

THE JEWISH REVIEW

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Berne to join JFGP staff

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

After launching his career in Jewish community advocacy in the halls of Congress, one of Portland's own is coming home.

Eli Berne has been named the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's new Director of Governmental Affairs, a role he'll take up Oct. 1.

"As Jewish communities face security challenges and feels the impact of antisemitism, the Jewish Federation, like many others, are strengthening their government relations efforts. Eli Berne has been working with Jewish Federations across the country to enhance their relationships with local, city and state elected officials," Federation President and CEO Marc Blattner said. "Now, we are delighted that Eli is coming home to Portland to be our Jewish Federation's Director of Government Affairs focused on elected officials in Oregon and Southwest Washington."

Berne is the son of Portlanders Craig Berne, a former Federation board member, and Jan Berne. A 2018 graduate of the University of Oregon's political science program, Eli Berne has been working in Jewish advocacy

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Members of Portland's Hindu and Jewish communities participate in the first Purim/Holi celebration Sunday, Mar. 17, 2024 at Congregation Neveh Shalom. The two communities are joining to host Avenues to Civic Engagement next week. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

Engaging together

Joint Jewish-Hindu program promotes civic participation

By **ROCKNE ROLL**
The Jewish Review

Since the rise of the digital marketplace of ideas, traditional ideas about civic engagement have fallen by the wayside. Jewish and Hindu groups in Portland are working together to change that.

Avenues to Civic Engagement, a program sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Oregon, the local chapter of the national Hindu community nonprofit, is set for Thursday, Sept. 24 at 7 pm. The program is a product of ongoing Hindu-Jewish Dialogue and supported by a grant from More Perfect Union, a pro-democracy Jewish organization. Federation Chief Planning Of-

ficer Rachel Nelson was struck by the need for such programs during her studies at the Spertus Institute earlier this year.

"One of my biggest takeaways from [Spertus] was our need to safeguard and be involved, actively involved, in pro-democracy work," Nelson said. "So many of our community members have lost that way of engaging with the public square, and we wanted to bring that back."

"The Jewish community has been very engaged civically, but here in the Portland area, and I think in Oregon in general, because of our small population, we tend to get outnumbered by those who are on op-

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posite sides of certain issues,” Federation Chief Community Relations and Public Affairs Officer Bob Horenstein said, “The deck is often stacked against us and we really need to start increasing our presence in some of these areas where we can make a difference.”

In much the same way, this kind of engagement has become and increasing priority for Hindu-Americans. Palak Raval, an HSS volunteer who is working to organize the program, mentioned recent incidents of graffiti on Hindu temples as a galvanizing moment.

“We are a community that, along with all others, make American society, and we face biases, too,” she said. “We want to let our elected leaders know that we are here and our voices also need to be heard about the things that are happening around us.”

Both Jewish and Hindu traditions teach about the importance of this kind of engagement. Jews refer to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) while Hindus embrace the concept of *Sevā*, a Sanskrit word that translates to “selfless service.” Raval discussed HSS’s food drives around the Hindu festival of Diwali and free yoga classes as examples, but engaging in civic work on behalf of the broader community is also a big part of what Raval explained is *Parama Dharma* – “supreme duty.”

“It is very important for us to bring that good work that our community has been doing and bring it out to the society and engage in the society that way,” she said.

While Jewish and Hindu values speak to the importance of engaging with the public square, the absence of that engage-

ment is not unique to either group.

“I think writ large, our society has seen much more virtual activism and lack of engaging in large public space,” Nelson said. “I don’t think it’s unique to the Jewish community, but I think because we are coming through the lens of our Jewish community and our interfaith work, we can speak to and help energize the Jewish community and the Hindu community.”

Topping the event’s speakers list include State Treasurer Elizabeth Steiner, Beaverton Mayor Lacey Beaty, Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church Pastor and longtime civic leader Rev. Dr. J.W. Matt Hennessee and Nathan Soltz, Chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon. While most of those people exist in the realm of electoral politics, there are more ways to engage than running for office.

“We want to make sure people understand this is not about just running for public office. That’s the highest level. There are so many other ways to become involved, whether that’s a school committee, whether that’s a municipal budget committee, or obviously becoming a precinct committee person,” Horenstein said. “There’s all these different avenues.”

It doesn’t have to be a full-time job – every little bit counts.

“We really feel especially given the fractured society we’ve felt, many of us have felt in the last several years in so many different ways. The best way to combat that is to be involved and to lean into civic spaces,” Nelson said. “And the Hindu community is really wanting to take up that mantle and be part of the process in partnership with us.”

Location will be provided upon RSVP. To learn more and register, visit jewishportland.org/civicengagement.



Al ha'esh | על האש

Literal translation: "On the fire."

Meaning: Literally refers to grilling/barbecue. In slang, it can mean something is being prepared, planned, or worked on.

ATTENTION:

Due to staff vacations, *The Jewish Review* will not publish on Thursday, Sept. 24. Weekly publication will resume Thursday, Oct. 1. Thank you for your understanding.

Events

More events online at jewishportland.org/community-calendar



See High Holy Days events throughout the area at jewishportland.org/highholy-days happenings

HIGH HOLIDAY RESOURCES 2026



**Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland
has all your
High Holiday Resources
in one place!**



jewishportland.org/highholidayhappenings

OJCF Professional Advisors host panel on art and legacy planning

The Jewish Review staff

Works of art don't just add beauty to one's life; they can form an integral part of one's legacy, whether you make them or collect them.

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation's Professional Advisors Group is taking on that subject at Legacy Planning for Creatives and Collectors Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 11:30 am at the Sawbuck event space across from the Multnomah Athletic Club in Downtown Portland.

The idea of art collections having monetary value is nothing new, but Nadine Gartner, the foundation's Chief Advancement Officer, explained that the value of creative works is also a factor for those who create them.

"Whether it's actual physical photographs or artwork or maybe it's, musical pieces that they've composed and having the rights to that music or any

sort of intellectual property rights to, any really creative thing you can think of," Gartner said, "what happens to those rights upon the artist's passing and how do we value those items and how can the person make sure that their legacy within their artwork is maintained the way that they want it to be?"

The event will feature a panel discussion led by Jennifer Stoots, an accredited art and photography appraiser with more than two decades of experience and who regularly lectures on the economic history of art and photography markets. Panelists include Michele Buck-Romero, an estate planning attorney at Wyse Kadish in Portland.

Gartner explained that while art definitely has value, that value can be subjective, and that subjectivity is often where the challenges start.

"Estate lawyers and accountants need to have real actual numbers, to under-

stand how to value things on a balance sheet," she said. "I think it brings up a lot of those same questions, whether you're the artist or the collector."

The second of those groups encompasses more than just those with enough works to put on a museum show. The things that beautify our homes and lives can have value beyond that beauty alone, and how that value is managed with the thing is here, but its owner no longer is has should, and can, be planned for.

Whether that's a single piece of art or an entire collection, what would you like to see happen with those items when you pass?" Gartner said. "Of course, from the foundation, we hope that charitable intent will be included with. It's really about what kind of legacy are people wanting to leave?"

Registration is free and available online at ojcf.org/advisors.

BERNE (continued from page 1)

even before he graduated.

"I was very engaged in Ducks for Israel when I was in college. We had a big BDS resolution while I was at school," he said. "Some of the things that I'll say 'the other side' were saying not just about Israel, but about Jews, really woke me up to the reality that if we don't advocate for ourselves and fight for ourselves, then no one will. That kind of sent me on the path to getting civically engaged and paying closer attention to politics and then creating a career in politics."

After graduation and two years in a development role at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Berne took a role in local government and Jewish community affairs at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C., making him the primary contact for community organizations and municipal governments within the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. Later, he was promoted to Congressional

Affairs Officer.

"I was at the embassy during Oct. 7, which was obviously a very difficult day for everyone, but especially the embassy," he said. "We were working overnight shifts around the clock. One of the things I was doing was sorting confidential images and pieces of material; some of which was being shared with Congress, some of which was being shared with the media, some of which was to distribute to our local contacts across our consular region. That was a really difficult job, but one that I considered critically important in that moment in time."

Berne later moved to the Jewish Federations of North America, where he eventually became State Director for Government Relations, working with Federations throughout the country. Some of this was coordinating with government relations professionals on a local level.

"Some federations have never engaged in mean-

ingful advocacy at the local or state level at all," he explained. "That's where I was most hands on in terms of building out a strategy, implementing that strategy, determining what bills have been passed in other states could essentially work in those states."

Much of his focus was on state-level nonprofit security grant programs, antisemitism in primary and secondary education and, more recently, state response to cuts to federal supplemental nutrition assistance programs and Medicaid. The Pacific Northwest has now called him home, however, to do that work more locally.

"My family's here. I'm from here. I love it here. It's really, really an amazing special place," Berne explained. "Jews have been in Portland for about 180 years and I foresee us being here for a very long time and I wanted to be a part of the work that makes Portland and Oregon a place where

Jews can thrive and we can have a vibrant and flourishing Jewish community."

There's plenty to do, he said, to make that happen.

"There's been some steps that other states have taken, that other cities have taken that have sent the message that 'we are supportive of the Jewish community, and we want the Jewish community to be here.' That's not something we've necessarily seen from Oregon's legislature or their governor or the city of Portland in the last few years," Berne said. "I think there's a lot of challenges in those spaces currently, and we've seen a lot of challenges over the past few years, but that also means there's a lot of opportunity and there's a lot more that we can be doing and that they can be doing in particular to stand up for the Jewish community and say Portland is a place where Jews belong."

Beginning Oct. 1, you can reach Berne at eli@jewish-portland.org.

JFNA webinars explain upcoming Israeli elections

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Later this fall, a week before American voters go to the polls in what has been widely billed as one of the most consequential elections in the country's history, Israeli voters will take their own turn at a historic election.

All 120 seats in Israel's *Knesset* (parliament) are up for election Tuesday, Oct. 27, in the first Israeli general election since the Oct. 7 terror attacks. The Jewish Federations of North America are hosting a series of webinars on the elections to help American Jews understand Israel's complicated politics.

The first, a conversation between JFNA President and CEO Eric Fingerhut and Haviv Rettig Gur of *The Times of Israel* and *The Free Press*, was held Wednesday, Sept. 9. This will be followed by "One Week Until Israel's Elections" with Miri Eisen, a retired Israeli military intelligence officer and the former foreign media advisor to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, scheduled for Monday, Oct. 19. The series will conclude with "24 Hours After the Results: What Do We Know?" on Wednesday, Oct. 24 with Rettig Gur. Both webinars will begin at 11 am Pacific Time.

"We understood that the Israeli election is a really important event that is complicated, and we wanted to make sure that everybody in our community had the chance to fully understand what was going on," JFNA spokesman Niv Ellis said. "Every time an election comes about, it's sort of similar: a lot of the same questions come up, and folks are interested anew in the system and how it works. It's obviously very different than the systems in the United States and Canada. And of course, a lot has happened in the Israeli political system since the last election. So, people really want to understand the dynamics and get a better sense of what's happening."

Rettig Gur explained in his Sept. 9 conversation that despite the two countries vastly different political systems, dissatisfaction with established political parties has become a major aspect of both US and Israeli politics.

In the US, Rettig Gur said, "the parties have become more national, and consciousness has become less local and more national because everybody's



Above: *The Times of Israel* contributor Haviv Rettig Gur discusses the upcoming Israeli elections in a Wednesday, Sept. 2 webinar hosted by the Jewish Federations of North America. (Courtesy JFNA) Below: Miri Eisen, I retired Israel Defense Forces intelligence officer who will present the next of JFNA's webinar series, speaks in Portland earlier this year. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

of the parties available to them," Rettig Gur said.

Fittingly, none of those 38 parties are expected to receive a majority of the votes – every Israeli government has been a coalition of multiple parties. Israeli voters cast ballots for a party directly as one nationwide electoral district, and each party has an ordered list of candidates who will be elected to the Knesset depending on what percentage of the vote the party gets. A party must receive at least 3.25 percent of the vote to receive seats, a tally which would be good for four of the 120 seats.

The major players in the upcoming election are Likud, the long-established party of incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, along with Yashar, led by former Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot, and Together, co-led by former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and current opposition leader Yair Lapid. An average of polls over the last week showed Likud and Yashar each receiving 23 seats, with Together netting 12. As none of those figures are close to the 61 seats needed to form a government, the showings of smaller parties and the negotiations between party leaders after the votes are counted will be crucial.

Those smaller parties include left-leaning groups like The Democrats



ties, including all of those listed above as well as Yisrael Beytenu, which has traditionally advocated for the interests of Russian immigrants, as receiving enough seats to enter the Knesset.

However, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Chief Community Relations and Public Affairs Officer Bob Horenstein warned, "Israeli polls are notoriously, notoriously incorrect. So don't ever trust Israeli polls. I think they probably underestimate the Haredi vote, maybe even the Arab vote."

In previous years, the minimum vote percentage to receive a Knesset seat (called the electoral threshold) was as low as one percent. The increase was meant to diminish the power of fringe parties, but Rettig Gur explained that effort has backfired somewhat.

"Increasing the threshold is meant to throw out of the conversation of the poli-

continued on next page

continued from previous page

tics the edges, the crazies, the marginal ones, the ones with strange voices that just will hold everyone else ransom,” he said. “What we’ve actually done is massively empowered them because we’ve created a larger pool that could be lost to either camp, and so both camps are now trying to push as much of that in as possible, so the edges have actually become more powerful. Be careful when you reform a political system. It’s a complicated machine.”

This year’s elections are also unusual because while the Knesset can legally sit for four years between elections, it rarely crosses this finish line. The most recent election, in 2022, was the fifth in four years.

“Usually what ends up happening is some internal dynamic causes a coalition to fall and early elections to be called,” Ellis said. “This is the first time in decades that we’ve actually had four full years since the last election.”

The necessity of building a governing coalition, and the diverse possibilities of what that might look like, are why the last webinar in the series is being held after the election, Ellis explained.

It’s not always clear exactly who will be the prime minister, who will be in the government, who will be the ministers, what the policies are going to be,” he said. “So, it was really important for us to also have a moment to assess that and sort of what the likely outcomes are the day after the election when things are still very much in the air, even when the votes are counted.”

Registration for both upcoming webinars, as well as other JFNA resources on Israel’s elections, are available online at jfeds.org/m/IsraeliElectionSeries2026.

Major Jewish groups co-produce Jewish Students Bill of Rights

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Five major Jewish organizations in North America jointly released a Jewish Students Bill of Rights last week as school years kick into gear around the continent.

The document, co-released by the Jewish Federations of North America, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations and StandWithUs, a pro-Israel advocacy group, outlines six standards they believe schools should abide by.

“No child should have to choose between their education and their identity,” JFNA President and CEO Eric Fingerhut said in an [announcement on JFNA’s blog](#). “We are not asking schools for special treatment. We are asking them to give Jewish students the same seriousness and the same protection that every other student in that building already receives. The Jewish Students’ Bill of Rights is a crucial roadmap of how to do that.”

The document says schools are responsible for “Ensuring that administrators and staff are equipped to identify antisemitism and the ways it manifests in modern educational environments; maintaining a clear, transparent process for reporting and responding to antisemitic incidents following all applicable laws and with the same gravity afforded to all other hate and bias incidents, with assurance of accountability and follow-through; ensuring that all teaching about Jewish culture, diversity, history, the Holocaust, antisemitism, and Israel is accurate and representative; treating religious observances as excused absences and avoiding scheduling school events on widely celebrated holidays; protecting Jewish students’ right to express their identity, and fully participate in all aspects of school life without religious coercion, bullying, or pressure to distance themselves from any aspects of that identity, including their connection to Israel” and “assuring that educators and curricula present contested issues in a balanced way rather than using the classroom to advance specific political or ideological viewpoints.”

Niv Ellis, JFNA’s Associate Vice President of External Communications, explained that his organization began formulating the

document earlier this year before bringing national partners into the process.

“We were really happy to be able to get it out right around sort of back to school,” he said. “This is the time where a lot of people are sort of confronting these issues again for the first time after summer vacation and not really sure exactly how things are going to look going back into the school year.”

Bob Horenstein, Chief Community Relations and Public Affairs Officer with the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, was on a committee of Jewish Community Relations Council professionals around the country that helped formulate the document.

“In K-12 schools, antisemitic incidents have increased by 400 percent since 2020, and survey data indicates 71 percent of Jewish teens in the US and Canada have experienced antisemitism since 2023,” he said. “So you can see the impetus for this.”

Horenstein explained that the standards the document lays out have been areas that the Federation and Portland’s JCRC have been working on for years; From the Holocaust education law that Oregon enacted with encouragement and support from the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education in 2019 to the holiday equity policies that districts throughout the state have implemented to ensure students of all faiths don’t miss out on important school events by observing important religious or cultural occasions and more.

“None of these are unreasonable,” Horenstein said. “You want to teach about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, then make sure you’re teaching it from multiple perspectives and from objective sources as much as possible.”

Horenstein also pointed out that the Bill of Rights is more than just a statement. The document includes a list of resources to students, parents, and educators to help them collectively address issues with antisemitism and anti-Jewish bias. These include AJC’s Center for Education Advocacy, “Antisemitism in the Classroom” from the ADL, the StandWithUs K-12 Fairness Center and local Jewish Federations like Portland’s.

“I appreciate that,” Horenstein said, “and it’s powerful when you see all of these organizations working together.”



Thursday, September 24th, 7-9 PM
(location provided upon RSVP)

A partnership program between the Jewish and Hindu communities, this program will encourage and equip members of both communities to engage more fully in civic and public life. It is built on the shared conviction rooted in Jewish teachings of Tikkun Olam and Hindu principles of Seva and Dharma that community strength and public service go hand in hand.

The program will connect participants with concrete opportunities. . .

- County political party (PCP) roles
- School committee and school board service
- Running for elected office
- Additional pathways, such as service on city commissions, neighborhood associations, advisory boards, and other public bodies where community voices are needed

Featured Speakers (Still in formation) Include



Elizabeth Steiner
State Treasurer



Lacey Beaty
Beaverton Mayor



**Rev. Dr. J.W.
Matt Hennessee**
Pastor, Vancouver Avenue
First Baptist Church

Register at JewishPortland.org/civicingagement



5787 calendars now available at Jewish Oasis, other local Chabads

The Jewish Oasis

We have calendars on our phones. We have them on our computers. We get reminders about holidays, appointments and just about everything else.

And yet, as 5787 gets underway, thousands of Jewish households across the greater Portland area have received something much more old-fashioned: a Jewish calendar in the mail.

Why, in 2026, does it still matter to have a Jewish calendar hanging on the wall? For Chabad, it comes down to a simple mission: making Judaism accessible.

Sometimes that means being there when someone needs a rabbi. Sometimes it means bringing a mitzvah to someone who might not otherwise have the opportunity. And sometimes it means simply making sure a Jewish calendar is hanging on the wall.

For several decades, Chabad of Oregon has mailed Jewish calendars to Jewish households throughout the greater Portland area. Rabbi Chayim Mishulovin has overseen the project for the past 20 years. The idea is simple: make the Jewish year easy to access. The calendar has the holidays clearly marked, Shabbat times and their endings, important Jewish dates, and information about foundational Jewish traditions and practices.

And there is a particularly practical reason to have

it on the wall. Phones and computers aren't used on Shabbat or major Jewish holidays. When the devices are put away, the calendar is still there. When does Shabbat end? What time does it begin next week? The answer is right on the wall.

The calendar also features beautiful Jewish artwork, providing a simple way to bring Jewish identity and Jewish life into a home or business.

This year, thanks to sponsors who make a special effort to care for the Jewish community, including Cedar Sinai Park, Safeway and Albertsons, and Young's Funeral Home, the calendar was mailed to thousands of Jewish people throughout the greater Portland area.

If you haven't received one, there are plenty available for pickup at Jewish Oasis. They are also available at Chabad locations throughout the greater Portland area, as well as at the Jewish institutions across the community.

As 5787 gets underway, it may be an old-fashioned idea to put the Jewish calendar on the wall. But in a world where nearly everything is available on a screen, there is still something meaningful about having the Jewish year right in front of you.

Sometimes making Judaism accessible means simply putting it on the wall.

RFJE awards nearly \$186k in Summer Grants

By **SONIA MARIE LEIKAM** and **BONNIE NEWMAN**
Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders

The Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders has awarded \$185,600 to 10 local non-profit organizations providing a range of vital services to Jewish elders across the Portland metropolitan area. In its third grant cycle, the foundation is investing in the staff, programs and partnerships that work to combat isolation among seniors and strengthen their intergenerational, spiritual, cultural and social connections.

The funding allocations directly address key priorities identified through a comprehensive community needs study, which incorporated deep listening sessions with local seniors, service providers, caregivers and community stakeholders.

Guided by these insights, the foundation's grantmaking strategy focuses on four strategic pillars of Navigation and Access, Social, Emotional and Spiritual Connection: Investing in programs, Financial Support and Early Outreach and Education.

Summer 2026 Grant Recipients include:

- Jewish Federation of Greater Portland (\$50,000): Providing dignified burial resources for indigent Holocaust survivors.
- Nehamah Jewish Chaplain Services (\$40,500 total): \$22,500 to offer spiritual and practical accompaniment for elders and families facing illness, aging and grief and

\$18,000 to launch a hospice-informed navigation and advocacy model connecting isolated seniors to care resources.

- Store to Door (\$25,000): Partnering with local synagogues to establish targeted grocery delivery routes for Jewish elders.
- Tigard Chabad Jewish Center (\$20,000): Supporting the Jewish Connection Initiative, a regional senior outreach, education and engagement program.
- Eastside Jewish Commons (\$15,000): Piloting a series of culturally relevant field trips to keep elders connected.
- Tivnu: Building Justice (\$13,800 total): \$10,800 to host intergenerational volunteer service days at the Al Lewin Memorial Trail and \$3,000 to pilot a home repair program offering light deferred maintenance for Jewish elders.
- Chabad of Hillsboro Inc. (\$11,300): Funding Shabbat care deliveries and teen visits to reduce isolation.
- Maimonides Jewish Day School (\$10,000): Supporting the Dor L'Dor Learning Community to foster intergenerational Jewish adult learning.

Together, these initiatives advance the foundation's core objective of ensuring older Jewish adults in the community can age with dignity, connection and security.

For more information, visit rfje.org.

jewishportland.org/subscribe

SUBSCRIBE: jewishportland.org/subscribe

Remembering October 7

featuring a musical performance by
the Jewish Community Orchestra

Wednesday, October 7 | 7PM

Mittleman Jewish Community Center
6651 SW Capitol Hwy.

RSVP required. Please bring a photo ID.

[Click here to RSVP](#)



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of Greater Portland

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

OCT 1

SEPT 28

Partners in Jewish Aging to meet monthly

Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders

Robison Foundation for Jewish Elders will begin convening a monthly gathering that brings together professionals, agencies, and organizations serving older adults, with a special focus on the needs and experiences of Jewish elders in our community.

This is a space to connect with colleagues, share ideas and resources, learn from one another, and discover opportunities to collaborate. By coming together regularly, we can build stronger relationships across organizations, better understand the services and programs available in our community, and

identify ways to fill gaps and support one another's work.

Our goal is to create a warm, welcoming network where those working with and on behalf of older adults can learn, collaborate, share expertise, and grow together—strengthening the community of services and connections available to Jewish elders and their families.

We gather once a month on the second Wednesday of the month from 9-10:30 am. in different venues around the Portland area. Please RSVP to info@rfje.org to be added to our list and receive information about our upcoming meetings.

Obituaries

Submit obituaries online at form.jotform.com/JFGP/jr-obituary

SYLVIA FIREMAN

Congregation Neveh Shalom is saddened to share the passing of Sylvia Fireman, z"l, who died on Sept. 11, 2026, at 102 years old. Sylvia is survived and lovingly remembered by her children, Marian Fireman (Robert Sundberg) and Howard (Karen) Fireman; and her grandchildren Seth Fireman, David Fireman, Shauna Sundberg. She was predeceased by her husband, Sidney Fireman, z"l; and her parents Max Guttman, z"l and Becky Feuerstein, z"l.

Sylvia lived a long full life. She was born in Brooklyn, grew up in the Bronx and was a native New Yorker her entire life. She moved to Florida in 1999 and then to Oregon in 2015. Family was most important to her and she enjoyed traveling and visiting her grandchildren whenever possible. She loved chocolate and music. She lived her last years at Rose Schnitner. She was a member of Neveh Shalom since 2001 and was fortunate to attend her granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah at the synagogue. She also celebrated her 100th birthday at Shabbat Services in 2024.

The funeral was held Wednesday, Sept. 15, at Neveh Zedek Cemetery. Contributions can be made in memory of Sylvia can be made to Rabbi Isaak's Discretionary Fund.

DANA BENSON-MELNICK

Congregation Neveh Shalom is saddened to share the passing of Dana Benson-Melnick, z"l, who died on Sept. 14, 2026 at 68 years old. Dana is survived and lovingly remembered by her husband, Jeffrey Melnick; her sister, Susan Sisisky; and her children, Sydney, Liat, and Nessa Melnick. She was predeceased by her parents, Ben Benson and

Shirley Slifman-Benson, and her sister, Lyn-da Benson-Pollak.

Dana loved her family, musicals, and connecting with people. She hosted seders and break-fasts, organized a community challah program, and baked hamantaschen with friends every year. Dana served as a cemetery liaison, helping Neveh Shalom families select headstones for their loved ones. Dana was a third-generation Portland Jew and a member of Neveh Shalom for 34 years, where her three children became B'nai Mitzvah.

A memorial service was held at Congregation Neveh Shalom on Wednesday, Sept. 16. Contributions can be made in memory of Dana to the Oregon Community Warehouse.

RUTH SALTZMAN

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Ruth Saltzman, z"l, who passed away on Sept. 13, 2026 at the age of 96.

Ruth is survived by her daughter Debbi Saltzman and son-in-law Bruce Cordon; her daughter Cindy Saltzman; her son Stephen Saltzman and daughter-in-law Becki Saltzman; her son David Saltzman; six grandchildren: Isabel Cordon-Saltzman, Tamir White, Ganit Pinkus, McGwire Pinkus, Barkley Saltzman and Dane Saltzman; and five great-grandchildren: Hudson White, Romi White; Margo White; Elinor Pinkus, and Ramona Saltzman. Ruth is preceded in death by her husband and best friend, Hal Saltzman, z"l,

A funeral was held Wednesday, Sept. 16 at the Beth Israel Cemetery. Donations in Ruth's name can be made to The Nature Conservancy.