

THE JEWISH REVIEW

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Pride on parade

Dozens of Jewish community members march together behind the Jewish Pride Greater PDX banner at the 2026 Portland Pride Parade Sunday, July 19. See more images from this year's celebration on pages 4-5. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Pathways applications to open Wednesday, July 29

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

This year's Pathways cohort, the eighth cycle of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's next-gen mentoring program, wrapped up its 10-month run in June and preparations are already underway for the ninth cohort.

The 10-month run was the longest in the program's history; a conscious change, JFGP Associate Campaign and Engagement Director Laura Jeser explained.

"Last year, the biggest feedback we got was that it was too short," she said. "They wanted more, so we gave everyone more."

The group first gathered for an introductory event at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education in September, then gathered again in Jeser's sukkah in October. The

full cohort met monthly, with smaller groups of participants, mentors and "next-gen mentors," many of them former program participants, met separately throughout the year.

The longer format, Jeser said, "made space for more connectivity within the smaller mentor groups. But more so, I think it just allowed us to do more programming."

Part of that programming was a DISC Assessment led by Pathways Mentor and former Portland State University Business Professor Alan Cabelly.

"It's a behavioral assessment of our preferences. 'How do I do things? What's my behavior in different situations?'" Cabelly explained. "What it does is it helps me to understand you. It helps you to understand me. so that we can do a better job communicating."

Cabelly was paired with next-gen mentor Abbie Barash; a perfect match, Cabelly thought.

Abbie knows the Jewish community inside out. From the beginning, she knew how to support our proteges with what they needed Judaically," he said. "Having taught in schools of business for more than 50 years, I know the mentoring, I know the careers, I know the leadership, I know the career search piece. That's my thing."

Noah Rosenberg, the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation's Director of Nonprofit Impact, served as a next-gen mentor for the second time this year, paired with KGW-TV President and General Manager Greg Retsinas.

"We had a great dynamic in our group

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Foundation School joins Preschool for All program

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

Congregation Neveh Shalom's Foundation School program recently announced that they have been accepted to Multnomah County's Preschool for All program of free-for-families early childhood education for 3- and 4-year olds.

"It ensures longevity, opens us up to opportunities. It encourages staff to continue education. There's just a lot of really good things about it," Neveh Shalom Executive Director Marlene Edenzon said. "They've been doing this with churches for a very long time, and It was time for us to take advantage of opportunities for our community."

Preschool for All, which was approved by voters in a 2020 referendum, is planning to offer no-cost preschool to all families in the county by 2030. Foundation School will contribute up to 30 spots to that goal, a boon for the 24 families that Edenzon estimated are eligible for PFA and already enrolled in Foundation School. For other families, Jewish or otherwise, Edenzon is proud of what Neveh Shalom is able to offer.

"The folks who choose to be part of our program, I would say that there are a few things that they look at. Number one, they like our security and our safety. Number two, we run a really phenomenal preschool," she said.

The process to join up was straightforward, Foundation School Director Candace Rothstein said, "but it did take us a while to decide to do it because we wanted to make sure that we could retain the Jewishness of our preschool while still being a part of this incredible community program."

It's an opportunity, as the county proclaims, "for all," but is a unique chance for Jewish families who encounter financial barriers to early childhood education.

Foundation School's participation in PFA, Rothstein explained, "makes it so that a Jewish education, which would have been prohibitively costly for a lot of families, is now accessible in a way that it never was before. I think that's the most important and powerful part of this program, that we can serve the community."

Multnomah County residents can apply for Preschool for All at multco.us/programs/preschool-all.



PDX Pathways participants join in a Krav Maga class during one of the next-gen mentoring cohort's monthly sessions this winter. (Laura Jeser/The Jewish Review)

PATHWAYS (continued from page 1)

this year," Rosenberg said. "Creating that environment where we really gave the mentees an opportunity to connect with the Jewish community outside of their work, that was that was like a really big part of our group this year."

One of those mentees was Elliot Cherkas.

"I was looking to invest in myself in terms of leadership skills and community and team building," Cherkas said of what drew him to Pathways. "The experience was really positive. I had an incredible time kind of meeting different people, and I would say actually one of my closest friends here in Portland came specifically from this."

Cherkas recommended the program strongly.

"I took away a lot of community from it, but also I grew as a leader," he said. "I think no matter what a person is looking for, as long as it's kind of in that realm, there's a lot to gain from this program."

In addition to the Sukkot gathering and assessment with Cabally, the full cohort participated in a Krav Maga class, a Community Education Evening where Jewish community groups presented their work and Federation staff made "Shark Tank" style pitches for community connection with their work, and an event with Enlightened Philanthropy's Deborah Goldstein.

"I think people inherently get involved

in this program because they want to be a part of community, like finding friends and finding their connectors. but inherently because they have this drive to be involved in the greater Jewish community," Jeser said.

The payoffs are already showing up.

"We had a mentee who, with his mentor's help, got a new job," Jeser explained. "Another mentee, the trajectory of her life has changed; where she's sending her kids to school and what she's getting involved with and who she's connecting with."

"You can meet someone you wouldn't have otherwise met who maybe has like a complementary skill set to like a business idea or just like having that connection to have that creativity come together," Rosenberg said. "I think this is an ideal place in the Jewish community for that to happen for young professionals in Portland."

Applications for the ninth cohort open this coming Wednesday, July 29, until Wednesday, Aug. 26. The kickoff event is set for Oct. 21.

"What Pathways is doing is building community," Cabally said. "What we've seen is that in the few short years that Laura's been doing this is that the people who have been through the program are building something."

For more information, visit jewish-portland.org/ourcommunity/young-adults/pdx-pathways.

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A picture of Pride



Portland Jews show up, show off at Portland Pride for ninth year



Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Representatives from the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, BB360, Cedar Sinai Park, Congregations Beth Israel, Neveh Shalom and Shir Tikvah, the East-side Jewish Commons, Jewish Family & Child Service, P'nai Or of Portland and Portland Jewish Academy were among the throng of participants at Jewish Pride Greater PDX's ninth participation in the annual Portland Pride Parade held Sunday, July 19 in Downtown Portland.



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Schechter retreat, Malka Diamonds pendant celebrate Mahjong's popularity in Jewish life

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Mahjong is having its moment.

Originally invented in China, mahjong was imported to the United States and adapted into its current format by primarily Jewish women in New York. Today, the game is having a post-COVID renaissance as a social pastime, with the designs of its distinctive tiles seeping into popular culture.

"There was all of a sudden a new surge of interest in Mahjong," Mahjong aficionado and Malka Diamonds co-owner Ronnie Malka explained, "and new tiles were being made."

Malka's firm has also made its own tile, though not one for use in game play. Meanwhile, another organization near to Malka's heart, Camp Solomon Schechter, is putting on a weekend devoted to Mahjong this Labor Day weekend.

Melissa Matterazzo is the Portland chair for Mahj & More, hosted at the camp in Tumwater Washington Friday, Sept. 4 through Monday, Sept. 7. Her mahjong journey started in childhood but got into high gear through her friendship with fellow co-chair Jane Rosenstein.

"She lives up on Mercer Island, and we get together once every couple months," Matterazzo explained. "She is an avid player, and she really got me up and running. Every couple months when we got together, we would play and we have a couple friends that we play with."

Another of the co-chairs, Marilyn Corets, spawned the idea and recruited Matterazzo and others.



The MALKA X MAHJ pendant, shown here, takes its inspiration from Mahjong's One Bamboo tile, which traditionally depicts the sparrow that the game's name translates to. (Courtesy Malka Diamonds)

zo and others.

"It was her brainchild," Matterazzo said, "and she sort of handpicked some folks from the various cities up and down the West Coast, and off we went."

The weekend is geared for both experienced players and newcomers to the game; Matterazzo said that an environment like this, where sustained play over a number of days is available, is an excellent environment to learn the game.

"To have that intensive three days of opportunity to get your basics down and then build enough momentum and skill to get enough play in that you can sort of solidifies the concepts and

the hands in your head, it's a rare opportunity," she added. "That was sort of Marilyn's thinking behind this whole thing."

There's also the usual host of other camp activities for those who need a break or aren't much for mahjong. All that, and kosher meals, are included in the registration fee. Guests are encouraged to bring their National Mah Jongg League 2026 Playing Card, which lays out the game's annually changing structures, as well as their own tile sets.

The tile Malka's firm has produced doesn't go with any set. In celebration of the game, Malka Diamonds has produced the MALKA X

MAHJ collection based the game's classic One Bamboo tile, which by tradition depicts a sparrow, the translation of the game's name in Chinese.

"That tile just really is a special one for everyone. There's something about it that centers the game," Malka said. "I took a One Bam[boo] from an old 1920s or 1930s set and used that as my inspiration and made a pendant."

The pendant is available in sterling silver, gold-plated and in solid 14-karat gold. It's being featured in *Mahj Magazine* and in an upcoming coffee table book, "Why We Mahjong." A silver pendant will be raffled off at Mahj & More. Those who can't wait can purchase online using code "CSSMahj" at checkout to get 10 percent off and direct 40 percent of proceeds to Camp Solomon Schechter.

Malka has taught her husband, Dave, her father and a few friends the game. It's an integral part of her family's life.

"My dad plays on the app every day, and it keeps him nice and sharp. It's got so much good to it," she said. Dave and I play almost every night after work. Instead of sitting and watching TV, we play Mahjong. He's really good at it. Our girls play, and they've taught their boyfriends, and they come over and play."

The MALKA X MAHJ collection is available online at malkadiamonds.com/collections/malka-x-mahj. More information and registration for Schechter's Mahj & More weekend is available at campschechter.org/mahj.

Men's Camp tees off for a cause



On July 13, golfers, donors, and friends came together for B'nai Brith Men's Camp 2026 "Send a Kid to Camp" Golf Tournament. Thanks to the generosity of our presenting sponsor Menashe Properties- Barry, Jordan, and Lauren Menashe- and our community, the event raised more than \$150,000 to support BB Camp scholarships, helping ensure that more children can experience heritage, joy, and friendship. Thank you to our co-chairs, Jon Cohen and Loren Koplan, and their fantastic committee for their volunteerism. (Noa Rubin/BB360)

Avsker's classical festival launches this August

The Classical Northwest

The Classical Northwest, a new community-focused classical music festival, will launch this summer in the Portland area. This festival was brought to life by Amir Avsker, a young, home-grown musician and current music major at UO. Its mission is to empower young musicians through side-by-side collaboration with professional artists in orchestral and chamber music settings, fostering artistic growth for emerging artists while creating exceptional concert experiences for Portland audiences.

With orchestral performances Sunday, Aug. 2, Wednesday, Aug. 5 and Saturday, Aug. 8, in Beaverton and Portland, the festival will also include a variety of

masterclasses and chamber music events, celebrating Portland's distinguished educators and rising stars in classical music. More than 60 musicians, ranging from youth ensembles and community orchestras to established professional artists, will take part in the performances.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to partner with such esteemed organizations as Fear No Music, All Classical Radio, and the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. Portland is a great place to be a young musician," said Amir Avsker, The Classical Northwest founder and music director.

For its inaugural year, The Classical Northwest Festival has announced an orchestral program featuring corner-

stone works such as Elgar's cello concerto, Beethoven's fifth symphony, and Haydn's "Farewell" symphony. The festival presents the North American premiere of *Compulsión*, a symphonic suite for winds by the rising Costa Rican composer Sergio Delgado.

"The Classical Northwest is a wonderful opportunity for local young musicians to rehearse and perform alongside world-class local professionals. At MYS, we are proud of recent graduate Amir Avsker for launching and directing this initiative. "I personally look forward to participating as a violist in the orchestra," said Raúl Gómez-Rojas, Metropolitan Youth Symphony music director.

"I'm delighted to be part

of the launch concert of The Classical Northwest Festival Orchestra. I believe this festival will help encourage young musicians and contribute to the future of our musical community. I'm looking forward to seeing how it grows in the years to come," said Aromi Park, violinist, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra concertmaster.

The inaugural festival is presented with support and partnership from organizations including Fear No Music and the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, and Media Sponsor All Classical Radio. Details about The Classical Northwest Music Festival including event details, programs, musicians, and event tickets are available at theclassicalnorthwest.org.

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

JULY 30 JULY 27

Guest Column

This Tisha B'Av, think of what's to come

By SIMI MISHULOVIN

As we approach Tisha B'Av, healing the world and Jewish unity feel more urgent and more possible than ever. The return of the Jewish people to Israel no longer feels like a distant dream.

So why insist that rebuilding the Third Temple in Jerusalem must be part of that future? From the outside, it looks like the least practical step for peace.

The deeper idea is that the Temple is not just one more item on the list. It is the key that unlocks everything else.

The classic understanding is this: When the time comes for the world to be healed, the Temple must be built first. Not because moving stones on the Temple Mount forces redemption, but because the Temple is what makes the next steps possible.

What is so unique about that spot?

It is described as the gateway between heaven and earth. Jacob called it "the gateway to heaven" when he dreamed there. It is the foundation point of creation - the one place where the infinite

and the finite meet without canceling each other out. The Holy of Holies embodied that: a space that measured 20 cubits across, with an Ark in the middle that, we are taught, took up no space. Space and non-space co-existed.

The Temple acts as an amplifier. It takes that truth - that this physical world is not separate from G-d - and broadcasts it.

The First Temple was built with a light from Above shining down. The world was passive, and it did not last. The Second Temple was built by our efforts from below, but that light was hidden.

The Third Temple will be different because it will be built through our efforts. Two thousand years of mitzvos, of holding onto Jewish life in every corner of the world, of choosing unity over division and purpose over despair - all of that work is what purifies the world and prepares it.

We are not waiting for a miracle to build it. Our work is what builds it.

When that effort culminates and the Third Temple stands, it won't be a revelation forced upon the world. The world itself will finally recognize its own purpose. Humanity's perception will shift. What seems impossible today - world peace, true unity - will seem obvious.

And then the world itself will bring us home. As the prophet Isaiah says, G-d will tell the North, South, East and West to give back His children. No campaigns or conflicts needed. A healed world naturally returns the souls who healed it.

This Tisha B'Av, as we mourn what was lost, the focus is not only on what we are missing, but on what our continued effort is actively building: a home that will allow the entire world to finally feel at home.

Simi Mishulovin is Co-Director of The Jewish Oasis in Portland.

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Fashionable fundraising

Cedar Sinai Park Administrator Jon Wirtis, top left, presents a \$1,000 check to the Cedar Sinai Park Residents' Council at their Wednesday, July 15 meeting at Rose Schnitzer Manor. The funds, raised from June's Summer Fashion Show, will support improvements to the resident library. (Naomi Leavitt/Cedar Sinai Park)

Events

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

July 23: Tisha B'Av Services

Services at Chabad Southwest Portland at 1:15 pm and 7:30 pm. For more information, email shalom@jportland.com.

July 25: Women's Torah Study

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

July 25: Sephardic Foundations

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

July 26: Hike and Lunch at Mt. Tabor

Social hike at Mt. Tabor Park at 10 am, presented by Portland Jewish Connection. Registration at zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/mt-tabor-hike-and-nosh-sunday--72626.

July 26: Finding Story - The Meaning of Things

Writing workshop at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 11 am, presented by Art/Lab. More information at events.humanitix.com/finding-story-the-meaning-of-things.

July 28 – Aug. 9: The Classical Northwest

See story, page 7.

July 29: Israeli Folk Dancing for Beginners

Weekly class at the Multnomah Arts Center in Southwest Portland at 7:15 pm. More information at sites.google.com/site/pifdnews.

Aug. 2: PJC at North Portland Parkways

Young adult event at McCoy Park Fountain at 10:45 am. RSVP at form.jotform.com/222346266860155.

Aug. 2: Free First Sunday

Free admission to the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education from 11 am-4 pm. More information at OJMCHE.org.

Aug. 2: What Does It Mean to Be American?

Community conversation

at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education at 2 pm, co-sponsored by Oregon Humanities. More information at ojmche.org.

Aug. 2: Portland Jewish Writers Circle

Monthly writers group at 2 pm. For more information, email benschubert@icloud.com.

Aug. 2: Israel on Trial

Book talk from Judge Roy Altman at 4 pm, co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Congregation Neveh Shalom Israel360 and Stand-WithUs Northwest. More information at members.nevehshalom.org/form/israel360-SwU-Altman-registration-2026.html.

Jewish Jobs

Check out the latest Jewish community jobs opportunities online at jewishportland.org/ourcommunity/jewish-jobs

GEORGE FENDEL

Congregation Neveh Shalom is saddened to share the passing of longtime congregant and friend to many members, George Fendel z"l, who died Thursday, July 16, at age 83.

An aficionado of jazz and the Great American Songbook, he met Ira Gershwin and interviewed many jazz musicians. He had a collection of CDs and records in the thousands and hosted jazz radio programs for OPB, KMHD, and KKUL for 28 years. George played piano for several restaurants: The MAC Club, Sally's, and others. For 11 years, he produced Jazz Piano concerts at Classic Pianos and was the president of the Jazz Society of Oregon. He played piano for many events at Neveh Shalom, weddings, celebrations, and simchas, also at The Rose Schnitzer Manor. George was very connected to Camp Solomon Schechter and was a beloved counselor. He also wrote jazz CD reviews for several publications, and for his own website, highstandardsjazz.org.

The highlight of his life was raising his three children: Marc Fendel (Jayne Simmons) of West Seattle; Aliza Zeff (Rabbi Todd Zeff) of Jerusalem and Reyna Zack (Jeffrey Zack) of Los Angeles; and rejoicing in six grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings, Bette Lynn Menashe (Albert L. Menashe) and Michael Rick Fendel. He and Laurie were-married for 58 glorious years.

The memorial service was Sunday, July 19, at Neveh Shalom. Donations in George's memory can be made to the CNS Gladys & Joseph Fendel Camp Fund, the CNS Feldstein Library Fund, or a check can be made in memory of George Fendel to Patrick Springer Presents Piano Concerts and sent to Laura Fendel.

SONDRA PEARLMAN

Congregation Neveh Shalom is saddened to share the passing of Sondra Pearlman, z"l, who passed away as Shabbat arrived on Friday, July 17, 2026.

Sondra was dedicated to gathering family and friends together whenever possible. She was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer over 17 years ago and vowed to survive. In 2012, she had a brain metastasis and received full-brain radiation. The cancer never returned, and though she slowly declined due to effects from the radiation, she was the ultimate in mind over matter and continued with many trips to Mexico and around the world. She was steadfast in being here to celebrate Gordon's 80th birthday in 2022 and their 60th anniversary in August 2023 with the wedding reception they never had, where she surprised all with an impassioned speech about family and friends. Her last trip was just before that, when she traveled to Arkansas to walk her nephew, Chuck Mills, down the aisle. Sondra was the founder of Oregon Children's Theatre and served as the Executive Director from 1988 to 2004. As her star on the sidewalk outside the Newmark Theatre in downtown Portland proclaims, she brought "Children's Theatre to Millions." In 2003, Sondra was awarded the Oregon Governor's Arts Award by Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

Born on August 28, 1944, in Minneapolis, MN, Sondra lost her mom, Laura, as an infant and grew up with her father, Irving Mills, stepmom, Marge Kronick, and brother, Jeff Mills

(Marcia), who have all left us. She and Gordon married two weeks after her 19th birthday and lived in New Orleans and North Carolina before fate carried them to Portland due to a great story around Gordon's involvement with A Chorus Line's move to Broadway.

Sondra is survived by her loving husband of nearly 63 years, Gordon, her sons, Mark and Aaron, her daughters-in-law, Tracey Rogers and Sacha Reich, her grandchildren, Lev, Ravit, and Elliot/Em, and many cousins, nieces, nephews, others who called her "mom", and much adopted "family" in Portland.

Sondra was also a huge music fan, attending hundreds of concerts and always dancing and singing along. She lived the dream of her favorite James Taylor song – "The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time."

A service was held Tuesday, July 21, at Havurah Shalom in Portland. Donations can be made in her memory to the Sondra Pearlman Memorial Fund at Oregon Children's Theatre.

ALAN SPRINTS

Beloved husband, father, brother and visionary brewer Alan Sprints, z"l, passed away Sunday, July 19, following a difficult battle with bladder cancer. He was 66 years old.

Alan was born on Sept. 7, 1959, in Culver City, Calif., to Lila Entis, z"l, and Martin Sprints, z"l. In 1988, following his passion for the culinary arts, Alan relocated to Portland, Oregon, to attend the Western Culinary Institute. After honing his craft for several years in the food and beverage industry, Alan took a bold leap in 1993 by founding the Hair of the Dog Brewing Company. Over the next three decades, he built a legendary business celebrated by beer enthusiasts worldwide. Alan was a true pioneer in the American craft brewing movement, introducing an old-world approach to beer making and creating uniquely complex, barrel-aged, and high-gravity beers that challenged and redefined the industry.

Beyond the brewery, Alan was a man of diverse talents and boundless curiosity. He was an avid gardener, a skilled stained-glass artist, a ceramicist, and a tinkerer extraordinaire who found joy in creating things with his hands and nurturing the world around him. Alan's greatest devotion was to his family. He is survived by his beloved wife of 36 years, Eliana Temkin, and their three sons, Elijah, Isaac, and Gabriel Sprints. He also leaves behind his sister, Wendy Sprints (Dan Kaempff); sister-in-law, Dina Temkin (Dominic Green); in-laws Dvora Temkin and Howard Temkin, aunt and uncle, Judie and Michael Rickus; step-motherstep-mother, Madeline Sprints as well as a close-knit circle of nieces, cousins, extended family, and lifelong friends.

A private burial service was held this morning. The family will be holding shiva minyans at their home Thursday, July 23, Monday, July 27, and Tuesday, July 28. The home will open at 6:30 pm, with Minyan at 7:30pm. Friends of Alan and Eliana are welcome to visit Sunday, July 26 from 1-5 pm. Please contact Shiva Coordinator Sharon Pollin with questions and offers of help at 503.781.0483 or spollin@gmail.com. Donations may be made in Alan's memory to New Avenues for Youth, an organization close to his heart.