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Nearly 4,000 flock to Jewish Festival



Above: Hip-hop artists Nissim Black, left, and Kosha Dillz perform together overlooking Tillikum Crossing Bridge at the inaugural Portland Jewish Festival Sunday, Aug. 30 at Zidell Yards in South Portland. Presented by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, the all-day celebration of Jewish life and culture played host to a diverse line-up of musical artists as well as scores of art vendors, Jewish organizations, and activities for all ages. Left: Families head into the Zidell Yards Barge Building to see the array of booths along with Israeli Folk Dancing and the Oracolor wheel. See more of photographer Rockne Roll's images from the day on pages 4-7. (Rockne Roll/ The Jewish Review)

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CBI, CNS host historic joint Shabbat service

By **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

Members of Congregations Beth Israel and Neveh Shalom had a unique experience as they filed into Kabbalat Shabbat service the evening of Friday, Aug. 28.

The congregants of Portland's two largest synagogues filed into the same space.

Nearly 400 of them in total assembled on Neveh Shalom's Holzman Plaza for the first joint service in either synagogue's long history.

"It's pretty amazing to think that this has never happened before, that we never had a [joint] Shabbat service," Beth Israel Senior Rabbi Designate Rabbi Rachel Joseph said. "I think it really hit us on Friday night, the gravity of the moment and this glimpse of the future, of the possibilities of our congregations working more closely together."

At the center of the proceedings was Rick Recht, the Jewish music pioneer and founder of Songleader Boot Camp. His presence in Portland for the Portland Jewish Festival, held two days later, was the catalyst for the proceedings.

"[Jewish Federation of Greater Portland President and CEO] Marc Blattner reached out to us, I think it was in February after Rick Recht confirmed that he was coming to the Jewish Festival. Marc said, 'He's here for Shabbat. He's willing to do a service. Do either of your synagogues want to have him?'" Neveh Shalom Senior Rabbi Eve Posen recalled. "So instead of one of us getting it over the other, we said, 'What if we did this together?'"

Rabbi Posen explained that she and Rabbi Joseph have



In this selfie, Rabbi Rachel Joseph of Congregation Beth Israel, left, and Rabbi Eve Posen of Congregation Neveh Shalom pose before a packed Holzman Plaza on the Neveh Shalom campus just before candle-lighting at the congregation's joint Kabbalat Shabbat service Friday, Aug. 28. (Courtesy Rabbi Rachel Joseph)

known each other since Rabbi Posen arrived in Portland a year after Rabbi Joseph joined Beth Israel, and have been regularly searching for opportunities to bring their congregations together; she continued to say that their synagogue's executive directors, Josh Kashinsky at Beth Israel and Marlene Edenzon at Neveh Shalom, shared the vision that brought the service to fruition.

Recht was instrumental in the planning of the service itself, combining the liturgy of the Conservative and Reform movements and his own musical stylings, well known to almost anyone who has attended Jewish summer camp in North America in the last couple decades.

"Rick asked for each of us to share the order of service that we normally do on a Friday night," Rabbi Posen said, "and then we came together on a Zoom for a sort of give and take which things we had to keep from each of our congregations and which prayers and traditions we knew we could let go."

"When I come into a place, my greatest goal is to create a sense of connection in the community so that people feel more connected to each other on the way out than they did when they walked in," Recht said. "They feel connected for themselves, they feel connected to each other and in this case, felt more connected more broadly in the Portland Jewish community."

The issue of which prayerbook to use was bypassed in the form of a customized 16-page handout headed with both the blooming *Magen David* logo of Neveh Shalom and Beth Israel's arching main sanctuary roof logo and included both movement's renditions of prayers where they differ.

"They have *Siddurim* and prayer books, and we have *Siddurim* and prayer books, but it felt important that we did something joint, that was just neither one of our movement prayer books," Rabbi Joseph said. "Through the gift of technology, you can find the Hebrew and put

these things together."

Alongside the handout was a single sheet with each congregation's *yahrzeit* (anniversary of death) list, Beth Israel's on one side and Neveh Shalom's on the other. The two congregations have different customs for the recitation of the Mourner's Kaddish, and effort was taken to incorporate both in the recognition of those observing a *yahrzeit* for a loved one before inviting the assembled congregants to observe their own custom for the recitation, wish some standing with the mourners and others remaining seated.

"That's why we come together, to mourn together and to see each other," Rabbi Posen said. "It made sense that, out of all the pieces, that we would work the hardest to make [Kaddish] something that felt normal and comfortable for all of our congregants."

There were plenty of congregants on hand – early in the service, the sounds of Recht, Rabbis Joseph and Posen, Rabbi Cantor Eyal Bitton and the joint volunteer choir and band assembled for the occasion were gently punctuated by Neveh Shalom facilities staff adding additional rows of chairs to accommodate the more than 350 people who packed into the plaza to welcome the sabbath in historic fashion.

"Frequently, when you do something that's quote-unquote community, it's just the host community that's there and they really run it. This really felt like a joint effort that was being hosted by Neveh Shalom; it felt like our two congregations really coming together, and I think it really felt different from

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Photos: Jewish Festival



Photographs by Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review

comes to life at Zidell Yards







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Hichenberg highlights Fourth Annual Preschool Day of Learning

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

For the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Fourth Annual Preschool Day of Learning, keynote speaker Dr. Noah Hichenberg suggested something bigger than what might otherwise come out of a professional development program.

"Your children are so smart, so creative, so relentlessly generative, so eager to help, to participate, to pitch in, and yet so much of our time is spent shuttling them from activity to activity, and telling them what to do," Hichenberg said in his address Friday, Aug. 28 in Congregation Neveh Shalom's Birnbaum Hall. "So how did we get here? How did we get to hovering parents and teachers interrupting children? Why do we have such a hard time trusting children? Why are we so focused on controlling them? What happened to participation and contribution?"

Those questions became the subject of Hichenberg's doctoral work at Columbia University's Teachers College and the subject of his book, "A New Vision for Early Childhood: Rethinking Our Relationships with Young Children." As he explained to the crowd of early childhood educators and preschool staff from around the Portland Area, the answer is surprising, but not complicated.

"It turns out child development is actually a social mechanism, not isolated within the individual biological child. Childhood is cultural," he said. "This was news to me as a preschool teacher. I simply did not know this. It was not covered in the coursework or the credits given to me in my teacher training sessions."

Elsewhere in the world, young children contribute to their families and communities from a very early age. This has been the state of things since the earliest hunter-gatherer societies.

"The industrial revolution towards the end of the 1800s forever changed this. It changed the relationship between children and the world that they were a part of, as for the first time in our species' 200,000-year history, the children were removed from the intimate daily activities of the adults around them. This changed our species. It changed childhood," Hichenberg explained. "This isn't necessarily a good thing or a bad thing; it's just a thing that led to this."



Dr. Noah Hichenberg presents his keynote address at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Fourth Annual Preschool Day of Learning for early childhood educators Friday, Aug. 28 at Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland. "Childhood is cultural," Hichenberg said, "and the cultural space that matters most to the child is your classroom. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

"This" is the field of Early Childhood Education. It's also the realities of age-segregated classrooms, academically derived childhood development standards, and anxious parents.

"We came to believe that if we only watched our children always, we could prevent them from ever falling, from ever failing. But this constant surveillance has had a perverse effect. It further removed children from the world, closing them off in these newly termed developmentally appropriate spaces, of which there had previously been zero," Hichenberg said. "Childhood became sanitized, and children became useless."

For his dissertation, Hichenberg performed a year-long ethnographic study of a New York City toddler with the pseudonym "Emily." Over the course of her first year in preschool, Hichenberg spent more than 100 hours with Emily, resulting in 1,400 pages of transcribed conversations between her and the people in her life.

Hichenberg concluded, he said, that "age-based segregation, over-infantilization, and constant surveillance-it all left very little room for Emily to actually accomplish much, for her ideas to come to fruition, for her agency to

shine, for her contributions to matter."

The surveillance is pervasive – Hichenberg cited a piece from *The Atlantic's* Hanna Rosin on parenting where she and her husband realized that their daughter had, by age 10, experienced a cumulative total of less than 10 minutes without adult supervision.

Age segregation is not only evidenced by the post-industrial separation of kids from adults, but the separation of kids from other kids. As for infantilization, Hichenberg asked a question: "Have you ever tried, you personally, to use you know the plastic knife that we give toddlers, like the colorful one from IKEA. Have you ever tried to cut meat with that? Have you ever tried to cut fabric or cardboard with the scissors available to your toddlers?"

There's a fix, though, and preschool teachers like those in the room have a big part to play in that fix.

"Childhood is cultural, and the cultural space that matters most to the child is your classroom. You can impact this. We can move away from vertical relationships defined by control and surveillance, and toward horizontal relationships defined by trust and reciprocity," he said. "I'm not saying we

continued on next page



From left, Preschool Day of Learning breakout sessions included discussions of security, volunteerism and music in the classroom. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

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need to give children the keys to the car and the credit card, although that would be perhaps exciting as well. I'm not just saying though. I'm not just saying that we need to flip the verticality. I'm saying we need to shift this orientation into a horizontal relationship, one in which we can look across at children instead of down at them, one in which trust, mutuality, and reciprocity can define the relationship."

It's not an equal relationship, but it's not a dictatorial one either.

"You are in a position of earned authority, of accrued wisdom, of more cycles on this earth than the younger humans under your care," Hichenberg said. "Use that wisdom. Bring your expertise, but don't let it mean that you are always right."

This kind of approach builds trust. That trust enables all the other work preschools can do – the kinds of work that were discussed in breakout sessions lat-

er in the day about music in classrooms, volunteerism in schools and more.

"We can use this trust to build curriculum in our classrooms that reflects back to the child, 'You matter. Your ideas have value here. Your presence contributes to the things we do here,'" Hichenberg continued. "Believe me, I've seen this happen enough times that I know that it's real, that it works, and that children and families are desperate and thirsty for it. Children want to matter. They are tired of being useless."



Back on the trail

Volunteers remove invasive ivy from the Al Lewin Legacy Trail on the Cedar Sinai Park campus Tuesday, Aug. 18. Volunteer work parties are scheduled monthly through the fall and winter as part of a collaboration between the Jewish Volunteer Corps, the Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders and Cedar Sinai. (Sonia Marie Leikam/RFJE photo)

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other community events in that way," Rabbi Joseph said.

"I don't think either of us anticipated that it would be this well attended," Rabbi Posen said. "It was emblematic of the point of the weekend for the Jewish festival, which was that we're in this together."

"A lot of times, community events in the Jewish world are really the host community and sprinkled people from the community" Recht said. "In this case, it was truly a combined effort, and you could feel the energy, not just from the leadership, but especially from the community that was present there."

The rabbinic collaboration, Rabbi Joseph said, went as far as her texts with Rabbi Posen to coordinate their attire for the evening.

"We said, 'Could you imagine, you know, Rabbi Stampfer and Rabbi Rose talking about their Shabbos outfits before they got together?'" she explained, referencing Neveh Shalom and Beth Israel's long-serving former Rabbis Joshua Stampfer, z"l, and Emmanuel Rose, z"l, respectively.

While this was the first joint service for the two synagogues, it is highly unlikely to be the last.

"I think that the two of us are committed to finding more opportunities to come together," Rabbi Joseph said of her Neveh Shalom counterpart.

"The two executive directors and Rabbi Joseph and I had a lunch this spring, talking about what our goals were and how we might continue to do this together," Rabbi Posen said. "So, this was just the first one."

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Obituaries

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BETSY MANDEL

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Betsy Salk Mandel, z"l, who passed away on Aug. 12, 2026.

Betsy is survived by her husband Roger Mandel, her daughter and son-in-law Gail Mandel and Steve Klein, her son and daughter-in-law David and Elizabeth Mandel, and her grandchildren Eli Mandel-Klein and Zoe Mandel. Betsy is preceded in death by her parents Roberta and Harry H. Salk, z"l.

A funeral was held Thursday, Aug. 20, at Memorial Park Cemetery in Skokie, Ill.

Donations in Betsy's name can be made to Congregation Beth Israel, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education and Portland Jewish Academy.

LIANE ROSENBERG

In sorrow, Congregation Kesser Israel announces the passing of former Kesser member Liane Rosenberg, z"l, who passed away Thursday, Aug. 27, in Los Angeles. The burial service was held Friday, Aug. 28, at Mount Sinai Simi Valley in Simi Valley, Calif. Survivors include husband, Gavin, and daughters Alix, Shanna, and Lara.

ROBERT MAGID

Congregation Neveh Shalom is saddened to share the passing of Robert Nolan Magid, z"l, who died on Aug. 22, 2026, at 78 years old. Robert was predeceased by his loving wife, Judith Kirshner Magid, z"l, and lovingly remembered by his son Adam (Dawn) Magid and daughter Jennifer Magid Schiller (Zach Schiller) and his grandchildren Madie, Sarah, Samuel, Luke and Brynley.

Robert Magid is part of a long history of Neveh Shalom members, including his in-laws, Hymey and Rae Kirshner. The Magid family had a special relationship with Rabbi Stampfer, who co-officiated Robert's son's wedding. Born in Flushing, Queens, Robert met his wife Judy Kirshner in Portland while traveling for the UJA and together they made Oregon their home. Robert was an entrepreneur and a small business owner and worked in commercial real estate. His first business was manufacturing truck campers. Robert also dabbled in politics, running for Congress in the state of Oregon. Robert will be remembered for providing opportunities for those who may not have had them otherwise, including creating a college scholarship.

The Funeral was held Monday, Aug. 31, 2026 at Ahavai Sholom Cemetery.

EDWARD TALYANSKY

With sadness, Chabad Southwest Portland announces the passing of Edward Talyansky, z"l. The funeral was held Monday, Aug. 31, in the Chabad section of River View Cemetery in Portland. Edward is survived by his son, Vitaly (Zeev), and his daughter, Inga.

ROBERT SCHWARTZ

With sadness, Chabad Southwest Portland announces the passing of Dr. Robert (Bob) Schwartz, z"l, on Saturday night, Aug. 29.

The funeral was held Tuesday, Sept. 1, at the Jewish Cemetery at River View, in Portland.

Bob is survived by his wife, Carol Schwartz; his daughters, Rhonda Schwartz and Lisa Weiss; two sons-in-law; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Events

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