

839 DAYS - BRING THEM HOME NOW!

THE JEWISH REVIEW

ESTABLISHED

1959

OREGON & SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON'S JEWISH NEWSPAPER

January 21, 2026 | 3 Shevat, 5786 | Volume 61, Issue 2

JWRT Havdalah is Jan. 31.

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

The Jewish Women's Round Table will hold their 26th Annual Havdalah Service at Zidell Hall at Rose Schnitzer Manor Saturday, Jan. 31 at 7 pm.

"It has a lot of meaning to our group as well as ongoing support for all the wonderful people and the great job that Cedar Sinai does at the Rose Schnitzer Manor," co-organizer Ellen Bick explained to *The Jewish Review*.

This year's service will be led by Congregation Neveh Shalom's Rabbi Cantor Eyal Bitton.

"He's a wonderful wealth of songs and getting people involved in singing," Bick said. "He sings in English and Ladino and Yiddish, and he gets people involved. That's part of the fun of it, to

See HAVDALAH, page 9



Small hands, big impact

Participants make greeting cards at one of more than a dozen service project stations at Portland Jewish Academy's fifth annual Work For The World fair Monday, Jan. 19 at the school. See more of Rockne Roll's photographs from this Martin Luther King Jr. Day tradition on page 7. (Rockne Roll/*The Jewish Review*)

INSIDE Security – page 10 | Events – page 11 | Obituaries – page 12

The Jewish Review wants to hear from YOU!
Complete our Reader Survey at form.jotform.com/JFGP/JR-reader-survey

News of the Jews

The Jewish Review staff

Blattner to speak at EJC town hall

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland President and CEO Marc Blattner will speak at a townhall event hosted by the Eastside Jewish Commons tomorrow, Jan. 22, at 7 pm.

“There was an idea from an east side community member interested in having local Jewish organization leaders speak about what their agencies offer the Jewish community so people can learn and know more about them,” Blattner told *The Jewish Review*. “It’s an opportunity to meet and hear from community members on the east side, and anybody from the west side who wants to participate as well, to share a little bit about what we’re doing at the Jewish Federation, what we’re seeing in the Jewish community and to get insights of what our Jewish community should be focusing on.”

The event is free, but preregistration is requested at events.humanitix.com/pdx-jewish-community-town-hall-with-jfgp-president-marc-blattner.

Jewish Review launches reader survey

The Jewish Review has launched its first Reader Survey to gauge the preferences of community members in how news is gathered and disseminated.

“Journalism, at least in my view, is a public service,” *Jewish Review* Editor Rockne Roll said. “In order to best serve our readers, I need to understand what’s important to them and what modes of communication work best for them. These are conversations I love having face-to-face, but a survey like this one is a great way to gather that kind of information at scale.”

The survey is available at form.jotform.com/JFGP/JR-reader-survey.

PJA Principal Hendin to retire

Portland Jewish Academy Principal Merrell Hendin is

scheduled to retire at the end of the 2026-2027 academic year.

“This kehillah (community) has helped raise my family and helped me grow into the person I am today. I will deeply miss being here amongst all of you and your children, from the youngest babies who I love to greet in the mornings, to our oldest middle school students who show us through their learning and actions what it is to be a mensch who works for the world. I am so grateful for the opportunity PJA has given me to play a small part in the growth and development of your families,” Hendin said in an email announcing the decision.

Hendin first became involved with PJA in 1989, teaching Jewish Studies part time. She was a classroom volunteer and lay leader before rejoining the school’s professional team in 2006 as Judaic Studies Coordinator. Hendin was named Interim head of School in early 2009 and named PJA’s Principal the next academic year.

Hendin and PJA Executive Director Steve Albert, along with the school’s board and professional leadership, in consultation with Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools and the Northwest Association of Independent Schools, are planning to launch a search for the school’s next academic leader this fall.

OJMCHE's Exec Director Sobel steps down

Rebekah Sobel is stepping down from her role as Executive Director of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, effective Jan. 30 after two years in the role.

“It has been a privilege and honor to steward the museum through a period of meaningful strategic maturation,” Sobel said in an email announcing the change. “I am grateful to the entire OJMCHE community and for the opportunity to work with the Board.”

Sobel joined OJMCHE in January of 2024 following a stint as Policy Director of Museum Programs at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. Holding a PhD in Anthropology from Temple University, Sobel had also previously worked at the Capital Jewish Museum, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and at George Washington University. Gail Mandel, the Museum’s Chief Operating and Advancement Officer, will lead OJMCHE as Interim Executive Director.

“We are grateful for Rebekah’s leadership and for her contributions to the museum over the past two years. We wish her well in her next endeavor,” OJMCHE Board President Liz Lippoff said in the email announcing Sobel’s departure. “We are confident, with Gail’s leadership, we will remain focused on our mission and the important work we do, now and going forward, at the museum and throughout the community.”

“I am pleased to support Gail as she steps into the role of interim executive director, and I look forward to seeing OJMCHE build upon its legacy and its success to reach new heights,” Sobel added.

Emails from *The Jewish Review* to Sobel and Mandel received no response as of press time.



Women's Giving Circle

Women's Philanthropy

The Women's Giving Circle seeks to expand and improve opportunities and choices in all aspects of Jewish women and girls' lives through strategic and effective grantmaking.

The Women's Giving Circle empowers women as leaders, funders and decision-makers.

2026 Grantmaking Cycle is NOW OPEN!

Grant Submission Deadline:
February 27, 2026

CLICK HERE 

Israel in Focus

The New Old Middle East

Wednesday, February 4 at 7pm
@ Mittleman Jewish Community Center

The ongoing multifront war presents fundamental changes to all of the Middle East, including Israel. What is new, what is old, and what does it mean for the future of the region?



Ms. Col. (Ret.) Miri Eisin

Senior Fellow at the International Institute
for Counterterrorism (ICT)



Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland

REGISTER HERE



In partnership with



Beit Haverim to hear 'Songs of Social Justice' in Jan. 25 concert

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Donnie Berg, z"l, was an ardent fan of Bob Dylan, an advocate for social justice and a committed Jew.

Those three traits will come together in "Songs for Social Justice" at Lake Oswego's Beit Haverim, the synagogue of his brother, Rabbi Alan Berg, Sunday, Jan. 25 at 3 pm. The concert, which will feature Cantor Ann Brown performing works by Dylan and other Jewish songwriters of the mid-to-late 20th century, is more than simply a commemoration of the second *yahrzeit* (Yiddish for the anniversary of someone's passing) for Rabbi Berg's brother.

"It turned from a concert of Dylan songs into a preponderance of protest songs written in the 60s by songwriters who are Jewish," Cantor Brown explained. "It is amazing that even 20, 30, 40, 50 years later, as I'm singing them, I'm having a new experience... that everything could have been written today. That all of the lyrics are just as meaningful today as they were when they were written."

An example, Rabbi Berg pointed out, is Dylan's "The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll," written in 1963 about the fatal beating of a Black woman by a wealthy white man in Maryland who received a six-month jail sentence for the crime – the sentence was reported in newspapers the same day as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech. Rabbi Berg described the song as one of

Dylan's best.

"In terms of the strength of the lyric writing and original musical melody, it's almost something that could not have been imagined to be created," he said.

"None of these songs are specifically or necessarily about Jewish things but they reflect the upbringing with all of these people that we're going to be talking about, the songwriters," Cantor Brown added. "They were raised in Jewish homes with those values of justice and equality and how we treat each other."

Values that were also important to Rabbi Berg's brother.

"He was astute on the topic [of social justice], almost prophetic, in some cases," Rabbi Berg said. "Before he passed away, I would turn to him, as many people do with other people in their family, and say, 'What do you think is going to happen?' But he would be right about big, consequential things. He had a good mind on that."

Donnie Berg had suffered from polio as a child but recovered to raise a family and own and operate a nightclub in Cincinnati for two decades. For his first *yahrzeit*, Beit Haverim hosted a lecture on the work of Jewish novelist Phillip Roth."

"He was just a very gentle soul, he loved everything he did," Rabbi Berg continued. "Donnie loved music, and when it came to Dylan, he was a massive fan."

Beit Haverim regulars will know that adding modern

See **CONCERT**, page 11

Co/Lab wraps up, Rabbi Rose launches new online programs

By ROCKNE ROLL
The Jewish Review

Co/Lab, the learning and engagement non-profit founded by Rabbi Josh Rose, is shutting down.

"Co/Lab accomplished a great deal," Rabbi Rose told *The Jewish Review*. "The short version is that it reached the end of its natural cycle."

The program had entered a hiatus in 2025 and spun off one of its most successful ongoing projects, the cohort-based Jewish arts incubator Art/Lab, into a separate entity. Founded in 2021, Co/Lab racked up numerous other successes in bringing new models of Jewish engagement to Portland; Learning Lab, the Judaism and the Psychedelic Renaissance conference series and a massive East Portland Purim party, just to name a few.

"The other side," Rabbi Rose explained, "was what all of that success and excitement was costing me: that I was no longer able to do the thing that I most love and I think that I'm best at, which is learning as a Jew and teaching as a Jew."

Rabbi Rose remains Art/Lab's Rabbinic Advisor and host of the program's arts-focused podcast, "The Genesis." Co/Lab's website now redirects to rabbijoshrose.com, Rabbi Rose's new platform for doing what he loves most and is best at.

"I'm certainly not the only person trying to address these in the world of Jewish learning, but I have my own take and my own approach that is something that I'm enthusiastic to share," Rabbi Rose explained.

Rabbi Rose is continuing to target his work in two complimentary veins: To provide accessible Jewish wisdom for those who are looking to connect (or reconnect) with Jewish traditions and teaching, and for those who are looking for insights to fundamental questions of modern life.

"There's a real yearning for people to want to have Torah address the most profound and deepest questions that they have about being human," Rabbi Rose said. "People come to the table with very penetrating questions and a very deep desire to hear Jewish answers to the challenges of the contemporary moment. And my goal with the courses that I'm offering is to try to address that range of needs, because those are my interests."

Upcoming classes, available online, include "Finding Hope in Darkness: Jewish Wisdom for the 21st Century" and "Judaism 101: Foundations of Jewish Tradition."

"I think that we all have this sense that we're living through unprecedented times, and I think that we need all the insights and wisdom that we can get, both to sustain our own hope and the possibility of a better tomorrow, but also to inspire us and give us insight into what our own lives and our own actions can mean in the world," Rabbi Rose said. "What I bring is insights from the Jewish tradition that make people see that ancient teachings are

See **RABBI ROSE**, page 9

Sephardic practices give Tu B'shevat special meaning

By POLINA OLSEN

Special to The Jewish Review

What started as a tithing system turned into a spiritual holiday.

Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of trees, has become the Jewish Earth Day. But Tu B'Shevat observance is ancient, particularly among Sephardic Jews. *The Jewish Review* sat down with three people from Portland's Sephardic community to learn about the holiday and how they observe it.

Rabbi April Villarreal is Congregation Neveh Shalom's interim assistant rabbi. She will lead the text study at the Sisterhood's Tu B'Shevat program on Feb. 8 which also includes a fruit and nut seder and art project.

Part of Rabbi Villarreal's family traces back to the Jewish migration to Amsterdam during the Spanish Inquisition. As a teenager, she was active at Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel in Los Angeles, where they celebrated Tu B'Shevat with the traditional Sephardic seder, the Pri Etz Hadar.

Rabbi Villarreal briefly explained the holiday's history. The Mishnah established the 15th day of the Hebrew month Shevat as the birthday for all trees and used this date for annual tithing. The date was also important since eating fruit from trees less than three years old was prohibited.

"In the 1500s, you had a proliferation of mystical Jewish thinking," Rabbi Villarreal said.

The Kabbalists, she explained, believe our world is mirrored in the spiritual world. During creation, divine sparks from the spiritual world scattered and were trapped in our world, including in fruits. Blessing fruit reconnects trapped sparks to the spiritual world and brings blessings from the spiritual world to ours.

Later, students of the Kabbalists from Safed published the Pri Etz Hadar in 1728. It maps the seven species from Deuteronomy: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates, to the four Kabbalistic worlds. Action is represented by hard-shelled fruits like nuts, formation by fruits with inedible pits like olives, creation by entirely edible fruits like figs, and emanation, which is spiritual and has no physical representation.



From top: Rabbi April Villarreal will lead a discussion at Neveh Shalom Sisterhood's Tu B'Shevat program. Dorice Horenstein offered Tu B'Shevat seders during her time at Congregation Shaarie Torah. Aiden Kugelman-Samba is program director at Congregation Ahavath Achim. (Polina Olsen/Special to The Jewish Review)

"The Pri Etz Hadar became the basis for a Tu B'Shevat seder that is uniquely Sephardic," Rabbi April said. "The Pri Etz Hadar is a wonderful spiritual work

but it's inaccessible. That's why the Song of Songs, with its Ladino translation, became part of the seder. It's beloved by the Sephardic community, and it's something every member of the household was able to understand."

"When I was young, we followed the Pri Etz Hadar structure, chanting in both Hebrew and Ladino," Rabbi Villarreal continued. "The synagogue was gorgeous with tables set up in the ballroom. Every fruit had a passage that was chanted in Ladino. I was lucky. We still had Ladino speakers from Turkey and Bulgaria. Unlike modern Tu B'Shevat Seders, Rabbi Villarreal noted, the traditional Sephardic seder does not include four cups of wine but rather just one at its beginning.

"Before the seder, people packaged platters of dried fruits and nuts and brought them to the community as gifts," Rabbi Villarreal said. "That's what I remember most, putting together those platters." She also remembers songs, especially *El Debate de las Flores*. "All the flowers come out and sing how wonderful they are, but we must give gratitude to God for creating them. That's the refrain."

Rabbi April sees parallels in releasing holy sparks from fruit and from ourselves. "We can connect with the gifts we each have inside of us and share those in new and profound ways," she said. It's like saying a blessing on the fruit."

Dorice Horenstein celebrated Tu B'Shevat growing up in Israel but learned more as the former Education Director for Congregation Shaarie Torah. "My mom just had a platter of dried fruit," she said. "At Shaarie Torah, I created my own Haggadah, and we had a seder every year. The tables were gorgeous, decorated in green, white and yellow. Families brought fruit and flower arrangements."

Horenstein wanted to impart a connection to Israel and Judaism. "I'd have the seven kinds of fruit," she said. "For every fruit, there were questions, learning and growth. For example, the fig is like the Torah because you eat the fig in its entirety, and all of the Torah can be consumed. Some kids were never

See **TU B'SHEVAT**, page 7

JFGP's Pinker named to national Catalyst cohort

By ROCKNE ROLL

The Jewish Review

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Volunteer Coordinator Merit Pinker has been selected for the fourth cohort of The Catalyst professional development initiative for Federation leaders working in volunteer service spaces.

Pinker joins 10 other Federation professionals from across North America in this five-month program led by Repair the World, the nationwide Jewish service movement, and the Jewish Federations of North America.

“We’re going to be workshopping together new volunteer programs for our communities,” Pinker said. “We’re creating unique programs to our own communities, but workshopping them together, and also increasing our own skills for engagement and service learning.”

In addition to their regular online meetings over the next five months, the cohort will gather in person before February’s FedPro national conference in Phoenix, Ariz. for a day-long service-learning intensive.

“We’re thrilled to welcome this exceptional group of professionals who are dedicated to strengthening their communities through Jewish service and learning,” Repair the World Chief Program Officer Shana Bloom said in a press release. “As proud partners with Jewish Federations, we’re equipping Jewish community leaders with the expertise and resources to engage the next



Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Volunteer Coordinator Merit Pinker, top, talks with participants at a volunteer challah-baking event at Chabad of Northeast Portland Thursday, April 24, 2025. Pinker has been named to the fourth cohort of The Catalyst volunteer service incubator program through Repair the World and the Jewish Federations of North America. (Rockne Roll/Jewish Review file)

generation of volunteers in Jewish service and make Jewish service a cornerstone of Jewish life.”

“Jewish Federations are committed to investing in the professional development of our staff, ensuring they have the tools to engage and inspire their communities,” Hannah Miranda Miller, JFNA’s Director of Volunteer Initiatives and Global Service, added. “The Catalyst program is a powerful example of how we can work together to build a more vibrant Jewish future grounded in service.”

Laura Jeser, the Portland Federation’s Associate Campaign and Engagement Director, participated in

the third Catalyst cohort. Her experience helped her launch The Mitzvah Project service programs for young adults and its companion program, Mitzvah Makers, for young families.

“[Catalyst] taught me the power of listening to our community’s voice to create inclusive, meaningful volunteer spaces rooted in *tikkun olam* (repairing the world),” Jeser said. “Beyond the professional framework for organizing volunteerism, I gained a national network of peers who remain trusted colleagues and dear friends. I am thrilled for Merit as she dives into this transformative journey.”

Catalyst participants receive a grant of \$7,000 to

help bring a volunteer service initiative to life in their communities. Pinker hasn’t settled on a project yet, but the ideas are churning.

“There’s a missing gap [in volunteer service opportunities] for adults who are no longer young adults but aren’t yet seniors,” Pinker said. “We’ve also seen the success of service teams; groups that continue working on the same project over time instead of done-in-a-day programs, which has been the bulk of what we do with our volunteer program right now.”

Those interested in Jewish volunteer service programs can contact Pinker at merit@jewishportland.org.



Click the logo for the latest episode of The Jewish Review Podcast

Families spend MLK Day working for the world



Photographs by **ROCKNE ROLL**

The Jewish Review

More than 300 participants descended on Portland Jewish Academy Monday, Jan. 19 for the school's fifth annual Work For The World volunteer service fair. Community partners joined PJA, the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and PJ Library in filling classrooms with service projects.



Avdija's success resonates in star's homeland

Editor's note: This article was originally published by The Press Service of Israel and is reproduced here with permission. The original is available at tps.co.il/articles/thank-god-for-deni-avdija-israelis-rally-behind-rising-nba-all-star.

By EZRA COHEN

The Press Service of Israel

It's a bustling Friday morning in Jerusalem's Machane Yehuda shuk, but it seems everyone has time to take a break from their pre-Shabbat shopping to say a few words of admiration about Deni Avdija, the Israeli basketball phenom from Kibbutz Beit Zera who is taking the U.S. by storm. On Monday, Jan. 5, the Portland Trail Blazers forward was named the NBA's Western Conference Player of the Week.

The 25-year-old Avdija is even outpacing better-known stars like LeBron James and Kevin Durant in fan voting for the All-Star Game, which will take place in February.

"He is a great player," one young man eagerly tells The Press Service of Israel.

"He's the best NBA player," says another.

"He shoots beautiful three-pointers. The whole defense is on him, because he's the player that influences the contest," says a third.

Even people who don't watch sports feel the "Deni-buzz."

"I hardly watch sports, [but] I see him a lot... on the cornflakes box and stuff," says one kid excitedly.

It's no accident that Avdija, known as "Turbo" for his aggressive playing style, has become so beloved. He's averaging 25.6 points, 7.2 rebounds, and 7.0 assists per game, numbers reminiscent of LeBron James' production at the same age. He's singlehandedly led the Portland Trail Blazers to contention for a playoff spot for the first time since 2021. All this puts him on the cusp of becoming Israel's first All-Star.

But it's not just his skills that have made him so popular. He's different from most NBA players. He has little social media presence and a humble personality in interviews. Yet his calm demeanor belies a huge community of fans and followers who latch on

to his contagious personality and a lead-by-example locker-room style. As one older gentleman put it in the shuk: "Deni Avdija is a great man. He's a *mensch*," Yiddish praise used to describe a person of character and integrity.

Rakefet Arieli, the team nutritionist for Maccabi Tel Aviv, recalled being intrigued when a 16-year-old Avdija first walked into the Maccabi Tel Aviv training facility.

"I knew that he was very talented, and I knew he has very good genes because you see his parents, but he was very... childish," she told TPS-IL. She described how their early meetings consisted of Avdija pointing at pictures of the team's stars and saying, "I want to look like them." This wasn't unexpected.

"At 16-17 years old, body image is important," Arieli explained. "But there was a point when he understood that if he wants to play basketball in the EuroLeague and in Tel Aviv, he needs to take care of his body not just in an aesthetic state of mind but also from an athletic state."

On the court, though, and with his teammates, Arieli watched a young man who was in his element. "Even when he was young, he was always dominant because he's a funny guy, he likes to laugh," she reminisced. "He puts his music very loud. You always heard his voice. He has very good vibes. He's very friendly, he has a lot of friends, and all the teammates always loved him," something of a rarity on professional teams where competing for playing time can often become the focus.

Avdija's charisma off the court and talent on the court resulted in almost immediate success with Maccabi Tel Aviv. In 2018, at 17, he led the team to the Israeli League championship; then he did it again in 2019 and in 2020.

In 2020, at the age of 19, Avdija won both the Israeli League MVP and the Israeli League Israeli Player of the Year awards, the youngest athlete ever to achieve that feat. But all along, Deni understood his success in the context of his community, his country, and his

people. In 2020, he was drafted ninth overall by the NBA's Washington Wizards. At a post-draft celebration in Tel Aviv, Avdija declared to his family and friends, "I'm gonna make you proud. I'm gonna work 100%."

Avdija's Israeli and broader Jewish communities remain at the forefront of his identity, even as he's found international fame. He doesn't play on Yom Kippur. He lights the Chanukah candles every year. In the aftermath of Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack, Avdija told reporters, "There's really more important things than basketball in life. And it's really tough for me, and my mind sometimes isn't there. But I got to keep it professional and do my job, and when I have the chance to stand with Israel, I will."

Meanwhile, Avdija's play continues to improve. On Saturday, Jan. 3, Avdija scored his third triple-double of the season and made a clutch three-pointer to seal Portland's victory over the San Antonio Spurs. On online basketball forums and in Instagram comment sections, fans seemed more convinced than ever of his All-Star chances. In his postgame interview, though, all he could talk about was his teammates. "This team, this camaraderie, those players, it's just fun to play. They're fighting, they're defending, we're just an amazing team."

Back in the shuk, the pride Israelis feel for Deni is infectious. "Deni, the king," declares one passerby. "You're going to make it to the All-Star Game, Deni, and we love you."

"Deni Avdija has a soul," says another. "You see that he's playing for the people."

One guy says it all: "Thank God for Deni Avdija."

But even as they cheer him on, Israelis place a certain level of responsibility on Avdija.

"He wants to show the whole world that [though] Israel has much less funding for basketball, we can still make it," says a man in the shuk. "He should just be a good person, a great basketball player."

"He has a lot of responsibility. He'll make it."

jewishportland.org/subscribe

Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation grant apps open

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation

The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, a program of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, is now accepting proposals for its 2026 grant-making cycle.

For this year's funding priorities, OJCYF teen leaders have selected two urgent focus areas, antisemitism and homelessness, grounded in the Jewish values of hope, human dignity, justice, responsibility, and service. In the area of antisemitism, the foundation seeks to fund programs that build bridges across cultures and religious communities, educate youth and the broader public about

the realities and impact of antisemitism, and foster Jewish life, identity, resilience, or understanding of Israel.

In the area of homelessness, OJCYF aims to support organizations assisting individuals who are currently unhoused or at risk of losing housing. The foundation is particularly interested in programs that offer access to food, mental health and addiction support, and essential non-food items that promote dignity, health, and stability. Proposals may also address long-term pathways toward safety, stability, and self-sufficiency.

The deadline for grant submissions is Feb. 18, 2026. Applications may be

submitted through the OJCF online grant application portal at grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=ojcf-grants.

OJCYF raises funds for its annual grantmaking through the OJCYF Benefit Dinner. The 2026 event, titled An Evening in Tel Aviv—Celebrating Jewish Youth Philanthropy, will take place on Apr. 16 from 5:30-8:30 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

For additional information about the grant application process or the benefit dinner, contact Susan Berniker, Collaborative Giving Director, at susanb@ojcf.org or 503-248-9328.

HAVDALAH (continued from page 1)

see people happy.”

JWRT chose Havdalah, the ritual marking the end of Shabbat and the transition to a new week, as an annual event for Cedar Sinai Park residents – and the rest of the community – nearly a quarter century ago because of the opportunity it provides to bring in clergy from around the community, and because Saturday night is a convenient time for many people, Bick said. But there's more to it as well.

“It's also looking forward to the new week and bringing joy to all of us,” Bick said.

Refreshments will be provided. The service is free and open to the public. For more information, email Bick at elenrbick@gmail.com.

CONCERT (continued from page 4)

musical stylings to the traditional liturgy is one of Cantor Brown's specialties.

“I bring in lots of folk music into the service, not instead of liturgical music, but in addition,” she said. “Rabbi [Berg] and I, we just have harmonic convergence. We both have the same the same ideas with music, and he will often talk to me when he's writing a sermon and say, ‘What about this song?’”

Sunday's concert is free, both in-person at Beit Haverim and on Zoom. For more information, visit beithav.org.

RABBI ROSE (continued from page 4)

actually contemporarily relevant in a profound way.”

And though Co/Lab's journey is at an end, the journey was entirely worth it and more.

“[Co/Lab] accomplished something really important, which is that it showed Portland the range of possibilities that a lot of Jewish people in the city were really interested in that were not going to be found in traditional modes,” Rabbi Rose said.

Learn more about Rabbi Rose's latest classes at rabbi-joshrose.com.

TU B'SHEVAT (continued from page 5)

exposed to different kinds of fruit. Maybe they never had a pomegranate before. It was an exploration. They loved it.”

Aiden Kugelman-Samba is program director at Congregation Ahavath Achim.

“This year, we're going on a guided walk in Gabriel Park followed by a seder,” she said. The synagogue uses the Frutikas Tubeshivat Seder available through the Sephardic Brotherhood of America. It includes the 15 Psalms of Ascent, blessings, and verses from the Song of Songs like “I will climb the (date) palm tree; I will take hold of its branches” and “Like a piece of pomegranate, are your temples behind your veil.”

Frutikas also includes delicious recipes for treats like paniziko de casa (sweet rolls), biscocho (sesame cookies), and marochinos (almond cookies).

“My work involves developing programming that is authentic and serves the cultural preservation of the Sephardic community,” Kugelman-Samba said. “Tu B'Shevat is an opportunity to reconnect with nature and deepen our understanding of divinity because, like nature, it's all around and inside us.”

Rabbi April Villarreal will lead a discussion at Neveh Shalom Sisterhood's Tu B'Shevat event on Feb. 8 from 1:30-3:30 pm. For more information, contact sisterhood@nevehshalom.org.

Congregation Ahavath Achim's Tu B'Shevat Seder is Feb 1 from 5-8 pm. For more information contact info@ahavathachim.com.

Polina Olsen is the author of several book on Portland Jewish history and Portland in the 1960s. Learn more at amazon.com/author/polina_olsen.

SUBSCRIBE:
jewishportland.org/subscribe

When ICE comes knocking

Published biweekly by
the Jewish Federation of
Greater Portland
9900 SW Greenburg
Road, Suite 220
Tigard, OR 97223
503-245-6219

Editor

Rockne Roll
editor@jewishportland.org

Associate Editor

Caron Blau Rothstein

Assistant Editor

Rachel Nelson

Circulation

To receive the Jewish
Review in your email
inbox, fill out the form at

[jewishportland.org/
subscribe](http://jewishportland.org/subscribe)

OPINIONS printed in the
Jewish Review do not
necessarily reflect those
of the Jewish Review,
the Jewish Federation
of Greater Portland,
its governing board
or the staffs of either
the newspaper or the
Federation.

**Jewish Federation of
Greater Portland online**
Website: jewishportland.org
Instagram: [instagram.com/
jewishfederationpdx](https://www.instagram.com/jewishfederationpdx)
Facebook:
[facebook.com/JewishPDX](https://www.facebook.com/JewishPDX)
Jewish Review:
[jewishportland.org/jewish-
review](http://jewishportland.org/jewish-
review)

NEXT ISSUE

Issue date Deadline

JAN 21 JAN 15

By **JESSICA ANDERSON**

This past week's events in Minneapolis prompted me to reflect on a recent consultation I conducted with one of our community's organizations regarding ICE activity. The organization wanted to make a plan in the event ICE attempted to enter its space. For most of our organizations, the chances of this are extremely low. But this issue arose, and for this organization, it was deemed smarter to have a plan, to minimize surprises and the need to "wing it" in the moment. Just like training, planning ahead of time builds confidence and prevents mistakes.

The approach to this issue could be a loose conversation among principals/staff to ensure they are on the same page, or a formal internal policy document accompanied by staff training. A more formal process might be appropriate if your organization has a visible position on ICE, if you have a situation that might involve ICE, and you would rely on the involvement of your staff.

Whichever staff member answers the door/doorbell or is the first point of contact, should be trained with at least an initial response. This is generally going to be a statement that the staff member needs to call a supervisor or person in authority, and that ICE should stand by to interact with that person. It's important to have multiple people designated as the authority to call, in case someone is absent. A simple "let me get my supervisor to help you" should suffice.

Staff who may need to in-



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.

teract with officers should know not to consent to entry without proper authorization, how to politely ask to see credentials/identification and warrants, to immediately contact a supervisor, and that they have the right to refuse entry without a judicial warrant. If you're documenting this in a formal policy, these are key elements, so staff know what they are and aren't allowed to do, and what they may be expected to do.

An additional option is that if ICE arrives, staff can provide a written statement (kept at the front desk or by the door) that states your policy and asks agents to present a judicial warrant. That can relieve some of the nervousness about getting the language right.

ICE generally arrests people with either a judicial or administrative warrant. A judicial warrant must be signed by a judge and will say "U.S. District Court" or Oregon State Court at the top. If ICE agents tell you that they have a judicial warrant, ask for a copy and read it. It will say what/who they are looking for and what areas they are allowed to look in. Generally, officers are not permitted to look for things in spaces

where the searched-for item cannot be. If a warrant is for a person only (no documents, etc.), they can't look through a desk drawer because the subject of the warrant (a person) could not be in the drawer.

If an officer attempts to enter a non-public space of your building, it's appropriate to say: "This is a private area. You cannot enter without a judicial warrant signed by a judge. Do you have a judicial warrant? If they have a judicial warrant, signed by a judge, this grants them authority to enter any space. Never provide false information and do not interfere with their activities.

ICE agents may try to use an "administrative warrant" to enter. An administrative warrant does not allow agents to enter private areas without an organization's permission. Administrative warrants are not from a court. They say, "Department of Homeland Security" and are on Forms I-200 or I-205.

When you are lawfully present in a public space, the First Amendment generally protects your right to photograph or film anything in plain view, including law

See **SECURITY**, page 11

Events

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

Jan. 22: Al Lewin Legacy Trail Work Party

Volunteer trail maintenance project at Cedar Sinai Park at 9 am. Preregistration required at jewishportland.org/allewin.

Jan. 22: Jewish Community Town Hall

See story, page 2.

Jan. 22: Weekly Parsha Class

Weekly 10-minute Torah discussion presented by The Portland Kollel at 8 pm on Zoom. Learn more at portlandkollel.org/zoom

Jan. 23: The Stranniki, Polina Shepherd and Psoy Korolenko

Concert at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7:30. Tickets at events.humanitix.com/concert-the-stranniki-polina-shepherd-and-psoy-korolenko.

Jan. 24: Women's Torah Study

Weekly Torah study at Congregation Ahavath Achim Saturday mornings at 10:30 am. For more information, email info@ahavathachim.org.

Jan. 24: Sephardic Foundations

Weekly Sephardic history class at Congregation Ahavath Achim Saturday afternoons at 12:30 pm. For more information, visit [\[vathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-foundations.html\]\(http://vathachimpdx.weebly.com/sephardic-foundations.html\).](http://aha-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Jan. 24: Senior Mixer and Social Hour

Social hour at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 5 pm, sponsored by EJC and Jewish Family and Child Service. For more information email ericstern@ejcpdx.org.

Jan. 25 Ilan Katan Open House

Preschool open house at Maayan Torah from 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Registration at fs29.formsite.com/yqKY-QG/ds7ohsfvfq/index.

Jan. 25: Songs of Social Justice

See story, page 4.

Jan. 27: JGN Learning Fest

Virtual day of learning for Jewish grandparents, sponsored by Jewish Grandparents Network and the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland. \$36. Registration at jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/learningfest/?org=JFG-Portland.

Jan. 27: Oseran Family Lecture with Amb. Deborah Lipstadt

Public lecture at Congregation Beth Israel at 6 pm, sponsored by CBI and the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. Free. Registration required at [\[cloud.com/form/Lipstadt\]\(http://cloud.com/form/Lipstadt\).](http://bethisraelpdx.shul-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Jan. 27: Remembering the Holocaust

Presentation by author Bettie Denny at the Eastside Jewish Commons at 7:30. Free. Preregistration required at events.humanitix.com/remembering-the-holocaust-author-presentation-bettie-denny.

Jan. 28: Hinenu: Israel at Ten Million

Presentation by photographer Dave Shlachter at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm. Free. Registration required at hinenu.ticketspice.com/hinenu-portland.

Jan. 29: Art, Heart, & Soul: Handmade Collage Journals

Art workshop at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 6 pm. \$25. Registration at members.nevehshalom.org/event/AHSCJ26.

Jan. 31: Havdalah Service at Cedar Sinai Park

See story, page 1.

Feb. 1: Introduction to Talmud Study with Rabbi Emily Kapor-Mater

Weekly class series at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 9:30 am. More information at members.nevehshalom.org/form/adult-ed--intro-to-talmud-25-26.html.

Feb. 1: Wee Kol Ami

Children's program for ages 0-5 and families at Congregation Kol Ami at 10 am. \$18 Registration at suemeyer.wufoo.com/forms/m1fmfvb61bbz39e.

Feb. 1: Volunteer for Tu B'Shevat

Volunteer project at Forest Park in Portland at noon. Register at jewishportland.org/-tubshevat2026.

Feb. 1: Planning for Peace of Mind- Information Fair

Information fair at Holman's Funeral Service in Southeast Portland at 2 pm. For more information, email mcaplan@nevehshalom.org.

Feb. 1: Portland Jewish Writers Group

Writers' group meeting at 2 pm. For more information, email Ben2schubert@icloud.com.

Feb. 4: The New Old Middle East

Lecture with Retired Col. Miri Eisen at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 7 pm. For more information, visit jewishportland.org/mirieisen.

Feb. 4: Why the Golem

Weekly class series with Leora Troper at Congregation Neveh Shalom at 7 pm. Registration at members.nevehshalom.org/form/adult-ed--why-golem-25-261.html.

SECURITY (continued from page 10)

enforcement. But you should not interfere with the actions of the officials you're recording.

When the event is over, write a summary of what happened and include some of the following: 1. How many ICE

agents were present (inside and outside)? 2. How were the agents dressed? 3. How were they armed? 4. Did the agents make you or your workers believe you could not move or leave? 5. Did the agents mistreat anyone? If

yes, how?

While most of our organizations are not going to encounter this issue, you may work for an organization where this is likely, you may be a public organization, you may be a synagogue provid-

ing sanctuary to vulnerable individuals, or you may have staff generally concerned about this issue. If so, please reach out to me at janderson@securecommunitynetwork.org to discuss so we can make a plan!

jewishportland.org/subscribe

JEAN RIFKIN

With sorrow, Congregation Kol Ami announces the death of Jean Rifkin, z"l, the mother of our member Marty Rifkin, on Monday, Jan. 12, in Vancouver, Wash. at the age of 100.

A woman of intellect, creativity, and deep devotion to her family and community, Jean lived a life defined by curiosity, compassion, and purpose. Born in 1925, in New York, Jean grew up with a love of learning that shaped her entire life. Her academic promise earned her a scholarship to Columbia University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science. She later went on to earn her PhD, an extraordinary achievement that reflected both her determination and her belief in education as a force for good.

Jean began her professional life as a science teacher in Harlem, New York, where she inspired young minds and brought enthusiasm and rigor to the classroom. She later devoted many years of service to the Northport Veterans Hospital, working as a Diabetes Educator. In that role, she combined scientific expertise with genuine empathy, helping countless veterans manage their health with dignity and understanding.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Jean was also a gifted artist. Creativity was a lifelong passion, and her art reflected her keen eye, thoughtful spirit, and appreciation for beauty in everyday life.

Jean's love story with her husband began during a fierce New York snowstorm. While filling an urgent prescription for her mother, she flagged down a passing car driven by William "Bill" Rifkin. That chance meeting led to a lifelong partnership, and the couple was married in Brooklyn in 1946. Together, they built a loving family and shared many decades of life.

Jean was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bill; her sisters, Lilly and Shirley; her brother, Al; and her children, Ina and Kenneth.

She is survived by her sons, Jay and Martin; her daughter, Janet; her grandchildren, Austin, Claire, Elaura, Jodie, Kamilla, Mark, Miles, Rian, and Will; and her great-grandchildren, Ayla, Dashiell, Jacob, Jake, Milly, Moses, Romen, and Zach. Jean's legacy lives on through each of them, in the values she modeled and the love she so freely gave.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at River View Cemetery, in Portland.

The family asks that any remembrances be made to Chabad

of Clark County in Jean's honor.

MICHAEL HELLER

Chabad of Gresham mourns of passing of Michael Barry Helevi Heller, z"l, who passed away Tuesday, Dec. 30th, 2025.

Michael is survived by his brother Jerry Yosef Heller.

A funeral was held on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at the Chabad Cemetery in Portland. Donations in Michael's memory can be made to the Support Sydney Charidy campaign supporting the victims of the terrorist attack at the Bondi Beach Menorah lighting.

JERRY LEWIS

It is with deep sadness that Congregation Shaarie Torah announces the passing of Jerome "Jerry" Lewis, z"l, beloved father of Wendy Comstock. Jerry passed away on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026 at the age of 99.

He leaves a loving family: wife, Joanne, children: Richard Lewis, Michael Lewis and Wendy (Mark) Comstock; three stepchildren, six grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by son Robert Lewis, z"l, and parents Max and Sadie Lewis, z"l.

A private military funeral was held at Willamette National Cemetery.

JANET FRIEDMAN

Congregation Beth Israel mourns the loss of Janet Hupert Friedman, z"l, who passed away on Jan. 4, 2026, at the age of 94.

Janet is survived by her children, Don Friedman (Lara Young), Steve Friedman, and Ann Friedman (Steve List); grandchildren, Eddie Friedman, Isaac Ducker, and Iris Ducker; and other extended family. Janet is preceded in death by her parents, Sue and Edward Hupert, z"l; brothers, Joseph and Jeffrey Hupert, z"l; and father of her children, Barry Friedman, z"l.

The family held a private funeral on Friday, January 9, 2026. Donations in Janet's memory can be made to Oregon Public Broadcasting.

JAN GLAZER

With sadness, Congregation Kesser Israel shares the news of the passing of Jan Glazer, z"l, who died Saturday, Jan. 17, in Indianapolis. Jan was the mother of former Kesser member Ann Glazer and the beloved wife of Barry Glazer. The funeral and shiva will be held in Indiana.



Click the logo
for the latest
episode of
The Jewish
Review Podcast