks to unite disparate Jews, and



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.

as an ADL program, its goal is antisemitism work. The group has had successes within Ashland politics and is looking to expand those efforts across the valley. Last July, an Ashland community member reached out to me to see if I knew of any group that could do a workshop on responding to antisemitism. The Kulanu group had drawn over 60 people at a recent event discussing rising bias, how it's changed how people are feeling in the past couple of years, and people were eager to learn how to respond – how to avoid that deer-in-the-headlights feeling when someone says something offensive to you. Maybe it's from a stranger, maybe from your best friend.

I put them in touch with a local organization that put them in touch with Marc Weinblatt, from Mandala Center for Change in Port Townsend, Wash. Marc and his wife, Zhaleh Almaee, ultimately traveled to Ashland to bring this workshop to life. The topic was so important for people that 50 people gave up a full sunny Sunday to come learn more. Marc's mother was a survivor of the Holo-

caust, and Zhaleh is an Iranian American who learned in her 20s that her mother was Jewish. Their work is deeply rooted in exploring racism, understanding its impact, and navigating the response process. The most important goal was that people would come away with "tools in the toolbox". No one wanted to sit for a day being lectured about how to respond. It needed to be a full-contact, participatory event. They wanted people to walk away feeling empowered and a little more confident in the knowledge that they could respond to bias with something other than a frozen look, a stammer, or the feeling two hours later when you come up with the perfect response. That was the minimum goal. That participants also came away hopeful, more connected, and joyous about being Jewish was icing on the cake.

Next time I'll dig in more to how the day unfolded, strategies we learned and practiced, and hopefully you'll walk away with some ideas of your own as well. Learn more about the Mandala Center at mandalaforchange.com.

Community Youth Foundation to host informational Zoom meeting June 11

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation
The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, a student-led grantmaking program of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, is now accepting applications for the 2026–2027 cohort. OJCYF brings together Jewish high school students from across Oregon and SW Washington, monthly throughout the school year, to explore social

issues, build community, and make real funding decisions.

Participants also plan and lead a community-wide benefit dinner, taking on roles in event planning, fundraising, and public speaking, including leading a “Mitzvah Moment” from the stage.

Students in grades 9–12 are invited to apply. Learn more and apply at ojcf.org/ojcyf.

Priority consideration is given to applications submitted by June 16.

An optional Zoom information session for interested students and parents will be held on June 11 at 7 PM. This is an opportunity to learn more about the program and ask questions.

For more information, contact Susan Berniker at susan@ojcf.org or 503.974.3805.

June 4 marks annual Holocaust Survivor Day

Jewish Family & Child Service

June 4 is celebrated as Holocaust Survivor Day, an initiative launched by the JCC in Krakow, Poland. International Holocaust Survivor Day recognizes the bravery, resilience, and strength of the approximately 196,600 Holocaust survivors still living today. It is the responsibility of younger generations not only to ensure that their pasts are never forgotten, but also to support and address the needs they face today.

On Holocaust Survivor Day, we join together to honor and celebrate the Holocaust Survivors across the United States. This worldwide initiative is rooted in gratitude for the gift of our Survivors’ legacies and in recognition of their lives, families, and contributions to our communities.

“As Jews around the world feel the increase of antisemitism, our survivors are a reminder of the strength and resilience of our people,” said Jonathan Ornstein, Executive Director, JCC Krakow. “Let us renew our efforts to thank them, honor them, and learn from them at a time when their courageous voices are needed most.”

JCC Krakow, Seed the Dream Foundation, World

Zionist Organization, Jewish Federations of North America, and UJA New York, have been leading the international effort to highlight the voices and legacies of living Holocaust Survivors. The special day spotlights Survivors not only as witnesses to history, but as bearers of wisdom whose lives continue to guide communities today.

“The Holocaust Survivors still among us carry history in the most personal and powerful way. They have transformed pain into perseverance, loss into legacy, and survival into generations of life,” said Marcy Gringlas, President and co-founder of Seed the Dream Foundation. “On this day, we celebrate them and learn from their courage and grace: from what they endured and the extraordinary life and meaning they moved forward to create.”

“On Holocaust Survivor Day, we have the profound privilege to honor and celebrate the Survivors still among us, remarkable individuals whose strength and humanity continue to inspire us every day,” said Talia Kaplan, Executive Director of Seed the Dream Foundation. “This day is an opportunity to express our gratitude, listen to their stories, and celebrate the enduring legacy

they have built.”

In 2019, Seed the Dream Foundation partnered with KAVOD to establish the KAVOD Survivors of the Holocaust Emergency Fund (SHEF) to address the unmet emergency needs of Survivors. At that time, it was estimated that one-third of the 100,000 Survivors across the US were living in poverty.

This year, Holocaust Survivor Day events are taking place in 32 KAVOD SHEF communities across the United States, bringing together Survivors, families, caregivers, and community members in solidarity and celebration.

“Holocaust Survivor Day is a day to lift up the Survivors still with us and to recognize the dignity, wisdom, and resilience they embody,” said Amy Israel Pregulman, Executive Director and Co-Founder of KAVOD. “When we fund services for Holocaust Survivors, we are caring for treasured members of our community and reinforcing the values we want that community to stand for.”

“Holocaust Survivor Day is a celebration of extraordinary strength,” said Shelley Rood Wernick, Associate Vice President of Jewish Federations of North America’s Center on Aging, Trauma, and Holocaust Survivor

Care. “Survivors rebuilt their lives from unimaginable loss and gifted the world with hope, wisdom, and moral clarity. Our task is to honor that legacy by ensuring every survivor feels valued and is cared for, today and every day.”

Locally, Jewish Family & Child Service (JFCS) of Portland hosted a special luncheon honoring Holocaust Survivors on June 3 at the MJCC. Nearly 50 local Holocaust Survivors and their families attended JFCS’ annual luncheon, which included a display of memoirs, paintings, photographs, poetry, and other reflections contributed by Holocaust Survivors in the Portland community. Throughout the year, the OJMCHE Speakers’ Bureau also provides Holocaust education to students, teachers, and community members.

“On Holocaust Survivor Day and every day, JFCS honors the local Holocaust Survivors who continue to enrich our community through their creativity, wisdom, leadership, and resilience. We are privileged to learn from them, celebrate their contributions, and ensure their stories and experiences remain part of our shared community life,” said Susan Greenberg, Executive Director of JFCS.

Events

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

June 4: JFCS Community Connection

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

June 4: Art/Lab Fellowship Cohort Exhibition - Live Performance and New Written Works

Exhibition opening and performance at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 6:30 pm. More information at events.humanitix.com/art-lab-fellowship-cohort-exhibition-live-performance-new-written-works.

June 6: Intro to Biblical Hebrew

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

June 6: Women's Torah Study

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

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June 6: Sephardic Foundations

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

June 6: Kommuna Lux - Ukrainian Urban Folk

Ukraine benefit concert at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7:30 pm. Tickets at events.humanitix.com/kommuna-lux-ukrainian-klezmer-band.

June 7: Krav Maga Introductory Course

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

June 7: Wee Kol Ami

Pre-K playgroup at Congregation Kol Ami at 10 am. For more information, visit suemeyer.wufoo.com/forms/m1fmfvb61bbz39e/

June 7: OJMCHÉ Free First Sunday

Free entry to the Oregon

Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education from 11 am-4 pm. More information at ojmche.org.

June 7: Portland Jewish Writers Circle

Writers group meeting at 2 pm. For more information, email Ben2schubert@icloud.com

June 7: Jewish Community Orchestra

Concert at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 3 pm. More information and tickets at jewishcommunityorchestra.org/wordpress.

June 7: CNS Men's Club Charity Poker Tournament

Poker and blackjack tournament at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 4 pm. More information at members.nevehshalom.org/form/mens-club-poker-tournament-2026.

June 7: Jon Fisch Stand-Up Comedy

Comedy performance at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7 pm. Tickets at events.humanitix.com/jon-fisch-stand-up-comedy.

humanitix.com/jon-fisch-stand-up-comedy.

June 9: Caregiver Support Panel and Resource Forum

Community event co-sponsored by Jewish Family & Child Service at the Beaverton City Library at 2 pm. More information at jfcs-portland.org/caregiver-support-panel.

June 9: Women's Kabbalah Class with Mimi Wilhelm

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

June 9: Jerusalem Sound - Portland Night

Zamru Ensemble performance and workshop at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 8 pm. More information at events.humanitix.com/zamru-or-jerusalem-sound-portland-night.

Obituaries

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

ALLAN LIPTON

Congregation Neveh Shalom is saddened to share the passing of Allan Lipton, z"l, who died at the age of 87 on Monday, June 1.

Allan is survived and lovingly remembered by his spouse, Nan Lipton, and sibling, Serena (Frank z"l) Kafker. He also leaves behind his cherished children, Samuel Yamin (Ann Schattenberg), Sarah Jan Lipton (Devan Kansagara); his nephews Scott and Roger Kafker; and his grandchildren: Saul Templeton, Simone Templeton, Shoshana Ruth Kansagara, and Rafael Devan Kansagara.

The funeral was held Wednesday, June 3, at Ahavai Shalom Cemetery. The family invites those who wish to honor Allan's memory to make a contribution to the Food Pantry Donation Fund.

DICK MAIZELS

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Dick Maizels, z"l, who passed away on May 31, 2026 at the age of 87.

Dick is survived by his wife of 66 years, Harriet, his two children, Terri Levine (Perry) and Linda Maizels (Ayal), his nieces Robyn Spring (Harley) and Cynthia Fram (Howard), and an "adopted" son, Guy Gibson (Liz). Grandchildren include Melanie Koch, Ashley Parnau, Aaron Levine, Isaac Levine, Sam Gibson, and Lucy Gibson. He is also survived by his sister, Barbara Coe (Ron) and his brother-in-law, Phil Nudelman.

Dick is preceded in death by his brother, Robert Maizels, z"l, his sister, Sandra Nudelman, z"l, his brother- and sister-in-law, Dan and Leslie Gold, z"l, and his parents, Albert and Edith Maizels, z"l.

There will be a funeral on Sunday, June 7 at 11 am at Beth Israel Cemetery. The service will also be available on Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/87857707648. Donations in Dick's memory can be made to The Richard & Harriet Maizels Scholarship at Lewis & Clark Law School, Congregation Beth Israel and BB360.