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## Next issues

Issue date	Deadline
Oct. 12	Oct. 6
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Nov. 9	Nov. 3
Nov. 23	Nov. 17

Submit photos, news and obituaries to

[editor@jewishportland.org](mailto:editor@jewishportland.org)

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Did you know?

## A hospital bed for someone in need

*This marks Jewish Family & Child Service's 75th year. In the runup to JFCS' culminating, celebratory event on May 18, 2023, this space offers occasional looks back at agency history our community may – or may not – remember.*

In 1927, the National Council of Jewish Women Portland Section paid \$5,000 to St. Vincent Hospital-based Sisters of Charity of Providence. The NCJW payment ensured the hospital would furnish ward accommodations and services in perpetuity to provide needed healthcare to a low-income Jewish person. The NCJW and JFCS would vet the individual seeking care.

Fast-forward to the mid-1960s. Garry Kahn, then a young lawyer and JFCS board member, recalls the story of a young Jewish woman in need. She was poor, scared and uncertain where to turn.

She made her way to JFCS, whose executive director was Alvin Rackner, z"l, who served in that role for 27 years. Desiring to help the woman in need, Alvin looked into providing the St. Vincent-based bed to her. However, the Sisters of Charity claimed hospital costs were too high and believed the woman's care too expensive to provide gratis.

Alvin requested that Garry take on the case pro-bono. He did – with the assistance of fellow young lawyer, Howard Feuerstein – and they prevailed in Multnomah County Circuit Court. The hospital appealed the decision to the Oregon Supreme Court. This was the first time the state's highest court addressed this issue in a medical-treatment case.

In 1973, Oregon's highest court ruled the 1927 agreement was enforceable and the "Jewish Endowed Bed" should be available to Jewish patients who are needy and "the legitimate objects of charity," Garry says.

The Jewish Endowed Bed agreement remains in place and has been used many times in the years since the binding legal decision of 49 years ago.

"It was one of the most gratifying cases I ever took on; Alvin said on numerous occasions how gratified he was about the outcome," says Garry.

Throughout this 75th year, JFCS is sharing history and memories. Do you have a JFCS-related "Did you know" story of your own for this space? If so, please contact Jenn Director Knudsen, communications manager, at [jdirectorknudsen@jfcs-portland.org](mailto:jdirectorknudsen@jfcs-portland.org).

## JFCS walks beside you during holidays & beyond

BY JENN DIRECTOR KNUDSEN

"This group meant the world to me. It really helped me greatly," says a client of Jewish Family & Child Service's grief-processing group, Walking Beside You. "This is where my home was for the help I needed ... I felt so connected to the participants, like we're all a family. I'm in a much better place than where I started."

Due to community members' very positive response to Walking Beside You, this fall marks the third time its co-facilitators are offering the online opportunity through JFCS' Counseling program. It will run for eight consecutive weeks.

JFCS' Missy Fry, LCSW, CAGCS, behavioral health social worker and certified advanced grief counseling specialist, and Rabbi Barry Cohen, community chaplain at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, facilitate the group. They invite anyone experiencing the loss of someone close to log on to Walking Beside You; it might be just right for you, perhaps particularly at this time of year.

"While the holidays are a joyous and busy time for many, it can also be an overwhelming time of constant reminders of loss," Missy says.

As it has been for another client, who says "I did look forward to each session, since each day brings up many challenges after a loss of loved ones. The guidance was helpful."

Yet another adds, "Missy and Rabbi Cohen provided a safe and intimate space for those grieving to share their experiences and support each other."

Walking Beside You is made possible from generous donations from the Leonard & Lois Schnitzer Charitable Supporting Foundation of the OJCF, the Jewish Federations of North America's Center for Holocaust Survivor Care and Institute on Aging and Trauma, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and the Zidell Family Foundation.

Walking Beside You, session 3, begins Thursday, Sept. 29, from 2 to 3 pm. For more information, visit [jfcs-portland.org/walking-beside-you/](https://jfcs-portland.org/walking-beside-you/).

## Oct. 2: Freedom of speech in polarized time

Legal scholar Erwin Chemerinsky will speak on "The Meaning of Freedom of Speech in a Politically Polarized Time" at Congregation Beth Israel at 3 pm, Oct. 2.

Chemerinsky is dean of the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He is an expert in constitutional law, federal practice, civil rights and civil liberties. A prolific author, he is one of America's most respected and widely cited legal scholars. His books include *The Case Against the Supreme Court* and *We the People: A Progressive*

*Reading of the Constitution for the Twenty-First Century.*

He co-chairs the national advisory board of the University of California's National Free Speech Center, which champions free speech and civic engagement on college campuses.

He grew up in a working class Jewish family on Chicago's South Side and graduated from Northwestern University and Harvard Law School.

The program is co-sponsored by CBI's adult education committee and Lewis and Clark Law School.