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'You have something to bring to the table'

Avenues to Civic Engagement highlights opportunities, importance of involvement

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

What passes for involvement in public life looks different today than it did in the recent past.

"I think we've lost so much of that in in so many different ways over the last decades and years. And I want to reen-

gage and I want to reinvigorate that," Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Chief Planning Officer and co-organizer of last Thursday's Avenues of Civic Engagement program in Beaverton said at the event.

For more than two hours, elected officials and community leaders spoke

at the program, sponsored by the Federation and Hindu community organization Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh and funded by a grant from Jewish pro-democracy non-profit More Perfect Union. They discussed how to

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Setting up the sukkah



Members of Congregation Neveh Shalom's Sisterhood along with students from Foundation School help decorate the synagogue's sukkah Friday, Sept. 25. See more photos from the decorating process on page 9. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

Federation campaign an 'investment' worth making

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Rich Meyer has been part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's work as long as he can remember.

"As a young kid, I spent a lot of my time tagging along with my parents to Federation meetings," he said. "I guess I absorbed a lot of that."

Meyer is co-chair of the Federation's 2027 Campaign for Community Needs – the means to raising the nearly \$4.5 million dollars the Federation uses to support and sustain Jewish community each year.

He is joined in that role by Simon Gottheiner. Gottheiner started coming to Federation events in the early 2000s before being asked to serve on the Allocations committee, which he later chaired. He's also served as the organization's treasurer and has served multiple stints on the Federation's board. This is

his first year co-chairing the annual campaign.

"I wanted to give more, and I wanted some more purpose," he said of his motivation to take on the larger role. "It's just been something that has really fueled me."

"We are thrilled that Rich and Simon have taken on this most important leadership position," Federation President and CEO Marc Blattner added. "They are both passionate and committed to the success of Jewish Portland."

The pair lead a team of campaign ambassadors, volunteers who make the calls, send the emails and have the conversations that make the campaign go. Laura Jeser, the Federation's Associate Campaign and Engagement Director, explained that the conversation piece of the process isn't just window

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dressing.

"We want to know what speaks to our donors, what are donors passionate about?" she said. "It helps us with our programming. This is our way to connect with our donors to hear what's meaningful to them."

Meyer has been part of those efforts since shortly after those years following his parents to the Federation office – he made calls for Federation's Teen Campaign and later chaired the Super Sunday telethon while still in college. He also later chaired the allocations committee, a role that drives his work on the campaign today.

"I don't like asking people for money, but I know someone has to do it," he said. But I think I realized more of the importance of this part of Federation's work as when I was allocations chair and saw where the funds are going throughout the community; not just to our large legacy agencies, but through to the smallest agencies, small groups that are doing important work with populations that Federation might not have reached in the past."

"As somebody who's passionate about giving [funding] away, I think I have realized that I need to be equally passionate about finding it and getting it, and sometimes you don't see yourself as that best person to be the asker," Gottheiner said. "This is part of a personal adjustment to 'Hey, you've got what it takes, go show it.'"

Meyer and Jeser both talked about the campaign as an investment. All investments are expected to pay returns – for this investment, the return is in the form of thriving



From left, Campaign Co-Chairs Simon Gottheiner and Rich Meyer speak at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland's Illuminate Event Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

Jewish communal institutions and engaging opportunities for Jewish connection in the community.

"I'm passionate about doing this work because it's the investment in each other," Jeser said. "[Meyer] has had this experience of Federation being there his whole life; how can I do that for my children and my children's children?"

"When there is a fire, that is not when you decide to build a fire department. It needs to already be in place," Blattner said. "The Jewish Federation's annual campaign is an annual investment in sustaining Jewish life during stable times and so we can respond immediately during a crisis."

"If you make an investment, you want that capital to grow and support whatever down the road," Meyer said. "I think that, whether it's helping people pay for preschool or day school or summer camp, we're investing in youth who we want to grow up with Jewish identities and to believe in the Jewish community. We invest in the Ben Gurion Society, developing

new leaders for this community, and to provide services for seniors or people who need something."

Portland's chapter of the Ben Gurion Society, for young adults contributing to the campaign at certain threshold levels, is entering its third year and will kick off its season with a wine-tasting event in November – details are being finalized.

"We're building up that pipeline of leadership, and we're building upon our next generation of community here in Portland," Jeser, who's work supports the Ben Gurion Society, said. "That's really important."

Beyond young adult leadership, Gottheiner talked about new programs like Gather Grants and the recent Jewish Festival as ways that the Federation is increasing Jewish engagement.

"I just love that we can go to a Jewish festival, or we can go see a movie, and there's no solicitation at all, and we're out in public in a venue that you wouldn't normally like bring a bunch of Jews together to experi-

ence," he said. "My daughter Ava said to me, 'Dad, are you kidding? They're going to give me \$180 to go to the movies and have an experience with my Jewish friends?' That's leaps and bounds from where we were when I first got involved, and I just think that it's an adjustment and a reflection of being current to the times and what people want."

"If you go to pretty much any Jewish event in Portland, or participate in any organization, that Federation has helped make that happen," Meyer added.

"[Those experiences are] ultimately creating community and bonding, and I think that that allows for us to be there for each other when things happen, when we go through traumas or someone's new to the community. That community is already in place and there to help each other and be there for one another, and that is invaluable," Jeser added. "We depend on Federation and these organizations that we fund to create that community."

Any community has connection at its core – and you'll likely have a chance to make that connection soon.

"When a campaign ambassador calls you or sends a text or sends an e-mail, they are really trying to make that connection with you," Jeser said. "It's not just about the ask; it's about the connection."

"Our campaign can only be successful when 'people answer the call,'" Blattner said. "Our campaign is truly about one Jew asking a second Jew to help a third Jew."

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Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland

ENGAGEMENT (continued from page 1)

get involved, why getting involved is essential in 2026, and the potential consequences of failing to do so.

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One of the program's key points was that becoming involved in public life and the political process doesn't require running for elected office. But sometimes things take a different course; just ask State Treasurer Elizabeth Steiner.

Steiner, a primary care physician, first got involved in the political process in 2002 when the legislature proposed a ballot measure implementing a single-payer healthcare system in the state. The measure was written without input from primary care doctors, Steiner said, because all the doctor's voices influencing the legislature on health care policy were specialists. Steiner worked to change that, becoming deeply engaged in health care advocacy.

"That is how I ended up where I am today," she said. "Because when you start spending a lot of time talking with legislators, you start to realize that you have something to bring to the table."

She soon joined the table – more than a decade in the state Senate has been followed by serving as Treasurer. Steiner counseled attendees in the easiest form of engagement: knowing who your elected officials are and connecting with them.

"When you go home tonight, go to the Oregon Legislature's website and click on Find Your Legislator. If you don't already know who your state representative and your state senator are, you should. If you don't know who your city council people are, you should. Figure that out and send them an email saying 'Hi, I'm your constituent. I want to be on your mailing list. I want to know what's going on,'" Steiner said. "The stronger you are in building those relationships, the more effective you're going to be in helping move the conversation forward in ways that are congruent with your values and with what's important to you."

When Steiner was a senator, she provided the first endorsement for the mayoral campaign of Lacey Beaty. Beaty, at the time a city councilor in Beaverton, moved to the area after leaving the army and joined the city's Visioning Advisory Committee as a way to con-



From left, Washington County Democratic Party Precinct Committee Persons Hiral Pandya and Rebecca Cambreleng address Avenues to Civic Engagement at The Beaverton Building Thursday, Sept. 24. (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

nect. That led to the city council, then to the mayor's office.

"I had a really hard time finding my footing after my service, because you are surrounded by people that have the similar mission to you, and understanding daily your life means something," she told the audience via Zoom from San Diego, where she was attending a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Leadership Board.

"What you need to do to make sure that your kids continue to live in the safest city and school district is to sign up for a board - that's where decisions are made," Beaty said. "Sign up and do the work."

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One small but highly influential way of getting involved is as a precinct committee person for a political party.

While political parties are most noticeably organized at the state and county level, the base organizational level of each party is a precinct. There are more than 150 voter Precincts in Washington County, for example, and each party has an organizing committee in each precinct which party members can be elected to. Each precinct has a certain number of seats on its committee; this number is often larger than the number of people interested in serving on the committee.

Rebecca Cambreleng is a Democratic

PCP in Washington County – she said she received eight votes for the position at her last election. PCPs can also be appointed by the party if seats are available – as they often are. Despite the job's low profile, it is highly influential.

"There's a lot of politicking happening behind the scenes within the Washington County Democrats, within the Democratic Party of Oregon," Cambreleng said, "and the only way to make sure that what's happening aligns with the values that we hold, no matter what your values are, is to get in there."

PCPs elect party leadership, who then select leaders at the next level, culminating in Nathan Soltz, the chair of the Democratic Party of Oregon.

"We are built bottom up, and that is not just a metaphor. That's very literal. That is our structure. Change in the Democratic Party, certainly at the state level, at the county level, is not top-down. It is all about the grassroots," he said. "It's about who shows up in those spaces. It's about who is signed up to have their voices heard, and that's where the precinct committee people come in. And even at this point, it is something that you all can do immediately."

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The imperative to get involved comes

continued on next page



Left: Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Chief Planning Officer Rachel Nelson speaks at last Thursday's civic engagement program, co-hosted by the Federation and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh. Right: "If you don't already know who your state representative and your state senator are, you should," State Treasurer Elizabeth Steiner told attendees. "If you don't know who your city council people are, you should." (Rockne Roll/The Jewish Review)

from the simple reality that someone else will, or already has, and their views may be unfriendly to your views – or your very identity.

"Recently, we've seen a handful of county Democratic parties adopting inflammatory and divisive anti-Israel resolutions that they hope that they could bring to the Democratic Party of Oregon, and unfortunately, when it came time for the discussion and the debate and ultimately to vote, we were greatly outnumbered by the proponents of those resolutions," Federation Chief Community Relations and Public Affairs Officer Bob Horenstein said.

It's a symptom of a changed political landscape, Beaty, the mayor of Beaverton, said.

"What's been happening in politics over the last, I would say, two years, really from the first Trump administration to now, is this idea that we don't have to be humans to each other anymore; that if I disagree with you about one thing, that we're enemies," she said. "I sit at the dais and hear all kinds of feedback from the commu-

nity, and it used to be about things that I could control: potholes, the budget. Now it's wars in foreign countries; 'What's your stance on this? If we don't share the same stance on everything that our agreement means nothing.'"

[Oregon Public Broadcasting reported](#) on the broader impacts of that shift in Washington County, including a harassment incident at a community event held by State Sen. Janeen Sollman, who was defeated by a Democratic Socialist of America-backed challenger, Myra Munoz, in May's Democratic primary, and an obscene gesture by Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington directed at Nafisa Fai, a current county commissioner who is running to replace Harrington. Harrington has since announced her resignation.

Much of the controversy in Washington County's coming elections revolves around the presence and growth of data centers, as OPB reported, but Munoz is just one of a cadre of candidates backed by the DSA, which has heavily promoted

anti-Israel messaging and positions.

It's an issue that's not lost on Soltz, who spearheaded the creation of the DPO's Jewish caucus.

"I'm Asian. I'm Hispanic. I'm gay. But the most prejudice that I have ever faced is for being Jewish," he said. "Unfortunately, within the Democratic Party, that is true tenfold."

It's also true at the grassroots level, in those often unseen but important precinct committee meetings. Cambreling discussed the rise of an activist element within her precinct and the county party that she did not name but spoke stridently about.

"The problem is they are loud and they are overly vocal and they are rude and they spin things," she said. "But what I have noticed is that they show up every meeting and they get themselves elected because they are the ones who have people knocking doors because of the fervor. It is something like akin to what we see, no offense here, in the MAGA world where you've got people who are 'Party and Trump above

what's right and country' and I see that in this sect, but it goes the other way."

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The issue is about numbers – Soltz reiterated that the solution is the same.

"That we're seeing some bad things coming out of the Washington County Democrats, from other county parties, it's because the people who are making those decisions that we don't like are the ones who have organized, and they are showing up," he said. "We can do that, too. Then we're not going to be upset about the party anymore because we will be the party."

Whether it's connecting with elected officials, serving on boards or committees, working within a political party or even running for office, the biggest key is the same; each presenter reiterated: showing up.

"You just have to speak up," Gauri Joshi, who presented on her engagement with her area school district, said. "The more voices that speak, the more people will hear, and the more they hear, that change will come in policy."

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Clark County Chabad to host Troufanov, Cohen Oct. 13

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

A pair of former hostages, who have wed since their release from Hamas captivity in Gaza, will speak about their experiences in Vancouver later this month.

Finding G-d in Gaza's Tunnels, featuring Sasha Troufanov and Sapir Cohen, is set for Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the Chabad Jewish Center of Clark County in Vancouver, Wash. A wine and hors d'oeuvres reception begins at 6:30 pm before the 7 pm program.

The couple were kidnapped, along with Troufanov's mother and grandmother, from Kibbutz Nir Oz in southern Israel on Oct. 7; terrorists killed Troufanov's father, Vitaly Troufanov, z"l, during the attack. While Cohen and Sasha Troufanov's relatives were released later in 2023, he was held by Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza for 498 days before being released as part of the February 2025 cease-fire.

Shortly after his release, "Sasha told me that during all this time [since he was taken hostage and held in Gaza], he prayed for me to find a man to love, prayed that I wouldn't wait for him," [The Times of Israel reported](#) Cohen telling

a press conference. "He didn't want me waiting for a man he thought would never return home. He didn't believe he would survive."

The couple announced their engagement in July of 2025. Israeli President Isaac Herzog attended their wedding Sunday, July 5, 2026. Since then, they've been speaking to audiences around the world about their experiences.

"People want to hear their experiences, people want to hear about their faith, their hope, how they managed to survive over there," Rabbi Shmulik Greenberg of Chabad of Clark County said. "They want to spread the inspiration, the courage with different communities around the world and we were lucky to have the ability to bring them here."

Rabbi Greenberg hopes a broad audience will come to hear the stories of faith and resilience the couple embody.

"My goal is to really bring it to the community. It's one thing is to see a video or to hear about it, and another to see it firsthand," he said. "That's an inspiration, and it's a reminder as well."

Tickets are \$36, and sponsorships are available for \$180. For more information or to RSVP, visit jewishvancouverwa.com/adult-education.

Federation, Jewish Community Orchestra commemorate Oct. 7 in concert

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

The Jewish Community Orchestra and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland will commemorate the third anniversary of the Oct. 7 terror attacks in Israel with a performance of Israeli

composer Yaniv Paskal's "Tkuma" Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 7 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

The piece, named with the Hebrew word for "revival," was composed by Paskal

while living in Sderot, a southern Israel city that was heavily affected by the Oct. 7 attacks. JCO Artistic Director Don Appert explained that the piece centers on the feelings that came up for Paskal after the attacks.

"He describes the piece as a reflection of an emotional journey from devastation and grief to resilience, faith, and hope," Appert said. "It's not really depicting specific events, more sort of confronting the darkness and moving towards renewal."

The work is written in three movements: "Song of the Land," "The Wandering Jew" and "Tikvah." Appert explained that the first movement is the most dramatic of them.

"It's got a lot of very dissonant kind of music in the midst of a very poignant melody that he basically starts and ends the movement with," he explained.

The second movement, Paskal's published description of the piece explains, "follows the timeless journey of the Jewish people,

moving between moments of holiness and light and the suffering, exile, and loss endured throughout history simply for their identity." The third movement, bearing the Hebrew word for "hope" (and sharing a title with Israel's national anthem) is somewhat self-descriptive.

"[Paskal] makes a point of that this is not just kind of like 'I hope for something,' but a much stronger kind of concept of hope," Appert said, "reflecting the resilience of everyday life being rediscovered through ordinary moments and human connection and small glimpses of light."

The three movements will be interspersed by a presentation commemorating the events in Israel three years ago, which resulted in more than 1,200 deaths.

The orchestra has featured numerous Israeli composers in the past, but this performance is unique in that Paskal approached the JCO with the work. Paskal has previ-

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Rosh gadol | ראש גדול

Literal translation: "Big head."

Meaning: taking initiative, being responsible, and thinking beyond what is expected.



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CONCERT (continued from page 6)

ously written “October,” a trio for clarinet, cello and piano, and helped lead Dror Is-rael’s Spring of Solace music program in Sderot in 2025.

“I think about the quote from Leonard Bernstein, ‘This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before,’” Appert explained. “I think that’s the real importance of this particular piece is that this particular composer, you know, is responding again with something of beauty.”

Given the gravity of the piece, and the moment it marks, the JCO was happy to step up to bring it to life.

“As the Jewish Community Orchestra of Portland, we hold kind of a unique place in the artistic scene here in Portland,” Appert said. “We’re hopeful we’re going to get some folks that are suddenly discovering, ‘wait, I didn’t realize that we had this particular resource.’”

The JCO will host a second premiere performance of “Tkuma” during their season-opening concert Sunday, Nov. 8 at 3 pm at the MJCC.

Preregistration for the Oct. 7 performance is required, free and available online at jewishportland.org/remembering-october-7.

Federation, partners attend Eradicating Hate Summit

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

The Eradicate Hate Global Summit offers not only stories of surviving antisemitism and other forms of bigotry, but what can spring from that.

“It’s very powerful because a lot of it is focusing on Resilience,” Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Chief Community Relations and Public Affairs Officer Bob Horenstein said. “You hear from survivors of tragedies; it could be a mother who lost a son at the Sandy Hook shooting several years ago, it could be someone whose community was attacked at Bondi Beach in Australia, it could be a pastor who was nearly murdered in his church but for a gun malfunctioning. What you hear from every one of these is they take those tragic episodes and they turn them around. They’ll all say scars will last forever for their losses or their trauma, but they manage to overcome the tragedies and do something positive.”

The Federation was able to attend the conference, held Tuesday through Thursday, Sept. 15-17 in Pittsburgh, thanks to a federal grant through the Washington County District Attorney’s office. Horenstein went with Rev. Dr. J.W. Matt Hennessee, Pastor of Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church in Portland, and Rich Vial, a leader of Portland’s Latter-Day Saints community who has been part of an ongoing Jewish-LDS Dialogue program.

“For me, it was really just an amazing opportunity to make connections with other people, to hear folks and their experience, and to recognize the fact that all of us are dealing with some of the same things,”

Hennessee said, “and that every one of us recognizes the importance of the fact that we can’t sit down and that we have to make sure that we do our part to create.”

The conference also spent time talking about what is yet to be done. In a session on hate crimes legislation, Horenstein heard about some of the deficiencies in Pennsylvania’s laws and was wondering about Oregon’s own statutes and how they may be improved.

“It’s important to look at who’s covered,” he said, “and there are other aspects that are important that should be looked at to make sure we have the most ideal laws in place. So that’s something maybe we would look at once the legislature gets going.”

He also remembered a comment from CNN’s Van Jones, one of the event’s keynote speakers.

“He said to the audience, ‘because of what you’re doing, because of your participation here and what you do... you’re saving lives and you don’t even know it,’” Horenstein recalled. “‘You don’t know that you prevented a mass shooting at a mall or a school...’ It was just a beautiful way of saying that.”

“We’re never going to end hate,” Horenstein continued. “We’re never going to end antisemitism. But I think it’s important to bring people together to show solidarity and to do whatever we can to mitigate this problem.”

“We’re blessed in Oregon, and I’ll say the Portland area in particular, because this is not news for us in terms of the importance of how we collaborate with one another,” Hennessee added. “I was grateful I went and I’m sure I’ll probably go next year as well.”

Jewish Jobs

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

Photos: The sights, sounds and smells of the sukkah



Photographs by ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Congregation Neveh Shalom Sisterhood members and Foundation School students help decorate the synagogue's sukkah on Erev Sukkot Friday, Sept. 25. The sukkah had been assembled by the CNS Men's Club that morning.



Events

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

See High Holy Days events throughout the area at
jewishportland.org/highholydayshappenings

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NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

OCT 8

OCT 5

Security Corner

SCN is Anti-Terrorism Technology

By JESSICA ANDERSON

For the past 20 years, Secure Community Network (SCN) has evolved in how it delivers services to the Jewish community and what those services entail. In June of this year, another milestone was achieved: SCN Community Security Initiatives was given a formal designation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as a Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology.

What does that mean, you ask? The designation, SCN's June 4 press release explained, "recognizes that the adoption of our security program initiatives, which include SCN's threat management and information-sharing efforts, assessment processes, training and exercise programs, operational standards, and other actions, qualify as a method to avert terrorism." SCN is the first faith-based organization in the United States to receive this federal recognition.

I've written before about the National Jewish Community Security Standards, which SCN developed as part of its broader, ongoing efforts to build a best-practice, coordinated security architecture for the Jewish community. These standards recommend that organizations provide regular training, collaborate with the community on security intelligence, have their facili-



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.

ities evaluated for security upgrades, document basic operational and security procedures, and other similar activities. Next month, our security program is the first SCN program to be inspected against these standards. The evaluation will assess how well I'm working with our organizations to provide the opportunities to meet those best-practice standards. I'll write more about that in my next column. The designation places SCN in the company of a select group of technology firms, defense contractors, security specialists, and facilities that host critical events and possess capabilities DHS has determined are effective in preventing acts of terrorism.

By meeting SCN's standards, organizations can feel confident they are taking the steps that meet the highest federal standards for anti-terrorism effectiveness. Additionally, in the event of a terrorist attack, claims

against SCN and its partner organizations related to SCN-designated services are capped at DHS-determined insurance levels. Organizations may also be shielded from punitive damages, and legal actions are limited to federal court, ensuring the minimization of costly legal fees. Insurance carriers view SAFETY Act Designation holders as lower risk, which can lead to cost savings on liability insurance premiums for partner organizations who use SCN's services.

If you're an organizational leader, I'm always ready to work with you to review and formalize your security program. You should talk with your insurance provider about potential cost savings, and I will work with you to demonstrate your adherence to the security program best practices. I can always be reached at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org.

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RJH launches Schnitzer Tower renovation project

Robison Jewish Home

Robison Jewish Home is proud to announce an exciting new chapter in its longstanding stewardship of Rose Schnitzer Tower, following the successful financing and commencement of a \$9 million rehabilitation project. The initiative extends long-term affordability and federal rental assistance for low-income seniors at the 235-unit community for at least the next 20 years.

Originally built in 1979 and located at 1430 SW 12th Avenue, Rose Schnitzer Tower provides high-quality, affordable one-bedroom apartments for local seniors. The building's commitment to affordable senior housing carries deep roots in the community. In October 2012, the Harold Schnitzer family gifted the property to the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation to fulfill Harold Schnitzer's wish to preserve long-term affordable housing for seniors on fixed incomes. The properties were then sold to the Robison Jewish Home known as Cedar Sinai Park at the time. Through this comprehensive recapitalization, Robison Jewish Home continues that mission, preserving the building's HUD Section 8 project-based rental assistance contract and ensuring that vulnerable, low-income residents retain safe, welcoming, and affordable homes in downtown Portland.

To execute this vital project, Robison Jewish Home partnered with Guardian Real Estate Services, leveraging four percent Low-In-

come Housing Tax Credits and private activity bonds issued by Oregon Housing and Community Services. Guardian served as the key partner in closing the complex recapitalization structure and managing project execution.

The rehabilitation directly addresses critical building systems, structural enhancements, accessibility, and overall resident comfort—all while allowing current residents to remain safely in their homes throughout construction. Key improvements include upgrades to the building envelope, modernization of mechanical and fire-life safety systems such as air conditioning for every unit and enhancements to common areas, and designated mobility-accessible units.

"We are proud to continue our mission of providing safe, affordable, and supportive housing for Portland's seniors," said Josh Erde-Wollheim, board chair of Robison Jewish Home. "Preserving Rose Schnitzer Tower for another two decades reflects our deep commitment to this community. We are grateful to our partner, Guardian, and to the state and local partners whose collaboration made this critical preservation work possible."

Robison Jewish Home invites community members, residents, and partners to celebrate this significant milestone during an upcoming Open House event on Oct. 15 at 10 am at 1430 SW 12th Avenue, highlighting the building's renewal.

jewishportland.org/subscribe

Sukkot in full swing at Jewish Oasis 60-foot downtown sukkah

The Jewish Oasis

The Portland Sukkah got bigger this year, and so did Sukkah in the City.

The famous Sukkah on the Street in front of Jewish Oasis has grown from its traditional 50-foot size to nearly 60 feet this year. And it is literally on the street; Jewish Oasis received a permit to close a portion of Northwest Glisan Street so the sukkah and surrounding activities can take over the space.

Throughout Sukkot, Sukkah in the City has been bringing people into the sukkah and bringing Sukkot into the heart of Portland. The sukkah has become known simply as "The Portland Sukkah," a place people from throughout the Portland area know they can visit anytime during Sukkot.

Open 24/7, it welcomes Pearl residents, office workers, families, visitors and countless passersby who stop to look, ask questions, shake a lulav and esrog, or simply enjoy being in a sukkah.

The interactions throughout the week have been especially meaningful. Alongside those who celebrate Sukkot every year have been people who have not celebrated in many years, as well as people experiencing the holiday for the first time ever. A passerby may stop because of the enormous sukkah and end up reconnecting with a Jewish tradition they had not experienced in years.

That is at the heart of the Jewish Oasis mission: making Jewish life accessible, welcoming and visible in the heart of Portland. Sukkah in the City takes that mission literally, bringing a Jewish experience into the public life of the city and creating an opportunity for anyone to walk in and connect.

The week culminates Thursday evening, Oct. 1, with an expanded Sukkah in the City celebration during the final First Thursday of the year in Northwest Portland's Pearl District. From 5 to 9 pm, guests can stop the Oasis by for an elegant and festive evening featuring a Bourekas & Salatim Bar, rugelach, drinks and a live musical kumzitz with Rabbi Shimey. Security will be present throughout the event. Space is limited and advance registration is required at JewishOasis.com/Sukkos.

The following day, Friday, Oct. 2, is the final day of Sukkot, and the Portland Sukkah will remain open through the end of the holiday.

Whether you have already visited Sukkah in the City this week or are just discovering The Portland Sukkah, there is still time to stop by.

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Oregon Jewish Voices reading is Nov. 5

Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education

On Thursday, Nov. 5, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education presents the 27th season of the annual Oregon Jewish Voices series. The year's reading will feature playwright David Fuks, poets Ayelet Amittay and Willa Schneberg and nonfiction writers Rachel Attias and Daniel Isaiah Elder. Together they represent a diverse array of voices and genres. Doors open at 6:30 pm. The reading begins at 7 pm in OJMCHE's auditorium. Join us for an exciting evening of literature and community.

Launched in 1999 and curated by poet and ceramic sculptor Willa Schneberg, the series has featured Oregon Jewish writers including Daniela Naomi Molnar, Miriam Gershow, William Deresiewicz and David Axelrod.

OJMCHE Playwright-in-Residence Andrea Stolowitz will host the reading and lead a brief question-and-answer session afterward. Authors' books will be available for purchase.

Amittay is a poet and psychiatric nurse practitioner in Eugene, Oregon. Her first book, "The Eating Knife," an extended Midrash on the Akedah, (the binding of Isaac) was published by Fernwood Press in 2025. Her chapbook, "Therapy Room," won second place in the 2024 3-Day International Chapbook Contest. Ayelet's poems appear in *Critica Press*, *Gulf Coast*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Pleiades*, and others. You can find Ayelet at ayeletpoet.com or on Instagram at @ayeletpoet.

Attias is a writer, educator, and editor based in Portland. Her writing has appeared in *n+1*, *Porter House Review*, *X-R-A-Y*, and more, and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, Best of the Net, and Best Small Fictions. She holds an MFA from Oregon State University and teaches writing at Portland Community College and around the

Pacific Northwest. Her writing is concerned with present and ancestral relationships, our changing natural world, memory, time, and everyday absurdity. Find Rachel at rachellattias.com.

Elder is the recipient of an Emerging LGBTQ Writer Fellowship from Lambda Literary, as well as an Art/Lab Fellowship for Jewish artists. His essays and short fiction have appeared in *The Rumpus*, *Catapult*, *X-Ray Literary*, *Vol. 1 Brooklyn*, and many more literary journals and magazines. He lives in Portland with his partner and their blended family of three children. He's proud to be a bookseller at Annie Bloom's Books, a small independent bookstore soon celebrating its 50th anniversary. Find Daniel at daniel-elder.com.

Fuks is an author, actor, and playwright. He has often provided staged readings of his work during the Fertile Ground Theatre Festival. In March 2026, his Fable, "Alma de Luna," was presented as a world premiere at HART Theatre in Hillsboro, Oregon. Fuks was a member of the improv and sketch comedy group Waggle and Friends for five years. He spent more than 40 years as a leader in the human services arena. Learn more at davidhfuks.com.

Schneberg is a poet, ceramic sculptor, psychotherapist, and curator. With photographer Jim Lommasson, she recently co-curated an exhibition at the Central Library Collins Gallery, entitled "What We Hold & Leave Behind." Her honors include the Oregon Book Award in Poetry, poems on the Writer's Almanac and Poetry Town, residencies at Yaddo, MacDowell, Kathmandu, and last Fall at Essere in Tuscany. She continues to curate Oregon Jewish Voices, now in its 27th season. Find Willa at willaschneberg.org.

Tickets to the Nov. 5 reading are \$10, \$5 for museum members, and available online at OJMCHE.org.

Obituaries

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

HOWARD ROSENBLATT

It is with deep sadness that Congregation Shaarie Torah announces the passing of Howard Marshall Rosenblatt, z"l, beloved father of Raphi Rosenblatt. Howard died on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2026 in Gainesville, Fla. He was 79 years old.

He is survived by his wife, Eve D. Ackerman, sons Raphael (David Morgenstern) and Micah (Sophie Parker) and one grandson. He is predeceased by his parents, Gertrude S. Rosenblatt, z"l and Harry Rosenblatt, z"l, of Jacksonville, and his brother, Richard Jay Rosenblatt, z"l.

The funeral was held Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Rosenblatt served as Cantor for Congregation First Sons of Israel in St. Augustine in the 1970s, and at Congregation B'nai Israel in Gainesville for 27 years. He prepared scores of young teens for their B'nai Mitzvah ceremonies, insisting that they were learning for a lifetime, not for a single day. He was also a public school teacher in Jacksonville before changing careers, first as an insurance agent, then as an attorney and licensed financial planner.

A life member of the Million Dollar Round Table, Rosenblatt was recognized for his contributions to the finance and insurance industries with the Herb Morgan NAIFA Florida

award, the CG Snead Advisor of the Year Award, and as president of the Gainesville Chapter of the American Society of CLU's and CLFC's, the North Florida Estate Planning Council, and the Gainesville-Ocala Chapter of the Society of Financial Service Professionals.

Rosenblatt was also an active member of the Florida Bar during his 40 years practicing law. He was a Fellow of the Florida Bar Foundation, served as a Director of Florida Lawyers Legal Insurance Corporation, and honored by the Florida Bar with the Pro-Bono Service Award for the Eighth Judicial Circuit and by Legal Services Corporation for service as a pro bono attorney.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that anyone wishing to do so contribute in Howard's memory to the Alachua County Library District Foundation, Congregation B'nai Israel of Gainesville, FL, or the University of Florida Foundation.

ED COON

Congregation Kol Ami is very sad to announce the death of Ed Coon, z"l, father of Carol Stoler. He died Saturday, Sept. 26, after prolonged illness.

Donations in Ed's memory can be made to the OSLC-Families Feeding Families of Everett, Wash.